



The Institution of
Engineering and Technology

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Impact Report 2025

IET Futures Fund

Case study

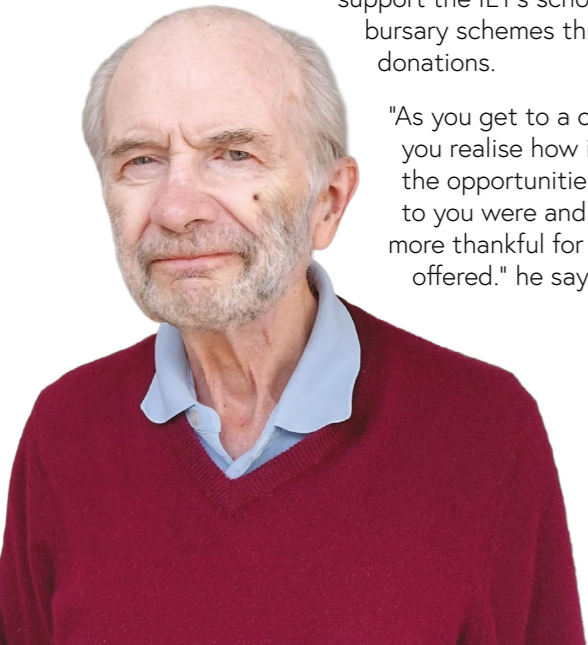
Because I want to give back to the community that supported me through my career

After 50 years in the engineering sector, Graham Tubbs felt it was time to give back to the industry that provided him with endless opportunities. By donating to the IET Futures Fund he's providing financial support to the next generation of engineers.

Graham Tubbs, CEO of TaG GH Consulting, has been an IET member his entire working life, joining as a graduate member in 1966, and becoming an IET Fellow in 2016.

It was around this time that his relationship with the organisation strengthened, as he began to support the IET's scholarships and bursary schemes through financial donations.

"As you get to a certain age you realise how important the opportunities presented to you were and I became more thankful for what I'd been offered." he says.



Looking back on my career and the opportunities I'd been presented made me think I really should give back to the engineering community for what it did for me. That's what underpinned my decision to begin donating to the IET.



Graham Tubbs

Graham's had a full and varied career within the semiconductor industry, starting back in 1966 when he joined Texas Instruments as a new graduate. Here he had the opportunity to be involved in the development of the processor chips used in the TI30, Little Professor calculators and Speak and Spell learning aids before moving on to a position at Intel.

This entailed relocating from Bedford, UK to Chandler, Arizona, USA, and heralded the start of a 20-year career at the organisation that included management of IC development engineering, product and strategic marketing and business development.

"Over the years I've accumulated more than 25 patents, but you might say my biggest claim to fame is being instrumental in getting the first BlackBerry microprocessor particular program off the ground." he says proudly.

Welcome

The challenge we face is clear. Our industry isn't diverse enough, and has a skills gap and talent pipeline shortage. We're here to solve it.

Only 16.9% of UK engineers are women and just 14% are disabled, compared to 56% and 19% respectively in other occupations. People from lower socio-economic backgrounds only make up 24% of the engineering workforce, and a 2023 survey by Teach First found that more than half of parents (51%) from lower socio-economic backgrounds believed their children were unlikely to pursue a career in STEM.

Funds raised from membership fees, events, and sales of products and solutions - go towards our mission to engineer a better world, but it's not enough. This year we received over 6,000 applications from underrepresented groups in STEM that we couldn't fund - a powerful testament to both the demand for our support and the barriers that still exist and the vital role that our donors and funders play.

We do, however, have some success to celebrate. We raised an outstanding £778,874 in philanthropic sponsorship and in donations in 2024 to inspire and support the next generation of engineers, and trialled new ways of giving like the Big Give Christmas Challenge raising over £8,000 from new and existing supporters.

There's still more work to do, though. Through your continued support, we can inspire even more future engineers from diverse backgrounds to become the innovators who will solve tomorrow's greatest challenges.

Visit theiet.org/futuresfund to donate today.

