

PROF. ALAN BANKS YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

FINALIST: Alicia Chin

Alicia Chin is a Research Engineer Intern within the Digital & Simulation team at GKN Aerospace's Global Technology Centre in Bristol. Despite still completing her degree, she has quickly established herself as a highly capable engineer, taking on responsibilities beyond what would normally be expected at her career stage.

Alicia has taken a leading role in developing an innovative digital engineering solution, independently building her knowledge of artificial intelligence despite having no previous experience in the field. She has driven the technical development, worked with engineers and digital specialists, and engaged with senior stakeholders. Her work has the potential to streamline workflows, reduce manual effort, and unlock greater value from engineering information across the composites manufacturing department.

Alongside her technical contribution, Alicia has helped shape responsible approaches to adopting emerging technologies. She has also developed a workshop to help colleagues understand and use AI and automation within manufacturing, demonstrating her commitment to sharing knowledge and building capability across the business.

Alicia is studying for an MEng in Aerospace Engineering with Pilot Studies at the University of Liverpool and has undertaken additional training and self-directed learning in AI, coding, cybersecurity and sustainable aviation.

She has also demonstrated an exceptional commitment to STEM outreach. From establishing student-led community and engineering projects to teaching STEM through a NASA-led programme, mentoring university students and supporting outreach at GKN Aerospace, she consistently works to inspire others. At university, her efforts increased engagement with practical engineering facilities and encouraged students to develop their own projects.

Alicia's combination of technical ability, initiative, leadership and commitment to developing others makes her stand out. She actively creates opportunities to learn, innovate and make a difference, demonstrating the potential to become an outstanding engineer and future leader.

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