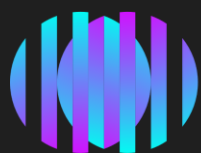


# Overt stem



stem  
summit



stem  
awards

**Inspiring** Innovation  
**Connecting** Minds  
**Shaping** the Future

Join us on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

*How can the Oxford–Cambridge Arc become a global benchmark for integrated STEM innovation, education and inclusive opportunity?*



EVENTS TOGETHER

# Celebrating STEM Excellence

Across the Oxford–Cambridge Arc

From global tech leaders to students, the **Overt stem summit & Overt stem awards** aims to spotlight everyone shaping STEM across the Arc.

## Why the Arc?

From Oxford to Cambridge, this is one of Europe's most productive tech corridors, creating skilled jobs, attracting investment and delivering global solutions.

## Summit + Awards: Two Platforms, One Purpose

The Summit turns insight into action, connecting educators, innovators, investors and policymakers on capital, skills and career paths. The Awards celebrate achievements that inspire talent, forge partnerships and strengthen the Arc's reputation. Together we advance Collaboration, People and Opportunity.

## Building on the Success of the MK STEM Awards

After two standout years in 2024 and 2025, the event evolves into the **Overt stem summit** and **Overt stem awards** for 2026, now Arc-wide. We honour people and teams, and convene the community to collaborate, share insights, and unlock capital, skills, and pathways for regional impact.

Both events take place on **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026** at MK Conferencing. Join us there!



Building the Future **Together.**

# Our Vision



To establish the Oxford–Cambridge Arc as a leading STEM innovation hub.



To foster collaboration between academia, industry, and government for lasting impact.



To inspire the future workforce of diverse STEM leaders.



To celebrate innovation, leadership and community impact.

## How We Will Do This

**Convene** STEM stakeholders across sectors

**Deliver** expert-led sessions and workshops.

**Showcase** talent and facilitate cross-sector mentoring.

**Create** a Measurable strategy for delivering change in the sector



## Why It Matters

“The UK faces a critical STEM skills gap threatening innovation. This region has great potential to become a global STEM powerhouse. Now is the time to unite vision, talent, and take action.”

**Meena Chander**, Founder  
Overt stem and Events Together



The Overt stem summit is where the STEM community comes together to co-create a practical framework for change, rooted in the Oxford–Cambridge Arc and owned by its people. What begins in the room will drive action across the region.

We'll achieve this by forging cross-sector connections, empowering people to progress in their careers, and widening access to the skills, investment, and networks that turn ideas into impact.

## Core Themes

### Collaboration



Building bridges between academia, industry, training providers and the wider business community to accelerate shared innovation.

### People



Championing diverse talent with clear career pathways, inclusive opportunities and support for the needs of today's STEM workforce.

### Opportunity



Opening doors for people and organisations to progress. Expanding access to skills, investment and networks that turn innovation into regional impact.

## Summit Aims

Offer opportunities for **relationship building**

Bring together a diversity of **regional businesses**

Reimagine STEM as **inclusive, creative, and future-ready**

Spark **cross-sector collaboration**, networking and regional innovation

Build a **shared vision** across academia, industry, government, and the creative sectors

Highlight **regional strengths**

**Be reflective** of the issues that face the sector

Co-create a **Framework** for STEM opportunity and inclusion



# The Four Strategic Pillars

## Education & Skills

Cultivating tomorrow's STEM talent by fostering confidence, capability, and curiosity through inclusive learning pathways.

## Global Industry & Anchor Employers

Driving regional growth and recognition by partnering with leading tech and innovation companies.

## Government & Civic Leadership

Guiding who participates in the STEM future through purposeful policy-making, strategic planning, and public investment.

## SME & Community Innovation

Empowering small businesses and local communities to lead grassroots STEM innovation.

# The Co-Created Framework

At the Summit, we're not just talking, we're building. Together, delegates and speakers will co-create a **Strategic Framework for STEM Belonging**, rooted in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and designed to last.

This framework will unite education, industry, government, and community innovation into a shared roadmap for action. It will break down silos, widen access, and ensure that **inclusion and innovation move forward together**.

What begins in the room will live on as a practical tool for investment, skills, and collaboration across the region.

