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Press Release

APPRENTICES RACE AGAINST TIME IN DUXFORD ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

CRC engineers joined Apprentices from across the country to test their skills in a competition to build a drag racer from scrap – and then race it.

The 15 teams had just two hours to design and build a racer from a selection of scrap materials, including plastic containers, cotton reels, wooden dowels, batteries and electronic motors. The finished vehicles then had to race over two metres, carrying up to 1kg in weight.

CRC Apprentices Ellis Galley and Anthony Harvey from Johnson Matthey, Salvatore Merola from Duckworth & Kent and Daniel Rodgers from Cambridge Precision made a great team and impressed the judges with the design of their vehicle – but had problems when it came to the racetrack.



The CRC team with MP Andrew Lansley

Lee Blackwell, CRC's work-based learning programme manager for engineering, said the team had picked up some excellent marks for the design of their racer.

"Teams were given one hour to come up with a design and submit it along with drawings, parts list and specifications and then one hour to build the design," he said.

"Points were deducted for any changes made to the vehicle or if any additional materials were requested.

"We managed to complete the design and build stage very well, but unfortunately the vehicle failed to move the required two metres due to a malfunction on the start line. But the team worked well together and picked up some good points for the design so I'm hoping we came in the top five - lots of other teams also failed to complete the course."

The races were part of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' Apprentice Challenge, held at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. Among the other competitors were teams from Lotus, Marshalls, CLS Offshore and MBDA.

MP Andrew Lansley presented prizes to the winners of first and second place - the rest of the competitors will have to wait until later this month to find out where they came.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students, coming from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.