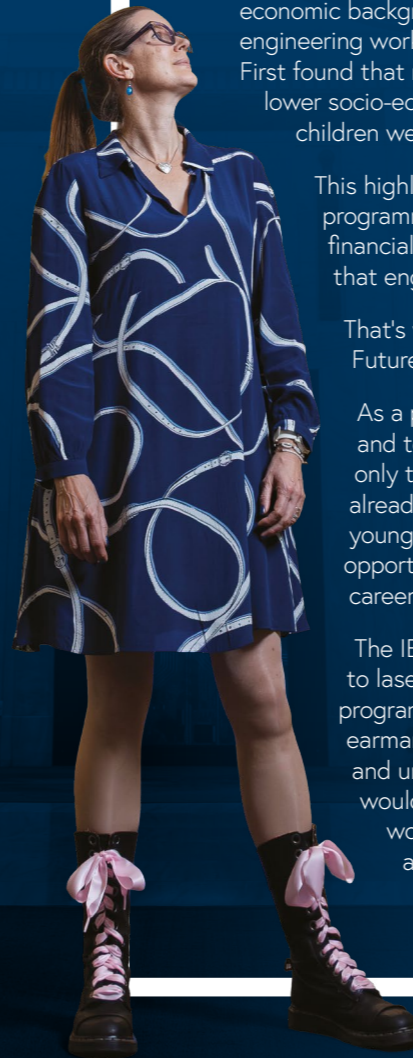
I would personally like to thank all our donors for their extraordinary generosity. The support from individuals, corporate partners, trusts and foundations is needed to create change in the future of engineering - and build a profession that truly reflects the communities it serves.

This highlights the urgent need for programmes that not only provide financial support, but also demonstrate that engineering is accessible to all.

That's why we're here, and why the IET Futures Fund is critical to our mission.

As a professional body for engineers and technologists, our job is not only to support those brilliant people already in the industry - but also inspire young people and those with fewer opportunities to see this as an incredible career path where they can thrive.

The IET Futures Fund gives us a way to laser-focus our efforts on particular programmes, with dedicated resource earmarked to support social mobility and unlock opportunities for those who would otherwise be excluded. Those who would, undoubtedly, make incredible additions to our future workforce.



Dawn Ohlson MEng CEng FIET
IET President
Chair, IET Futures Fund Working Group

Introduction

Our impact in the 2024-2025 academic year was made possible through the generous support of our donors and philanthropic sponsors. This report showcases how our ongoing investment in engineering and technology education programmes and scholarships continues to shape the next generation.



Thanks to the unwavering commitment of our supporters, the IET Futures Fund supported over 77,000 young people from all backgrounds, but particularly those who have fewer opportunities to discover engineering and undertake further studies.

Our philanthropic partners have not only provided financial backing; they are investing in the future of our profession. While our education programmes are available to all, donations and sponsorship help remove cost barriers that may prevent some from taking part in these enriching activities, ensuring more young people from all backgrounds can be inspired by engineering and the careers available to them.

Our pathway of STEM programmes nurtures early inspiration towards tertiary education. And, thanks to financial support from our donors to our Future Talent Award scholarships, we're supporting passionate young people (studying engineering or technology) to achieve their full potential at university or during their apprenticeship.

The impact of these contributions extends far beyond individual beneficiaries. By supporting emerging engineers and technologists, our donors are helping to address some of society's most pressing challenges, from climate change and sustainability to food security and digital innovation and infrastructure development.

This report details the tangible outcomes of your generosity. Each statistic represents a potentially life changing intervention or a career launched – testament to the transformative power of strategic philanthropy in engineering and technology education.

As we look towards the future, we remain grateful for the partnership of our donors and sponsors, whose vision and commitment continue to drive meaningful change in the engineering and technology landscape.

IET Faraday® Challenge Day programme

The 2024-2025 academic year has been our biggest yet, and the results speak for themselves. Working with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)'s Faraday Battery Challenge, we've reached more students than ever before while making a real difference to how young people see engineering careers.

We delivered 310 events across the UK, engaging 10,188 students from 740 schools in hands-on battery technology challenges. What makes this particularly meaningful is that 35% of participating schools were classified as hard-to-reach, including rural schools and those with high levels of disadvantage. We also welcomed two SEND schools and a home-educated team, showing that engineering truly is for everyone.

The 1,749 teams that took part didn't just build prototypes – they experienced what it's really like to be an engineer, working under pressure to solve real-world problems.

