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*21st July 2011 Enquiries: Chris Pockett, Group Marketing Services Manager (+44 1453 524133)*

**Renishaw’s Chairman joins scientific and engineering elite**

Sir David McMurtry, Chairman and Chief Executive of global engineering company Renishaw, has been formally accepted as a Fellow of the Royal Society at an admissions ceremony held at the Society’s offices in London on 15th July. During the ceremony Sir David signed the Society’s historic Charter Book which since 1663 has recorded the signatures of each new Fellow and Foreign Member, including such luminaries as Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton, Stephen Hawking and Tim Berners-Lee.

During his acceptance speech Sir David described how he invented the original touch-trigger probe to solve a measurement problem on the fuel pipes for the Rolls-Royce supersonic jet engine that powered Concorde, and how Renishaw technology is now being used in brain surgery - “A journey that started nearly 40 years ago with an intricate fuel pipe is now venturing into the very plumbing of the human mind!”

Speaking about Renishaw’s business model which centres on developing high-margin, high value-added products that enables the company to keep both its R&D and the majority of its manufacturing in the UK, he said, “This vertical integration is vital if we are to continue to develop innovative products that the world wants to buy, and is essential if we are to rebalance the UK economy towards manufacturing and exports.”

Sir David also expressed his belief that such an approach is only sustainable with a steady supply of young people who are not only entering careers in science and mathematics, but who are also able to apply these subjects in technology and engineering. He stated, “I believe that it is critical that we inspire our brightest minds to develop and make the great products that will underpin the country’s future economic success.”

The Royal Society aims to expand the frontiers of knowledge by championing the development and use of science, mathematics, engineering and medicine for the benefit of humanity and the good of the planet. Fellows are drawn from the most eminent scientists, engineers and technologists from the UK and the Commonwealth, who are elected for life through a rigorous peer review process on the basis of excellence in science.

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Notes to editors

The Fellowship citation for Sir David McMurtry states:

‘David McMurtry is distinguished for his ability to think laterally and come up with innovative solutions to measurement problems combined with business leadership that has made Renishaw, the company he founded in 1973 whilst still working at Rolls-Royce, a world leader in measurements systems with a turnover in excess of £200m of which 95% is for export employing 2400 (*now 2600*) people worldwide. He designed and made his first touch trigger probe at home over a weekend in response to problem at Rolls-Royce in 1972 and from this beginning has been at the forefront of measurement technology to the present day with over 150 patents in his name.’

Sir David has received significant global recognition for his career achievements including honorary doctorates from leading UK Universities, Fellowships from the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and the US Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), and last year he was awarded the prestigious General Pierre Nicolau Award by the International Academy for Production Engineering (CIRP). In 1989 he became a Royal Designer for Industry, in 1994 was made a CBE “for services to Science and Technology”, and in 2001 was appointed a Knight Bachelor “for services to Design and Innovation.”

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