

# Space duo's work is shortlisted for 'Arthurs' awards

A passion for space has led to two university researchers being nominated for honours, Melanie Hall finds out more.

TWO space technology researchers at the University of Surrey have been shortlisted for the 'Oscars of the space industry' for their achievements.

The Sir Arthur Clarke Awards, or 'Arthurs', named after Arthur C Clarke, the science fiction author and writer of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, recognise achievement related to space.

Chris Brunskill, a PhD student at the university's Surrey Space Centre, has been nominated for the Space Student Achievement award for promoting the study of space at universities.

In his spare time Chris works with UK students for the Exploration and Development of Space (UKSEDS) – a national society promoting space in schools and universities across the country.

Chris was the chief coordinator for the 2009 UKSEDS conference at the university and then organised a later conference in Manchester.

The second nominee is Dr Lloyd Wood, a research fellow in the university's Centre for Communication Systems Research, has been shortlisted for the Achievement in Space Research award for his work on using the internet in space.

Lloyd was responsible for CLEO, a Cisco Systems Internet router flown as a hosted payload on the UK-DMC Disaster Monitoring Constellation satellite.

This satellite was built, launched and operated by Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL).

By working with colleagues at Cisco Systems, NASA Glenn Research Center

and SSTL, Lloyd tested the internet in space with CLEO and went on to conduct the first tests of the 'Interplanetary Internet' using the UK-DMC satellite.

Lloyd has built on this collaboration and experience to research communications and networking for the difficult space environment.

Lessons learned from testing communication protocols in space are now being applied to improving networking on the ground, with developments for ad-hoc networking and for the demanding data delivery needs of radio-astronomy arrays.

Lloyd said: "Being shortlisted for an 'Arthur' is a welcome result of years of teamwork, endeavour, and research achievement.

"The chance to compete for a monolith with Clarke's three-satellite constellation inscribed on it means a lot to someone who was awarded his PhD on satellite constellations in 2001."

Fellow nominee Chris said he was thrilled that the work done by UKSEDS in promoting space to students has

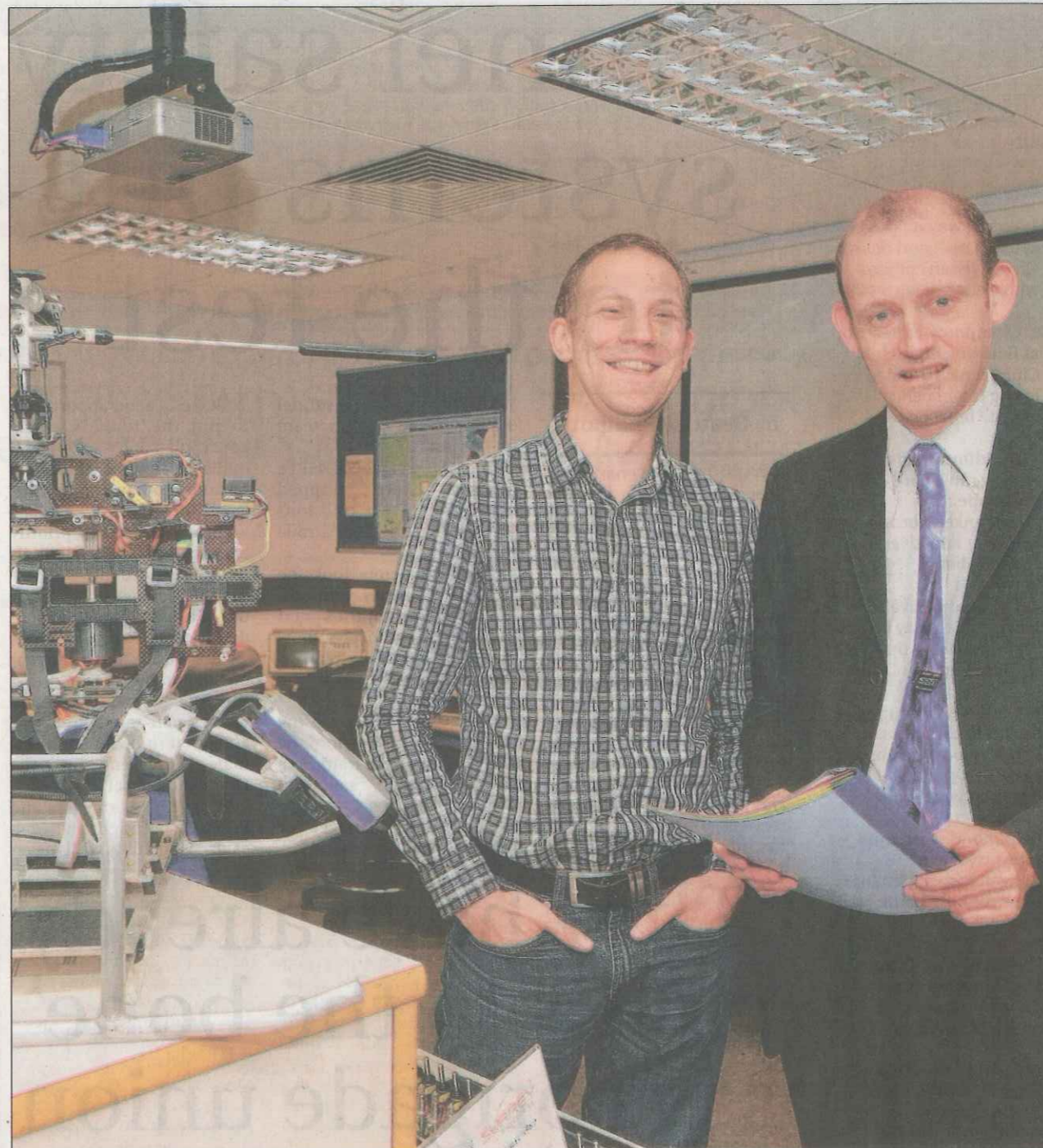
been recognised by the 'Arthurs' in this year's nominations, which are sponsored by the UK Space Agency.