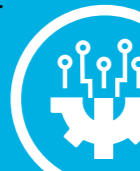
310 events held across the UK



10,188 students engaged from 740 schools



55% more students would consider studying or working in engineering after taking part



1,749 teams experienced what it's really like to be an engineer



55% more students said they'd consider studying or working in engineering after taking part. That's thousands of young people who now see engineering differently – not as something distant or difficult, but as creative, collaborative, and directly connected to solving the challenges that matter to them.

UKRI-IET partnership: connecting research to education

The partnership between UKRI's Faraday Battery Challenge and the IET Faraday® Challenge Day programme in 2024-2025 created a direct bridge between cutting-edge research and classroom learning.

UKRI's Faraday Battery Challenge is a £610 million commitment to building the UK's battery technology industry. By partnering, we are jointly building the pipeline of young engineers needed to deliver this exciting programme of work.

By connecting our established educational programme with UKRI's real-world research priorities, we gave students an authentic challenge that used simplified versions of the same problems that research teams and companies are tackling with millions of pounds of funding.

Students didn't just learn about batteries – they understood why battery technology is crucial for net-zero targets, electric vehicles and energy storage. They saw how their problem-solving skills could contribute to national priorities like climate change and industrial competitiveness. While the programme showcased the innate creativity that underpins good engineering.



It's been incredibly inspiring to see the creativity, teamwork and engineering skills demonstrated by these young minds. The IET Faraday® Challenge not only highlights the talent we have across the UK, but also shows how early engagement with STEM can ignite a lifelong passion. Congratulations to the winning team from Redland Green School – their innovative approach and enthusiasm for problem solving truly impressed us. At UKRI, we're proud to support initiatives like this that help shape the engineers and innovators of tomorrow.



Ben Walsh,
Deputy Director, Faraday Battery Challenge, Innovate UK

Because the IET bridges the gap between curiosity and careers

"STEM competitions like the IET Faraday® Challenge Day give students hands-on experience that's often missing from today's curriculum" says George Evans, a science teacher at Havelock Academy in Grimsby.

Grimsby, once a busy fishing port, is now becoming a hub for renewable energy. "Siemens builds wind turbines nearby, and Ørsted operates the world's largest wind farms from Grimsby," George explains. "STEM knowledge is increasingly relevant to our students' futures."

He believes events like the IET Faraday® Challenge help fill the gap left by a curriculum focused on exam results. "Students may be good at science or maths but haven't had the chance to get their hands dirty. Practical skills like using a lathe or forging metal are being lost."

To keep the STEM thread alive, George runs an after-school club where students explore soldering, programming, 3D printing and more. The IET Faraday® Challenge gives them a chance to go further, without financial barriers. "It's fully funded by the IET, which means every student can take part."

The impact is far-reaching. "We made it to the UK final at Silverstone. The kids came back buzzing, and now they're exploring engineering courses and STEM clubs."

Industry support is vital: "Engineering and technology affects everything, from how we travel to how we heat our homes. We need people who can maintain, improve and invent. That's why donating to the IET matters, it supports teachers and gives students the chance to discover what's possible."

Read the full case study here:



FIRST® LEGO® League SUBMERGEDSM season in the UK and Ireland

The 2024-2025 SUBMERGEDSM season brought ocean exploration into classrooms across the UK and Ireland, challenging students aged 4-16 years to think about life underwater.

A total of 66,605 young people took part across all age ranges. Older children taking part in the Challenge division (ages 9 – 16) took a deep dive into marine science and robotics, with 28,200 aspiring engineers working on underwater missions and marine conservation projects.

This year's theme connected young people with real ocean challenges – from marine life conservation to underwater technology. Teams researched everything from jellyfish behaviour to deep-sea exploration, then designed and programmed LEGO® robots to complete underwater themed missions on the competition mat.



The programme continued its mission of making excellent STEM learning accessible to all, with 41 sponsors and donors supporting 18,300 underrepresented students to take part by removing financial barriers.