**Buy tickets, support us, or apply to become a speaker at:**

**<https://events-together.co.uk/overt/summit-2026>**

Building on the 2024 and 2025 MK STEM Awards, the **Overt stem awards** celebrate excellence across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. We recognise individuals, teams and organisations advancing STEM and, with the Summit, turn their stories into partnerships and practical action.



## Awards Purpose

**Acknowledge** new standards of excellence and innovation.

**Celebrate** innovation, leadership, and community impact.

**Inspire** future talent by showcasing success stories.

**Recognise** outstanding contributions across research, education, and industry.

## The Impact of These Awards



"Receiving the Icon / Lifetime Achievement Award 2025 from the MK STEM Awards is more than a personal milestone—it's a recognition of a journey rooted in purpose, persistence, and people."

**Dr. Idrees A Mohammed (PhD), NHS**

# Take Part

22 Awards will span across a variety of topics, celebrating Excellence, Innovation, and Impact Across the STEM Ecosystem in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

## Education & Inspiration

- STEM Education Trailblazer
- STEM Enrichment Initiative of the Year
- Cross-Curricular STEAM Integration Award
- Education for Sustainable STEM Futures



## Emerging Talent & Career Journeys

- Future Force in STEM – School Age (5–18)
- Future Force in STEM – Further/Higher Education (18–30)
- STEM Career Reboot Award



## Industry, Innovation & Enterprise

- STEM Research Excellence Award
- STEM Start-Up of the Year (SEED Award)
- Greentech / Sustainability Collaboration
- AI Impact Award
- Changemaker / Lightbulb



## Mentorship, Equity & Inclusion

- Mentoring Excellence in STEM
- Women in STEM Champion
- DEI in STEM Award
- STEM Ambassador Award



## Collaboration, Community & Regional Leadership

- STEM Team of the Year
- Employer–Education Partnership Award
- Arc Collaboration Award (NEW)



## Special Recognition

- Lifetime Impact in STEM
- Overall STEM Champion
- Heartfelt Recognition (Founder's Award)



We welcome entries from individuals and teams across the Oxford–Cambridge Arc, including schools, FE/HE, start-ups and SMEs, major employers, research organisations, professional bodies and charities.

Find full details of categories, eligibility and the entry process at:

<https://events-together.co.uk/overt/awards-2026>

# Become a Speaker



We're calling for contributors from across the Oxford–Cambridge Arc to turn discussion into action at the Overt stem summit. Share real-world insight, practical playbooks and lived experience the region can adopt and scale.



**Who we want:** leaders, innovators, educators, policy makers, industry pioneers and community voices.

**What to pitch:** sessions on skills, collaboration, innovation ecosystems, inclusion, leadership and policy.

**Formats:** talks, panels, workshops, case studies and demos.

To find out more, visit: <https://events-together.co.uk/overt/summit>

# Become a Judge



Join the Overt stem awards judging panel and help set the standard for excellence across the Arc.

**Who we want:** experienced practitioners from education, industry, SMEs, research, civic and professional bodies, reflecting the region's diversity.

**What to do:** review entries against clear criteria, take part in a short virtual consensus meeting, and optionally provide feedback to finalists.

**What you bring:** sector insight, integrity and a commitment to inclusive, fair assessment.

To find out more, visit: <https://events-together.co.uk/overt/awards>



# Meet the Board



## **Meena Chander:**

Meena is the CEO of Events Together and boasts an impressive track record in the global corporate events and exhibitions industry.

Six years ago, she launched the 'This Is Us' Conference, marking Milton Keynes' first Diversity and Inclusion Conference. In 2023, she built on this success by introducing the 'This Is Us' D&I Awards. 2024 and 2025 saw the birth of the MK STEM Awards.

Continuing with the success of these events, in 2025, Meena launched the Overt stem summit and awards, expanding out into the wider arc.



