

The Honorary Graduand: Mrs Katherine Bennett CBE FRAeS

The Orator: Professor Steven West

Katherine Bennett CBE FRAeS is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering.

A proud ambassador of British industry, Katherine joined the HVM Catapult as CEO in June 2021 after 16 years at Airbus where she was a Senior Vice President.

At Airbus, Katherine was the UK voice and face of the global aerospace manufacturer and her responsibilities included developing UK strategy, leading on public affairs activities, high-profile media engagement and representing the company on various committees, boards and initiatives including VentilatorChallengeUK.

Prior to joining Airbus, Katherine headed up the government affairs function at Vauxhall Motors and worked with a range of industrial clients at Hill and Knowlton Public Relations in London.

Katherine's significant contribution to the aerospace and aviation sector was recognised with a CBE. She also has an Honorary Doctorate from Cranfield University. Today she continues to invest time serving numerous public and private enterprises.

Katherine is passionate about people and has led multiple industry initiatives aimed at ensuring diversity, equality and inclusion in the workplace.

When Katherine is not hard at work she can be found singing in a choir or playing the organ at her local church.

Katherine's memberships include:

- Western Gateway (Chair)
- The Board of the Aerospace Growth Partnership (part of the UK Government's Industrial Strategy)
- The Investment Council of the Department for International Trade
- The Made Smarter Commission
- The Wales Government Science and Innovation Council.
- The Automotive Council
- UK Government's Levelling Up Advisory Council
- Women in Aviation and Aerospace Charter (Founder)