Spotlight: the Jelly Friends journey

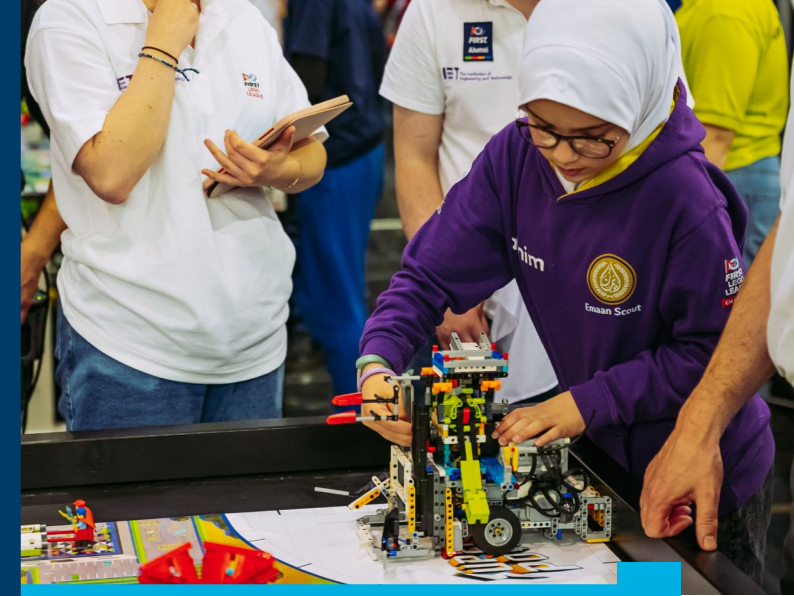
Among the many impressive teams, the Jelly Friends from Penpol Primary School in Cornwall made waves with their innovative approach to jellyfish safety. The nine Year 5 and 6 students spent hours during lunchtimes developing a jellyfish-detecting wristband that tells swimmers whether nearby jellyfish are safe or potentially dangerous.

Their project addressed a real problem they discovered through research: over half the students at their school were scared to swim in the ocean because of jellyfish. The team realised that most jellyfish are harmless and set out to challenge this misconception through technology.



Building on their school's proud legacy in the competition – highlighted by Penpol Pumpkins' previous success in securing IET Futures Fund support and reaching the international final, two years ago – the Jelly Friends combined machine learning with practical engineering. They trained algorithms to recognise venomous species while building and coding their LEGO® SPIKE™ Prime robot to tackle competition missions.

Their hard work paid off when they came first overall on day two of the 2025 Cornwall regional finals, earning their place at the UK national final in Harrogate. But their achievements went beyond regional success – they secured an invitation to represent the UK and Ireland at the international competition in Massachusetts.



Impact Beyond Competition

The SUBMERGEDSM season demonstrated how effective hands-on learning can be when students tackle real-world problems. Teams didn't just build robots; they became marine researchers, technology developers, and problem-solvers. The ocean theme proved particularly engaging, connecting environmental awareness with technical skills.

Stories like the Jelly Friends show how the programme develops not just technical abilities but also research skills, teamwork and the confidence to tackle complex challenges. Their journey from identifying a local problem to developing an innovative solution exemplifies the programme's goals of inspiring young engineers and innovators.

The season's success across the UK and Ireland reinforces FIRST® LEGO® League's role in building the next generation of STEM talent, with thousands of students experiencing authentic engineering challenges while contributing to our understanding of ocean science and technology.



Because early exposure to engineering transforms futures

How the IET Futures Fund helped a team of ten grow from beginners to award-winners.

It's one thing to fund a one-off experience. It's another to support long-term growth, learning and transformation. For Team Activ8, sustained access to FIRST® LEGO® League, thanks to funding from the IET Futures Fund, has helped them evolve over three years from complete beginners to award-winning innovators.

Their story shows why consistency matters. Year after year, they've come back stronger, growing

not just in numbers, but in mindset, maturity and skill. From three curious students to ten confident engineers, they've developed technical and soft skills along the way.

The IET Futures Fund ensures that teams like Activ8 can keep building, not just their robots, but their futures.



Their standout moment came during the MASTERPIECESM season, when they travelled to the Australian Open Championship and won the prestigious 'Rising All Stars Award'. Their innovation project, SenSea – a Raspberry Pi powered underwater submersible for ocean monitoring – shows how young minds can tackle real-world challenges when given the right tools.

