



Professor Helen Atkinson CBE, FREng

Pro-Vice Chancellor – School of Aerospace, Transport and Manufacturing, Cranfield University

Presentation Title: Advanced Materials Processing: Into the Future

Professor Atkinson was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the highest honour for an engineer in the UK, in 2007. At the time she was one of only 29 women fellows alongside 1400 men. She was the first woman President of the Engineering Professors' Council (the body which represents engineering in universities throughout the UK) in its fifty year history and has also served as a Vice President and Trustee of the Royal Academy of Engineering. In 2010 she won a national award as a Woman of Outstanding Achievement in Science, Engineering and Technology for 'leadership and inspiration to others'.

She has been a Visiting Professor at NPU and GRINM in China and is currently a Visiting Professor at Arts et Metier ParisTech, one of the leading French universities for Engineering. Professor Atkinson has an honorary PhD from the University of Liège in Belgium for her international standing as a metallurgist.

She is a Fellow of the Institution of Materials, Minerals and Mining and a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. She serves on the Skills Panel of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (one of the world's largest engineering institutions), is a member of the Engineering Leaders Panel of the National Council for Universities and Business and served for five years as chair of the Education and Skills Committee at the Royal Academy of Engineering. She currently serves on the Strategic Facilities Advisory Board for the £200M Sir Henry Royce Institute, a major UK government materials research initiative and was a member of the UK Advanced Materials Leadership Council reporting to the UK Government Department for Business Innovation and Skills on national priorities for materials research.

Professor Atkinson was previously Head of the Engineering Department at the University of Leicester between 2012 and 2016 and chaired the £17M project to rebuild the Percy Gee Students' Union between 2008 and 2011. She served as Graduate Dean of the University of Leicester with oversight of ~2000 PhD students and took the University through the transition from a Graduate School to a Doctoral College.