

Join us at the

UK CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

22 April

Copper Box Arena, London



On Wednesday 22 April 2026 a stadium where legends are made will erupt with robots and young people performing at the edge of capability.

After six months of design, engineering, coding, iteration, failure, and recovery – teams go head to head on the game field, vying for industry judged awards.

This is not STEM enrichment. Nor a robotics competition. It's applied engineering mindset in action, judged by industry in front of a live audience.

Building More Than Robots

[FIRST UK](#) deploys robots, role models, and competitions to make STEM accessible and credible to young people who are too often excluded from it.

44% of participants are girls

41% from ethnically diverse backgrounds

>50% from less advantaged households

71% intend to pursue STEM careers

Engineering the future

The UK has a structural STEM skills gap. 1 in 10 STEM roles remain unfilled. The UK needs to train at least 200,000+ engineers by 2030. This is what credible early intervention looks like in practice.

FIRST UK works by changing who feels they belong in STEM and what they believe they are capable of.

“Throughout the years, it’s built me to who I am and it’s got me to love who I am.”

Joel Tomy, former Hotwire Rewired, Engineering student at university



Where STEM meets sport

Alongside educators, industry leaders and policymakers, passionate about building a more diverse and resilient STEM talent pipeline – you will witness young people collaborate, negotiate, adapt, and perform under pressure – skills employers repeatedly say are missing.

This is fast, competitive, noisy, and unapologetically ambitious. It is also one of the clearest windows into the future of UK tech and engineering talent you will get this year. [Join us](#) and decide for yourself.

- Student tours & networking all day
- Best of the action from 2pm
- Awards from 4pm
- Share the love, bring a colleague/influencer

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I know that winning prizes is awesome but what I've seen happen today is so much bigger than that. These students have been collaborating and negotiating, thinking on their feet and strategising. It's easy to see why competitions like this really do help students develop the skills they're going to need for the rest of their lives. Honestly, I wish I had something like this when I was at school.

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**Spencer Kelly,
Broadcaster, BBC Click**

Find out more and [RSVP here](#) to be part of the most energising Wednesday afternoon of 2026.