"We'd be really disappointed if the funding stopped," says one team member. "We're so thankful." Thanks to donors and supporters of the IET Futures Fund, they've been able to return year after year, growing in confidence, resilience and ambition.

Coach Isha sees the deeper impact: "What I learned at 22, they're learning at 10." From coding and building to public speaking and teamwork, the team is mastering the full engineering mindset.

Their story is a powerful reminder that funding for FIRST® LEGO® League doesn't just support play, it builds purpose. It helps shape tomorrow's problem-solvers, innovators and leaders.

[Read the full case study here:](#)



We're not only learning technical skills, like hardware and building and coding. We're also learning lots of soft skills, like public speaking, teamwork and more such as cooperation and all of our core values.



Member of Team Activ8
FIRST® LEGO® League



What I learned at age 22, they're learning now at 10. That's amazing.



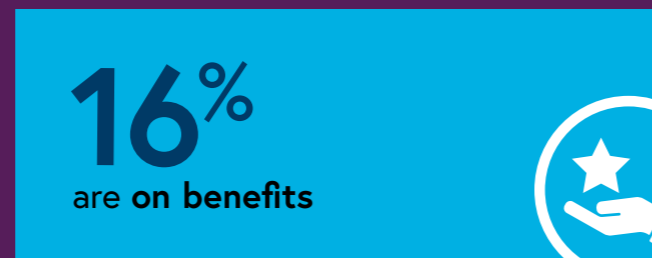
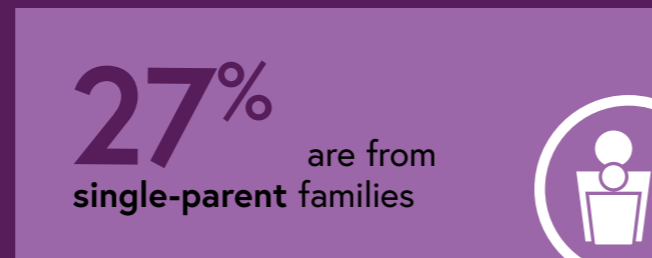
Isha (Coach)
FIRST® LEGO® League

Future Talent Awards

23 students and apprentices were awarded a donor-funded IET Launch scholarship in 2024. A further 46 were awarded IET funded scholarships using generous unrestricted funding from donors.

These scholarships support students with a passion for engineering who are facing personal or financial challenges, allowing them to explore additional opportunities to build their professional network and take part in training and development outside of their studies or apprenticeship.

Of these:



Receiving the IET Future Talent Award has felt like a physical representation of my hard work and potential as an aspiring engineer and student. It has not only boosted my confidence but also reinforced my passion for engineering and its transformative impact. This award motivates me to strive for excellence in my studies and future career.



Vaikay Saravanamuthu,
Launch Scholarship
supported by **Bechtel**



Receiving a Scholarship is life-changing. It is not just financial support but also validation of my determination to overcome the personal and systemic challenges I've faced. It has empowered me to continue pursuing my engineering degree, knowing that I am recognised as a promising future engineer.



Marriam Aamir
Launch Scholarship
supported by **Chemring Group**

Because it's not just students who benefit from education outreach

Bosch became a UK FIRST® LEGO® League National Partner to mark its 125th anniversary, but the partnership has continued thanks to the lasting benefits for both students and the business.

Hosting tournaments and festivals across Bosch sites as well as Coventry University, was such a success that Bosch chose to keep them going. "No one person can organise an event like this," says Sarah Harling, HR Lead at ETAS. "It takes teamwork and planning, but once volunteers are trained, they carry you through."

Bosch's STEM and Schools Outreach Coordinator, Barrie Flemming, adds: "It can feel overwhelming at first, but each time gets easier. With experience under our belt, it's felt like a breeze this year."

The impact goes beyond the events themselves. Bosch volunteers have also become STEM ambassadors, created new outreach programmes, and shared their experiences on LinkedIn, boosting employee pride and visibility for the company.

"There are two sides to this coin," says Harling. "We're giving back to the community and inspiring future engineers, while also building our talent pipeline."



