

Comment



Welcome to the September issue of Design Solutions. We're now in the latter part of 2008 and one topic that has been springing up frequently this year has been the lack of students interested in a career in engineering.

As we reported in last month's issue, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) has noted that there has been an 8% drop in the number of registered engineers in the UK in the past decade, and it begs the question: Why?

If this trend continues to grow where will we be in ten years time?

This issue has resulted in companies and organisations trying

to encourage young people into engineering – IMechE, for instance, runs its annual International Formula Student Championship in which students design, develop and build racing cars.

Engineering has always been a vital part of UK industry and it needs to remain that way – but for this we need engineers who know not only about the latest high-tech parts but who also have a knowledge of the more traditional mechanical components.

Mechanical components are as important now as they were many years ago, and this will continue to be a topic covered in depth by Design Solutions. Keep an eye out for the Mechanical Components Supplement in the November issue for the latest products and applications in this area.

As Tandler Precision argues in our Gears & Gearboxes feature this month, both electronic drives and mechanical drives offer their own benefits, but sometimes the combination of the two can provide the ideal solution.

Rachael Winter – Editor