**Jagdish Chander**  
Board Member

Principal Global Program &  
Change Transformation  
Lead

**Digital**



**Eman Martin-Vignerte**  
Board Member

Director,  
Robert Bosch UK

**Political Affairs**



**Jacqui Gavin BEM**  
Board Member

Founder & Director,  
5 Senses of Inclusion

**Consultancy**



**Paul Minns**  
Board Member

Director,  
Lucid Connect Ltd

**Recruitment**



**Laura Giddings**  
Board Member

Founder,  
The STEM Project

**Local Government**



**Storm Rae**  
Board Member

Lecturer,  
Cranfield University

**Education**



**Brenda Jefcoate**  
Board Member

Consultant,  
Civil Aviation Authority

**Engineering & Consultancy**



**Dr Ajay Sharman**  
Board Member

National Lead,  
STEM Learning

**Not for Profit**



**Emma Kent**  
Board Member

Managing Director,  
Initivo

**Engineering & Consultancy**



**Sarah Thorne**  
Board Member

Founder and Director,  
Thorne Project Solutions

**Project Management**

# What people say about us

“Excited to see younger people being recognised and seeing everything that’s happening in the region.”

**Lisa Robey,**  
Branch Manager  
Handelsbanken

**Handelsbanken**

"It's good to promote STEM across the region as it's a growing piece of work and we are getting a lot more innovative ideas."

**Sophie Basson,**  
FCDO Services



FCDO Services

“We have a great foundation for STEM success in the Oxford-Cambridge arc. It is a personal priority to me to develop talent to fill the highly skilled roles our industry needs in this area.”

**Emma Kent,**  
Managing Director  
Initivo



# Find out More

The Overt stem summit & awards take place on **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026** at:

**MK Conferencing, Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook, Milton Keynes, MK6 2TG.**

Early Bird tickets are available for a limited time – **book now to secure your place and be part of shaping the Arc's STEM future.**

Full details and all tickets will be available on <https://events-together.co.uk/overt/>



## Support Us

Partner with the Overt stem summit & awards and showcase your commitment to innovation, inclusion and regional impact.

Our sponsorship packages offer brand visibility, networking opportunities and direct engagement with STEM leaders across the Oxford–Cambridge Arc.

**Request our supporter pack today and discover how you can play a leading role in shaping the future of STEM.**

Find out more: <https://events-together.co.uk/overt>

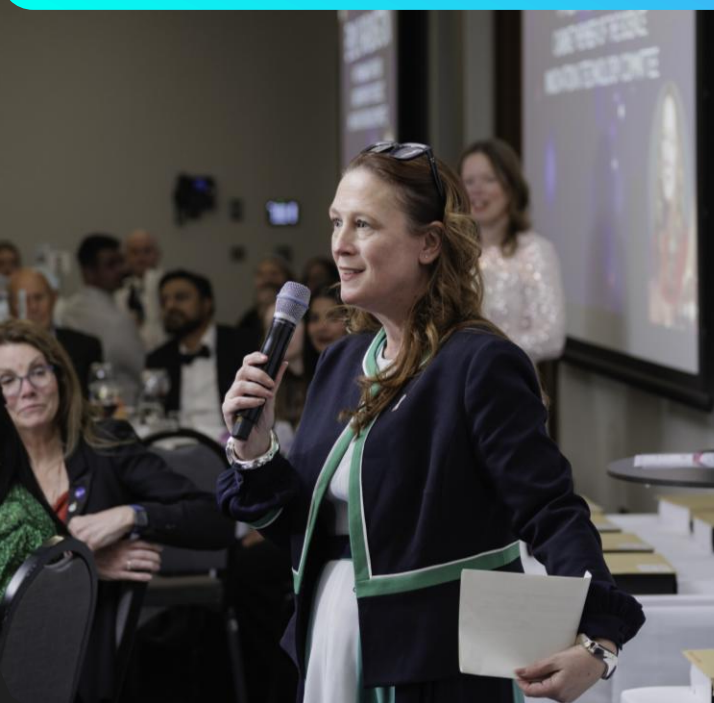
Be Seen.

Heard.

Celebrated.

Overt  stem  
summit

Overt  stem  
awards



## Find out more

[events-together.co.uk/overt](https://events-together.co.uk/overt)

Meena Chander: [Meena@events-together.co.uk](mailto:Meena@events-together.co.uk)

## Media Enquiries

Anne Walsh: [anne@stratos.agency](mailto:anne@stratos.agency)

## The Overt stem summit & awards

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

**MK Conferencing**

Strudwick Drive

Oldbrook

Milton Keynes

MK6 2TG