FIRST® LEGO® League plays an important role in getting girls interested in STEM and also showing them that they have a place in the world of engineering and technology



Sarah Harling
HR Lead at ETAS

Their advice to other organisations? Start small, send volunteers to existing events, and consider partnering with experienced hosts. "It's a big task," Harling says, "but well worth it."

[Read the full case study here:](#)





Leave a gift in your will to the IET Futures Fund

Leaving a gift in your will to the IET Futures Fund is a powerful way to make a lasting impact on the future of engineering.



We know that this is a deeply personal journey, and that it can also be a complex process. That's why we have produced a 'Gift in wills guide' to provide you with more information on leaving a legacy and the impact it could have on future generations.

Your collective support enables us to have a bigger impact on the future of engineering. Together we'll make a difference because better never stops, and thanks to you – neither will we.

If you would like to know more, please [take a look at the brochure](#), email fundraising@theiet.org or call 0333 049 9123 then press 0.

Why support the next generation?

||
**BECAUSE YOU
NEVER STOP BEING
AN ENGINEER**



Thank you for investing in the next generation

The IET Futures Fund continues to stand as a testament to the IET's commitment to supporting and inspiring the next generation and increasing access to opportunities.

From nurturing young engineering talent through our Education programmes to supporting students and apprentices in their studies through IET Launch Scholarships, the IET Futures Fund is a key part of our purpose to engineer a better world.

We rely on the support of our funders to continue to build a more inclusive profession and open up new and

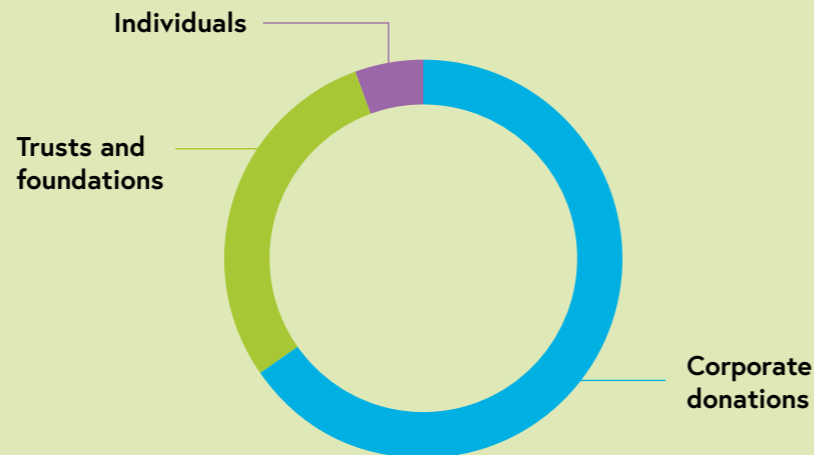
exciting opportunities for the engineers of tomorrow. Every pound raised goes directly to support the delivery of our education and awards programmes.

In 2024 **£470,475** was donated by individuals, trusts and foundations and companies who have generously invested their time and money to support our programmes.

