

# THE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS FOUNDATION

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Charity Number 1100694



**RADIO COMMUNICATIONS FOUNDATION**

# History of the Foundation

- Set up by, but independent from, the RSGB
- Constituted under a Trust Deed on 13 November 2003
- Registered Charity No. 1100694
- Objectives:
  - to advance the education of the public in the science and practice of radio communication and electrical engineering and to promote the wider benefits to the public resulting from such education and training.

# Aims of the Foundation

- Support initiatives to bring radio communications into the classroom, universities and any place where hands-on public demonstrations can make a difference to the understanding of the world of radio communications technology.
- As well as recognising the benefit and pleasure derived from amateur radio the Foundation wishes to encourage young people to consider electronics and radio communication knowledge as leading to a rewarding career.

# RCF Strategy

- The Foundation has recently completed a Strategy Review:
  - <http://www.commsfoundation.org/pdfs/14-02-26RCF-strategy%20version-4.pdf>
- RCF Strategy is to expand the objectives of the Foundation to concentrate on:
  - Those at school (and in uniformed groups such as the Scouts, Guides, Army Cadet Force, Royal Air Force Air Cadets, Air Training Corps and Ambulance Brigades) in order to develop an interest in radio communications
  - Those planning or undertaking a university or higher education course to encourage the study of radio communications options
  - Those planning or considering employment in radio communications
  - The public more generally, including those with an interest in amateur radio

# Charitable Initiatives supported

- GB4FUN
  - 2003 – 2013
  - Radio vehicle transferred to Sheffield Amateur Radio Group by RSGB in 2013
  - Callsign and brand retained by RSGB
- Arkwright students
  - 2 students a year supported by the Foundation
- Support of club and educational projects
- Restricted Fund for use by AMSAT
  
- Bids for funding of suitable projects are always welcomed by the RCF

# GB4FUN 2009-2013

- GB4FUN was a mobile, fully self-contained communications centre that visited schools and colleges up and down the country
  - Introducing school children to modern RF communications



# Arkwright Trust

- [www.arkwright.org.uk/](http://www.arkwright.org.uk/)
- All students are sponsored by other charities, industry etc.
  - 2 students a year supported by the Foundation
- Arkwright Trust sponsors students through A levels:
  - Engineering Scholarships support students through their A Levels or Scottish Highers and encourage students to pursue Engineering or technical Design at university or through a higher-level apprenticeship and to take up careers in the field.
- RCF aims to promote students with an interest in RF science and engineering

# Arkwright Sponsorship

- Arkwright Trust's staff help RCF to seek outside scholars with radio-related interests, to ensure RCF support in appropriate places.
- As well as financial sponsorship the RCF will try to arrange relevant work experience for students.



# Arkwright Students sponsored by RCF



*Trustee Steve Hartley presenting Theo with his scholarship certificate*



*Satellites in SSSL's cleanroom  
Photo credit SSSL*

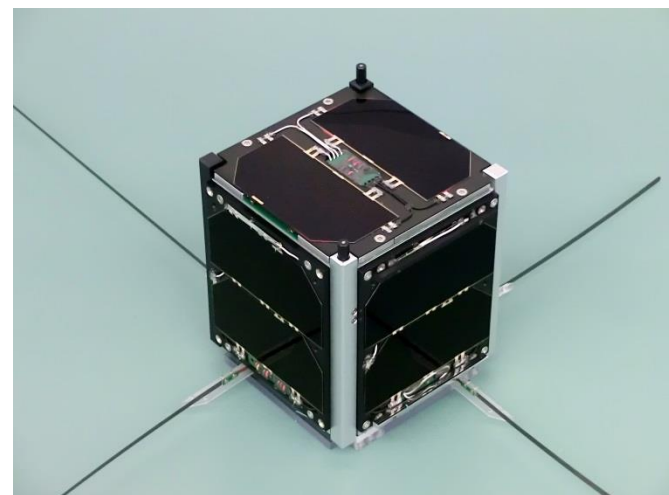
- Recent example, reported in RadCom March 2015
  - Student Theo Brown
  - A-level student at Colyton Grammar School, Devon
  - 12 A\* at GCSE
  - RF Electronics hobby interests
  - Saxophone player
  - Hopes to study electronics at Cambridge
- Work Experience at Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd. Feb. 2015
  - Student spent one week at SSTL seeing satellites being built and working with engineers
  - *“This was a truly incredible experience providing an invaluable insight into the diversity of the jobs that engineers perform on a regular basis.”*
- RCF is always on the look-out for exciting work-experience placements for its Arkwright students

# AMSAT restricted fund

- The Foundation received a legacy in 2007 with a specific instruction that it should be used to support the development of a suitable amateur radio satellite project
- Foundation working very closely with AMSAT-UK to ensure that the terms of the entrusted legacy are fulfilled.
- The outcome is the Foundation's support for FUNCube, an educational satellite project that has the goal of enthusing and educating young people in primary and secondary schools about radio, space, physics and electronics.
- The final payment was made in January 2013. Due to alternative funding arrangements there was a balance left in the fund that was transferred to AMSAT on the instructions of the executor of the estate during the year.
- In February 2013 the Foundation received a legacy from Mr John Heath of £40,000. This too was for the AMSAT restricted fund.

# Funcube – AO73

- A complete educational single CubeSat project
- Objective to enthuse and educate young people about radio, space, physics and electronics
- Sun-Synchronous Low Earth Orbit approx 670km above the earth
- Passes over most locations approx. 6 times a day
- 50% of passes for school use, 50% for general amateur radio use
- Measures 10cm x 10cm x 10cm, less than 1kg
- First spacecraft to have a primary mission of educational outreach to schools
- Smallest ever satellite to carry a linear VHF/UHF transponder for radio amateurs - 300mW PEP output for SSB and CW
- See <http://funcube.org.uk/>



# Future Activities and Contributions

- The work of the Radio Communications Foundation depends on contributions from donors.
- Future plans are to extend the charity's work in line with the strategic review.
- To contribute see [www.commsfoundation.org/donations](http://www.commsfoundation.org/donations)
- The RCF also always welcomes **bids for funding** of projects in line with our strategy
  - School and educational projects
  - Amateur radio club projects
  - Public promotion of radio communications technology

# RCF Trustees (2015)

- Sir Martin Sweeting (Chairman)
- Don Beattie
- Jacqui Brookes
- Steve Hartley
- David Hendon
- Marilyn Slade
- Simon Watts