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HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to present RSE Royal Medals to Baroness Helena Kennedy and Professor Desmond Smith, and IEEE/RSE/Wolfson Maxwell Award to Dr Ted Hoff, Edinburgh 12 August.

Leading human rights lawyer, Baroness Helena Kennedy, and renowned physicist and founder of Edinburgh Instruments Ltd, Professor Desmond Smith, will be honoured next week when HRH The Duke of Edinburgh will be in Scotland to present them with the prestigious Royal Medals.

Dr Marcian "Ted" Hoff, inventor of the microprocessor that revolutionised the computer industry, will also be in Scotland to receive the IEEE/RSE/Wolfson James Clerk Maxwell Award from The Duke.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh's Royal Medals were instituted by The Queen to mark the Millennium and recognise outstanding achievement in all intellectual fields. Previous recipients have included Nobel Laureates Sir James Black and Sir James Mirrlees, as well as the distinguished Scottish historian Prof Tom Devine, and theoretical physicist Prof Peter Higgs.

President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, said "It is a very great pleasure to welcome HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to the Royal Society of Edinburgh on 12 August to present the Society's Royal Medals and the Maxwell Award. These are our highest accolades. It is a double pleasure because this year marks the 60th anniversary of The Duke's election as an Honorary Fellow of the Society. We greatly appreciate the interest HRH has taken in the Society over the years and his personal involvement in the presentation of these prestigious awards".

Baroness Kennedy receives the Medal for her outstanding contribution to human rights and civil liberties, access to education, arts and ethics. Professor Smith is recognised for his eminent work in physics research, especially in optoelectronics (electronics that detect and control light), spectroscopy (the study of objects through their interaction with light) and laser technology, and its application in industry and research technology.

Professor Noreen Murray CBE FRS, one of Britain's most distinguished molecular geneticists, was also awarded a Royal Medal in 2011, which she received from Lord Wilson at a ceremony at the University of Edinburgh shortly before her death in May. The award recognised her leading role in the development of gene cloning technology which influenced the course of biological research worldwide.

Baroness Helena Kennedy of the Shaws QC

Helena Kennedy, born and educated in Glasgow, is one of the UK's leading human rights lawyers. She has been involved in a number of high profile cases over the past

thirty years and has played a key role in reforming the legal profession's attitude to women.

Reflecting her own diverse interests, Baroness Kennedy is active in arts and literary organisations, serving as Chair of the British Council from 2004 to 2009 and as a judge of a number of literary prizes. The Helena Kennedy Foundation is an educational foundation established in her name and Baroness Kennedy actively fund-raises for scholarships.

Baroness Kennedy commented "It is a truly great honour to receive this distinguished medal from the Royal Society of Edinburgh, which is one of our country's most prestigious institutions. I am still reeling with delight. I see it as a recognition that human rights are fundamental to our law and our society. But I also see it as an embrace from my own nation. I am thrilled".

Professor S Desmond Smith OBE FRS FRSE

Educated in Bristol and Reading, Desmond Smith has worked in the field of physics for over five decades. Inspired by the launch of Sputnik in 1957, the innovative ideas and skills that Professor Smith brought to building meteorological instruments for NASA's Nimbus satellites in the 1960s were integral to the success of its early space missions.

In 1970 Professor Smith came to Scotland to set up the new Department of Physics at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. Having recognised from an early stage the importance of developing research into commercial products, he founded Edinburgh Instruments Ltd in 1971, the first spin-off company from Heriot-Watt University. Professor Smith today remains as Chairman and Chief Scientific Officer of the company which has contributed some £100 million of manufacturing to the UK economy from which 80% came directly from export revenue.

James Clerk Maxwell Award presented to Dr Ted Hoff

Also at the ceremony, the IEEE/RSE/Wolfson James Clerk Maxwell Award will be presented to Dr Marcian "Ted" Hoff. The award recognises ground breaking contributions by those who follow in Maxwell's footsteps. The award this year goes to Dr Hoff for developments in programmable integrated circuitry for a wide range of applications. Dr Hoff's determination that there 'must be a better way' led him to design the world's first microprocessor – the Intel 4004 – in 1968, paving the way for the personal computer use that has shaped our modern day home and working lives.

www.royalsoced.org.uk

ENDS

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Please contact Bristow if you would like to arrange an interview with either of the Royal Medallists. This is not a press event, however the RSE will have a photographer on duty on the day and will be able to make photographs available immediately following the ceremony (approximately 12 noon).