

Inspiring a younger generation into STEM and the Aviation Industry

Our goal: Inspiring young people to explore careers in STEM and aviation, to support and encourage their future career choices.

How can you help? By sharing your story

Name & job role:	Stuart Rankin Radio Spectrum Engineer
What did you enjoy doing when you were younger?	Building Lego creations, fixing cars and tinkering with computers
What were your favourite subjects in school? Why?	Computing, Physics, Maths. I loved learning how things worked and problem solving. My favourite part of school was getting to conduct experiments in Science lessons.
What or who inspired you to study these?	Many of my relatives worked in engineering and I was fascinated by radio communications. I also had a wonderful science teacher at school who had a passion for physics and encouraged me to study it at A level.
Did you do work experience? Where and did it help in choosing your career path?	I worked in a car garage and realised that my interest was in electronic components rather than heavier engineering. I also worked for a company during University summer holidays programming a product sponsored by one of the Dragon's Den dragons. It made me realise how much programming is involved in electronics.
What was your first job?	Working for a broadcast company building television studios, including a studio at the top of BT tower and in Luanda, Angola.
How did you arrive where you are in your career?	I spend 8 years working as a 'Scientific Officer' for the Home Office and progressed to lead radio spectrum engineering within my department. I transferred from a specialism in video and audio transmission to aviation 5 years ago. There is a surprising amount of crossover!
What do you love about your current job?	Variety. Being a RF engineer exposes you to many corners of aviation, from commercial

	aircraft to drones. I have also developed knowledge on a variety of systems, from GPS to radars. I learn something new every day.
What were the biggest challenges/barriers you had to overcome?	Developing my communication skills so that I can articulate complex engineering problems to my peers and managers. Presenting did not come naturally to me and took a lot of practice.
Who have you looked up to and why?	My Dad, who started an apprenticeship straight out of school with BT (then the Post Office) and carried on learning through his career. Eventually gaining a degree whilst working full time.
What is your ambition?	To keep learning, to eventually use my knowledge and experience to support the development of others. I also love promoting Engineering and hope to inspire young people to study Engineering.
What is the best advice you were given?	Never be afraid to ask 'stupid' questions.
What advice would you give a younger you?	Be brave and don't be afraid to think differently.

Any additional comments:

Fixing the CCTV system at Downing Street:



Thank you for sharing your journey.