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ENGINEERING RETURNER OF THE YEAR 2020

Winner

Ann Stanhope - DSTL

Overview of entry

Ann's story shows that it's possible to return to the workforce even after an extended career break, and to offer real personal impact. Since returning to work with Dstl, the science inside UK defence and security, Ann has picked up and expanded her residual technical knowledge and built a productive network of contacts in Dstl and outside.

Ann's career began in the semiconductor industry, first as a researcher and then in engineering production. She moved to California with her husband when he got a job there; with no work permit she filled her time volunteering at school, bringing up their children and doing online courses.

Since joining Dstl through the STEM Returners scheme, Ann has devised new metrics for innovation, led in the building of a STEM learning and development scheme and helped recruit the next cohort of career returners. She is relishing her next challenge, leading Dstl's apprenticeship scheme.