



NEWS RELEASE

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Anna Hill is among 34 female entrepreneurs shortlisted for Innovate UK's infocus awards, which seek to support inspiring women in innovation today and tomorrow. This October Innovate UK have announced the names of their 2016 infocus finalists following a nationwide competition to identify and empower the country's most promising female entrepreneurs and future business leaders.

Local finalist from **River Cycleway Consortium Ltd**, Anna Hill, impressed Innovate UK's panel with her vision to create a clean-energy floating bicycle corridor; **Thames Deckway**, a design that uses a series of interconnecting modular pontoons that will rise and fall with the River's tidal range of 8 metres. The Deckway will produce energy from solar, wind and tidal power and is an emergency relief flood mitigation hybrid infrastructure system.

With women in the UK half as likely to start a new business as their male counterparts, or indeed seek out external sources of funding, Innovate UK's 2016 infocus awards have sought to redress this imbalance by celebrating, supporting and enabling women in innovation through a package of business support, as well as a grant of £50,000 with which to develop their innovations.



Though the UK university landscape is typified by high numbers of female graduates, and the majority of the country's most educated workforce is female, women remain underrepresented in many key industries. Indeed, the 2016 infocus campaign launched following an analysis of 8,566 historic funding applications, highlighting that there is little difference in the quality of applications submitted by women and men, yet just 1 in 7 applications (14%) for funding were from women. The finalists of the 2016 infocus awards represent an inspiring cross-section of disciplines and passions; passions that Innovate UK hopes to foster and help grow to meet their full potential.

Dr. Ruth McKernan CBE and Chief Executive of Innovate UK says:

'The data on applications for InnovateUK funding and the output of our ebiquity report has been frankly more disappointing than I expected. There are so many talented women with great business ideas. The UK economy would be improved by a better gender balance in our entrepreneurs and business leaders. 2016 has been a ground-breaking year for us, and I hope that in supporting and telling the stories of our finalists and winners, we can inspire others to succeed.'

Anna Hill had to say: "Thames Deckway is a sustainable, ecological, adaptive, smart infrastructure solution for London and other Mega



Cities on tidal rivers and estuaries. Importantly, as our global sea levels rise, it will offer London a resilient alternative transport system.

I'm delighted to receive this recognition. Women led enterprise is often more collaborative and more likely to involve a longer term vision engaged with the circular economy and high social impact and this should be acknowledged and celebrated. I hope that this recognition as a disruptive innovator will help to inspire a new generation to be bold, inventive, pursue their dreams and to prepare for a more resilient and adaptive future. "

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About Innovate UK:

Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency. We are business focused and drive disruptive innovation. We fund and connect pioneering businesses so they can create the products, processes and industries of the future. We boost productivity, increase exports and help the UK economy grow. For further information and to stay updated on our latest news visit www.gov.uk/innovateuk, follow us on [Twitter](#) at @innovateuk or subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) at www.youtube.com/InnovateUK.

About the infocus campaign:

The infocus campaign is intended to be an umbrella communications campaign, designed to be flexible enough to underpin our chosen areas of focus in support of our diversity agenda. We are committed to improving our diversity and inclusion work as an investor, partner and employer. Our first focus area is addressing the disproportionately low numbers of women entrepreneurs engaging with Innovate UK.



About the 2016 Shortlist:

The infocus shortlist of 34 features; Jennifer Griffiths of Snap Tech Ltd, Natwilai Utoomprurkporn of Gettrik Ltd, Donna Lyndsay of EarthSense Systems Ltd, Dr Rebecca Sage from Interactive Scientific, Carolyn Pearson of Maiden-Voyage.com Ltd, Gabriela Isas from Score Academy, Jo Evershed of Cauldron.sc, Siobhan Gardiner from Herotech8, Dr. Fiona Marston of Absynth Biologics Ltd, Dr Jenna Bowen of Cotton Mouton Diagnostics Ltd, Anne Roques of Aurora Medical Ltd, Dr Shakardokht Jafari of TrueInvivo Ltd, Dr Suzanne Dilly from Points North Consultancy Ltd, Emma L. Sceats of CN Bio Innovations Ltd, Lorin Gresser from Dem Dx Ltd, Dr Rachel Gawley from AppAttic, Lucy Gower of Lucidity Innovation Ltd, Diane Gilpin from Smart Green Shipping Alliance, Beth Dawson of Fuel Cell Systems Ltd, Dr. Sarah Ward of RainShare Ltd, Anna Hill of River Cycleway Consortium Ltd, Professor Kym Jarvis of Viridian Consultants Ltd, Christine Boyle (MBE) of Senergy Innovations, Dr Mary Gillie from Energy Local, Elena Dieckmann of AEROPOWDER Limited, Virginia Gardiner of LOOWATT Ltd, Pauline Dawes from SOMI Trailers Ltd, Alizee Malavart of Surrey Satellite Technology Limited, Bianca Orrey of EV OneStop, Gabi Santosa from Customem limited, Dr Carmen Hijosa of Ananas Anam UK Limited, Fanzi Down from DPS Designs Ltd, Dorota Grabkowska of Fanatic House and Rebecca Street, Rebecca Street Limited.