

**Philippa Oldham CEng MEng (Hons)  
MIMechE**

**Head of Transport and manufacturing  
Division at the Institute of Mechanical  
Engineers**



In 1998 Philippa arrived at the University of Birmingham to complete a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Her decision to become an engineer had blossomed after summer work experience placements at Ilmor Engineering Ltd., Racing Engines (1996 – 1999). During her work experience placements she had been involved in projects that looking at minimising distortion in the cylinder block of the Mercedes-McLaren F1 engine and had helped with the development of a spring-assisted pneumatic system for the Triumph motorcycle racing engine.

Philippa graduated from the University of Birmingham with a 2.1 MEng (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering in 2003. In 2004 Philippa joined QinetiQ as a mechanical design engineer. This role was to deliver project advice to customers on mechanical design, operational environment, cost, and functionality matters improving her engineering knowledge. She worked on a number of Ministry of Defence projects including GPS locating systems and provided mechanical design expertise in the developing of new technology, including a passive scanning systems used to detect Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

In 2007 Philippa moved within QinetiQ to become a Product Engineer within their Force Protection and Physical Security team where she provided product engineering guidance to teams focused on robotics, unmanned vehicles, underwater systems, electric drive vehicles and waste management. She had to ensure that the products designed all complied with the necessary certification (including environmental and safety). Whilst being responsible for the selection of cost effective manufacturing and assembly methods for transition of the products through to large scale production. During this time Philippa had been part of the QinetiQ graduate training scheme which enabled her to gain a Post graduate certificate in Management from the University of Bath. Over the years Philippa was invited to give a number of Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) presentations based on her experiences these were to engineering students at Imperial College London, University College London and The University of Bath.

2009 saw Philippa become the Product Manager for QinetiQ's £150M Aerospace business where she was required to have a robust knowledge not only in engineering but also in commercial and financial understanding. Her responsibilities included the implementation of a product strategy and the re-working of engineering processes within the design and manufacturing fields, along with coaching members of the division in the product development lifecycle. In 2010 Philippa gained her Chartered Engineer status from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. One of the key products that she was responsible for was GAJT, an Anti-Jam Antenna developed alongside a Canadian company, Novatel launched at the end of 2010.

May 2011 saw Philippa join the Institution of Mechanical Engineers as their Head of Transport and Manufacturing. Her role is to act as a voice for the Institution on behalf of their 106,000 international members. She aims to help raise the profile of engineers so that they can develop safe and efficient transport systems with less congestion and emissions, while creating wealth and employment within our Manufacturing Sector. Philippa is now engaged with various Government departments making sure that engineers are involved in some of the policy making decisions. Philippa regularly engages with the media to provide them with an insight into the importance of the profession or to help them better understand the engineering content if there has been an incident.