"The conference would not be possible without the hard work of the society and I get great satisfaction in being able to share my own personal enthusiasm for space with other students through organising this event," he said.

Dr Craig Underwood, deputy director of the Surrey Space Centre, said: "It's excellent that Lloyd and Chris have been nominated for the Sir Arthur Clarke awards, demonstrating the university's ongoing commitment to excellence in space systems and communications research, and the wider benefits of space education."

Previous winners of the Sir Arthur Clarke award from the University of Surrey include Sir Martin Sweeting, who pioneered the use of small satellites in space. Sir Martin founded and heads SSTL which was spun out from the university and sold to EADS Astrium in 2009.

The winners will be announced next month.



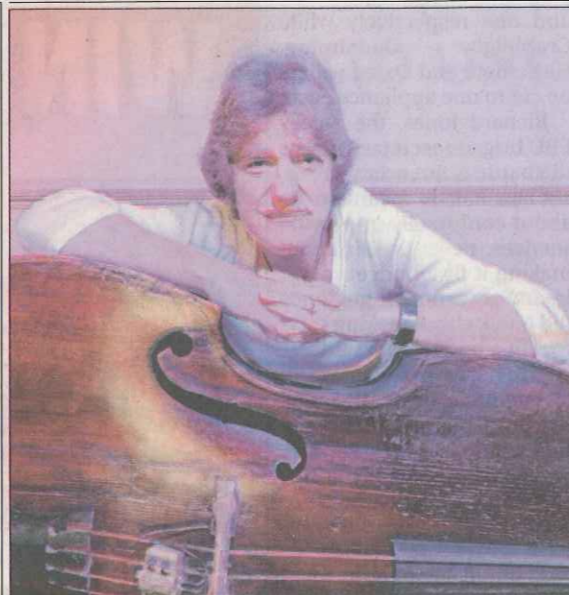
Chris Brunskill and Dr Lloyd Wood have been shortlisted for the space industry equivalent of the Oscars. (Ref: SA113189y)

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## 'Life is too short' not to make jazz the priority

A JAZZ player who gave up her computer career to focus on her music has launched a series of sell-out concerts.

Marianne Windham gave up her job as the director of a software consultancy company to pursue her calling as a double bass player.

Her labour of love began almost by accident, when she 'fell into' playing bass and jazz from a background of playing classical cello.

"Given the demand of everything else in life, I was

ing up with Andy Moore, owner of the Farncombe Cavern, a music venue attached to the Freeholders pub. The success of the concerts had been staggering, she added but she was not getting complacent yet.

"I do a lot of work, and it becomes very consuming. I practise three or four hours a day by myself and then with others for three hours and then I do gigs in the evening.

"You can achieve a lot by being quite positive and

season will be on July 13, featuring top trumpet player Henry Lowther, who has been playing to wide acclaim on the British jazz scene for decades.

Marianne, who moved to Guildford to study physics at university and has lived in Onslow Village ever since, said she was in the process of booking up artists for the next season, which begins on September 14.

"The Cavern is a really nice room and the acoustics are good, so it feels like a jazz