

## Press Release

11/12/2017

### Cundall's Ozak Esu crowned IET Young Woman Engineer of the Year

A brilliant Cundall engineer who uses her free time to promote diversity and who tutors disadvantaged youngsters in maths has been crowned Young Woman Engineer of the Year by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

It's the latest in a string of honours for 26-year-old Dr Ozak Esu who is based in Cundall's Birmingham office. Dr Ozak was recently named by *The Telegraph* as one of its 'Top 50 Women in Engineering under 35' and, earlier this year, she jointly won the IET's Mike Sargeant Career Achievement Medal for Young Professionals.

The IET Young Woman Engineer of the Year Awards celebrate women working in modern engineering - and aim to help change the perception that engineering is predominantly a career for men by banishing outdated engineering stereotypes of hard hats and greasy pipes.

As well as highlighting female engineering talent, the IET Young Woman Engineer of the Year Awards seek to find female role models who can help address the UK science and engineering skills crisis by promoting engineering careers to more girls and women. Just over one in ten (11%) of the UK engineering and technical workforce is female according to the 2017 IET Skills Survey.

*"It feels fantastic to receive this Award. Life as a working engineer is fun, practical, diverse, dynamic but also with challenges. I initially dread the challenges, but the moment I scale them, I love the feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction I get until my next challenge. Women are under-represented in this profession and if I can do anything to raise its profile as a fantastic career for anyone and everyone, then I'm truly honoured. I hope to use this platform the IET has afforded me through this award, to continue to promote engineering as an exciting and creative career choice for young people."* Dr Ozak Esu, IET Young Woman Engineer of the Year.

Dr Ozak is an electrical engineer at Cundall, the multi-disciplinary consultancy, where she undertakes surveys of existing buildings, and engineers co-ordinated electrical services for newbuild, refurbishment and fit-out projects. She graduated with first class honours from Loughborough University and has been with industry leader Cundall since 2014.

Dr Ozak says she was inspired to study electronic and electrical engineering at Loughborough University because of the power crisis in her country, Nigeria. Learning about renewable energy developed her interest in sustainability which is at the core of the work she does at Cundall.

*"Ozak never fails to impress us. Her dedication is an inspiration to everyone around her. We are all so proud of Ozak's achievements, and cannot wait to see how she is going to shape the industry in the future."* **Belinda Morgan, Partner at Cundall.**

## ENDS

### All Enquiries:

Claire Lalaguna at Satellite MPR  
+ + 44 (0)1394 384 040 / 07973 314 594  
[claire@satellitempr.com](mailto:claire@satellitempr.com)

### Note to Editors:

#### Images:

Courtesy of IET.

#### Short Biography:

Dr Ozak has taken on roles that promote equality, diversity and inclusion. She has been a panellist for the Association for Black and Minority Ethnic Engineers UK and has mentored international students at London South Bank University.

She is passionate about sustainable design, agriculture, renewable energy, and international development. She works with schools and organisations in her home country, Nigeria, motivated by the belief that poverty can be eradicated through engineering, knowledge-sharing, and empowerment of humans.

Ozak Esu came to the UK from Nigeria in 2008 to study for a BEng Electronic and Electrical Engineering degree at Loughborough University. She graduated in 2011 with First Class Honours, and was awarded a Loughborough University scholarship to pursue her PhD in advanced signal processing and wind energy. Her thesis titled "Vibration-based Condition Monitoring of Wind Turbine Blades" proposed an autonomous low-cost device for monitoring the health of wind turbine blades with the aim of reducing turbine downtime, operations, maintenance, and capital costs associated with wind energy projects. She authored a book chapter, published her research in high-profile peer-reviewed academic journals, and presented at international conferences including the IET Renewable Power Generation (RPG) Conference. She concluded her PhD in 2015, and graduated in 2016.

Dr Ozak joined Cundall as a Graduate Engineer in 2014 whilst writing up her PhD thesis. Following her promotion in January 2017, she is an Electrical Engineer, working collaboratively within her team to engineer innovative and efficient electrical services design solutions on various projects within the built environment. Dr Ozak is a STEM Ambassador. She is also a Member of the IET, and is currently working towards attaining Chartered Engineer (CEng) status.

### **Cundall: 40 years of clever, friendly engineering**

**Cundall** is an international multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy with over 800 staff and offices in 11 countries across the globe.

2016 saw Cundall (Cundall Johnston and Partners LLP) celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Established in 1976, Cundall's founding partners shared a common vision that the practice would become a leading multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy built on sound ethical principles. For 41 years, Cundall's engineering expertise, coupled with creativity, innovation and a deep-rooted understanding of people and communities, has allowed the business to develop the best possible solutions for clients' projects. We are Clever, Friendly Engineers.

Harkening back to the founders' roots, sustainability is integral to our approach. We provide our clients with practical advice and solutions, which reduce the environmental impact of developments, and provide better spaces for building users and occupiers, as well as for the wider community.

Cundall is the world's first consultancy to be endorsed as a One Planet Company. As a business, Cundall has implemented several sustainable initiatives on projects around the world, as well as in our offices and homes. For example, Cundall's new London office at One Carter Lane is the first

building in the UK and Europe to achieve WELL Certification through the WELL Building Standard™ (WELL), a goal intended to put the health and wellbeing of the occupants at the heart of building design.

For more information about Cundall, please go to [www.cundall.com](http://www.cundall.com). Alternatively, you can find us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Cundall\\_Global](https://twitter.com/Cundall_Global)

To find out more about Cundall's One Planet Company commitments, visit <http://www.cundall.com/About-Us/Sustainability/One-Planet-Company.aspx>