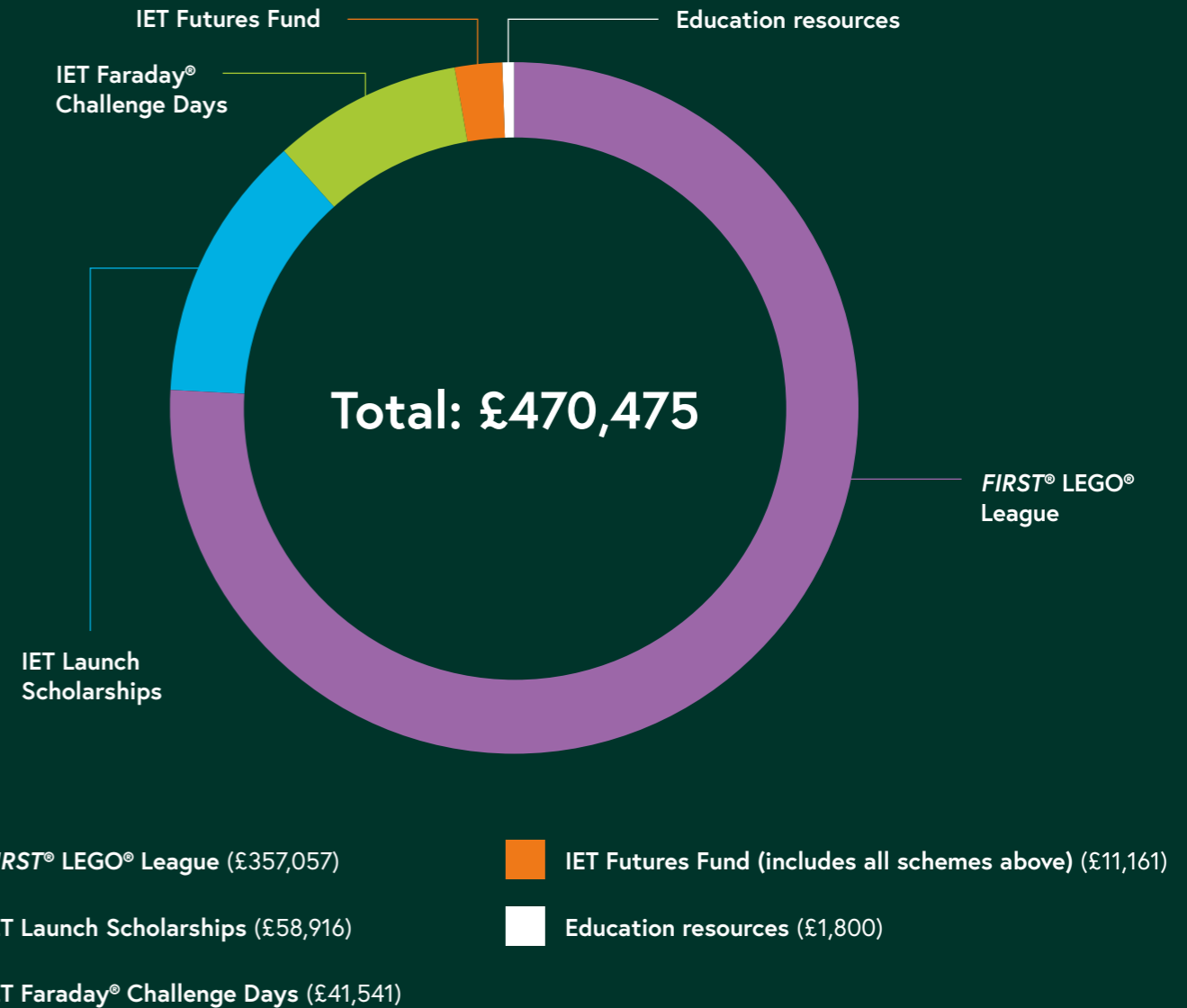
We would like to thank our generous donors for helping to support the next generation of engineers.

2024 Income (by type of pledge)

- Corporate donations (£308,018)
- Trusts and foundations (£137,900)
- Individuals (£24,558)








2024 Donation pledges (by funding use)



Our donors

Thank you to all our 2024 supporters.

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| ARM |  |  | Caterpillar | Chelton | Chemring Group |
| Costain | Edgar Lee Foundation | Eland Cables | For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (<i>FIRST</i>) | GKN Automotive Innovation Centre | Johnson Matthey |
| Legacy Global Foundation | Margaret Guido Charitable Trust | Mr Keith Thrower | Mr and Mrs Tubbs | National Grid | Nuclear Waste Services |
| Pamela & David Rollin Foundation |  | R.C. Snelling Charitable Trust | Reece Foundation | Research Ireland | |
|  | Sellafield | Siemens | SMMT (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Limited) | Spirax-Sarco Engineering plc | StanleyBlack&Decker |
| Stotfold Town Council | Thales Holdings UK | The Belling Charitable Settlement | The Bugatti Trust | The David Family Foundation | The Engineers Trust |
| The ERA Foundation | The Ironmongers Company | The LEGO Foundation | The Manly Trust | Wates Family Enterprise Trust |  |

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the individuals and organisations who generously supported our programmes through the Big Give Christmas Campaign and Take Your Place campaigns.

Presidents Partnership

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We are grateful to the many individual members who gave to the IET Futures Fund.





Make a difference today

If you're passionate about the future of engineering, contact the IET Fundraising team to find out how you can help make a difference.

T 0333 049 9123 then press 0

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**Better
never
stops.**



**Neither
do we.**

