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Penny, R W M.P.

Pro-Chancellor,

Professor William Penny is an internationally acclaimed engineer and entrepreneur in the field of measurement and control. He is best known for his leading role in developing the 'black bn

The main part of the original Penny and Giles group of companies is now owned by the US-based Curtiss-Wright Corporation. It is still a key supplier to the aerospace industry, with instruments such as cockpit voice and flight data recorders, and ice and snow detection systems; but P&G also provides a great variety of devices such as joystick controllers for the computing world and studio faders for broadcast media. Other markets range through the automotive and petrochemical industries to forestry.

As Chairman of P&G until 1995 William Penny led 'by expertise and example', with much emphasis on teamwork and collective achievement. In retirement he is a highly valued consultant and mentor across the P&G Group, where his colleagues affectionately call him 'the Prof' and explain that he can still 'run rings around any of our engineers'. He has consistently promoted links between academia and industry, most significantly in the Engineering Faculty at City University, where his leadership was recognised by appointment to a personal chair. He served on the Advisory Committee of Bournemouth Municipal College during the 1960s and was a member of the Board at this University in the early 1990s. Design students have benefitted greatly from our links with Penny and Giles, through placements and inspirations for final-year projects.

The pursuit of excellence has characterised William Penny's entire career, and his outstanding achievements have brought him public honours and academic distinctions. In 1989 he was appointed a Commander of the British Empire for services to industry. He is a Chartered Engineer, and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, the Institute of Measurement and Control, and a Companion of the Institute of Chartered Managers. All this in addition to his two doctorates from City University, the second of which was awarded on the basis of peer review.