PRECISION LIGHTING

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT NAME

CITY, COUNTRY

BRUNEL STUDENTS SHINE AT UNIVERSITY SHOW

RCL and Precision Lighting Co-Sponsor 'Made In Brunel' Event

London, United Kingdom, 8th July, 2014 — Remote Controlled Lighting (RCL) and sister company, Precision Lighting, recently co-sponsored the luminaire design award at Brunel University's 2014 graduate show, 'Made in Brunel'.

Made In Brunel is an annual show where university students exhibit work that they have produced in their final year. This includes material from a range of modules within the separate disciplines and their major project, which forms the majority of their final year grade. Held in June, the event showcases the best in design, engineering and innovation from the London-based University and acts as a link between the students and professionals.

Each year the entire show is managed by a group of volunteer final year students, who are responsible for all aspects of the event. Everything from the show's branding to the event itself is put together by the team, all whilst contending with their university studies and exams. In total more than 200 students exhibited work at the event, which ranged from products for the visually impaired to future transport solutions. Divided into a number of mediums and themes, students displayed a mix of engineering prototypes, aesthetic models, supporting documentation and graphic work.

From the various students that had chosen to design a lighting product, ten designs were picked for judging by the competition sponsors. Members of both RCL and Precision Lighting attended the event for the judging and to hand out awards. After much deliberation, three projects were shortlisted for prizes.

'The standard of work on display at Made In Brunel this year was of an extremely high calibre,' remarked Simon Harrison-Wallace, RCL's Marketing Manager. 'When judging the event, we had to remind ourselves that this was all the work of students.'

First prize was awarded to Xander Dawood for his FireLight concept. After discovering that up to 38 percent of existing smoke detectors fitted in the UK were non-functioning, he looked to develop an alternative solution that was not only more reliable, but also easy to install and affordable. FireLight is a retrofit LED downlight that incorporates a smoke detector and can be operated via an existing light switch. The user-friendly design features visual and audible alarms for both smoke and carbon monoxide detection, along with self-test modes.

'After designing LED street lights on my placement year in China, I saw huge scope for integrating other electronics into widely used fittings,' explained Dawood. 'Current issues with smoke detectors coupled with my previous experience in lighting led me towards FireLight. Tools I developed in this industry whilst abroad helped me to tackle several major issues in the previously unrelated field of fire safety devices.'

Commenting on the winning design, Precision Lighting's Design and Engineering Manager, Peter McClelland said, 'We were impressed by the amount of work that had gone into this product. Xander had designed and built a fully working prototype that solves a real and very serious problem.' Designer Lucinda Deakin added, 'each detail of FireLight had been carefully considered: from the easy-to-connect power pack to the self-testing system developed by Xander. This product has real potential and I can see it saving lives in the future.'

Runners-up included Rob Millar with his 'Vision' design, which claimed second prize, and 'Project Whitewash' by Thomas Harries, who was awarded third place.

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Working in collaboration with JCB, Rob developed Vision to help address the issues faced by Wheel Loading Shovel operators who are required to work in all conditions, night and day. 'Whilst on placement with JCB, I found that the lighting on construction machines had remained unchanged for many years,' noted Millar. 'I discovered that operators were often working in complete darkness and that inadequate lighting accounts for over 30% of fatalities associated with visibility and construction vehicles.'

Looking to challenge himself and with no prior knowledge in the lighting industry, Rob set about designing a solution that would not only vastly improve visibility, but also help enhance the working environment of the machinery operators. By incorporating the latest LED technology and a custom thermal management solution, an extra wide beam coverage was achieved. 6500K LEDs were selected after research into the operator's daily circadian rhythm suggested this would help to reduce eyestrain and suppress the melatonin hormone, keeping operators more alert and productive. The judges praised Rob's work, saying 'it's clear that a lot of thought went into Vision. By considering the requirements of the workers, Rob has been able to design a better product.'

Precision Lighting's Design and Engineering Manager went on to say, 'Looking at the winning designs, it's clear how important a placement year can be to the students. Skills learnt through industry experience can prove invaluable when it comes to tackling final year projects. Both RCL and Precision Lighting have offered placement positions in the past and it has always been mutually beneficial.'

For Thomas Harries, industrial experience was essential to the success of his final year work. Describing his decision to develop a lighting product, Harries credits his placement year at a luminaire manufacturer with 'sparking a passion for the lighting industry'.

Project Whitewash is the result of collaboration between Thomas and Aether Lighting. The initial brief was for an LED linear wall washing luminaire for use in gallery and retail spaces. In-depth research into LED technology, manufacturing processes and market trends, led to the development of a solution that incorporated tuneable white technology. Special attention was given to optimising thermal and optical performances, resulting in a very smooth beam with even distribution.

'In gallery and retail applications the appearance of lit objects is key to good business,' explained Harries. 'The ability to alter the warmth of the light allows users to enhance the appearance of objects being lit.' He went on to add, 'the optics have been refined to offer an even spread of light across a vertical plane, achieved through the profile's geometry and the inclusion of an advanced holographic diffuser.'

Speaking with the finalists after the show, it was clear that each of the winners was keen to develop their ideas further. Xander plans to continue work on FireLight, entering into production pending certain patent issues, whilst Rob plans to return to JCB where interest in Vision remains strong. Thomas is keen to remain in the lighting industry and is in talks with several lighting design practices.

'It's fantastic to see these students express a continued interest in the lighting industry,' announced RCL's Marketing Manager. 'Many of our own staff members, including myself, are former students of the university and we have benefited from a long and successful association with Brunel.' Harrison-Wallace concludes, 'as university alumni, it is an honour and privilege to be asked back to judge today's event. Brunel provided us with a fantastic skillset and many opportunities so it is great to be able to give something back and to inspire the next generation of designers.'

Photography: **Made In Bunel**

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EDITORS NOTE:

About Precision Lighting

Precision Lighting is a design-led specialist lighting manufacturer based in London and recognised for the versatility and design aesthetic of its high-specification, precision-engineered lighting systems and luminaires. Precision Lighting's range includes LED, low-voltage halogen and metal-halide spotlights for surface-mounted and recessed track or monopoint systems. They are widely specified by architects and lighting designers in sectors such as retail, museums and galleries and the workplace where they are valued for their excellent beam and glare control. In addition to developing new products, Precision Lighting's R&D team designs and supplies bespoke products using in-house prototyping and testing facilities.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Click the link below to download the images in high resolution from Dropbox.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wj2cxddbxkc3rxp/AACxXO_zivPj99kJEHumhZdFa

SUGGESTED PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Photo 1 – L-R: Rob Millar, Xander Dawood and Thomas Harries. Winners of the luminaire design award at Made In Brunel

Photo 2 – FireLight, Xander Dawood's winning design, aims to saves lives and cut costs

Photo 3 – Vision by Rob Millar improves the working conditions for Wheel Loading Shovel operators, making them more alert and productive

Photo 4 – Thomas Harries brings tuneable white technology to wall washers with Project Whitewash

Photo 5 – An example of some of the development work that goes into a final year project at Brunel University