

KENNETH STANLEY

Pro-Chancellor,

Kenneth Stanley has distinguished himself as an inventor and entrepreneur who founded BigHead, a Bournemouth-based company which supplies metal fastenings to many industries around the world. He is a longstanding supporter of Bournemouth University who has inspired many design students with his ingenuity and massive enthusiasm for innovative technology, good design and environmental sustainability.

Ken grew up in London, and on leaving school he began work as a postal messenger. During World War 2 he was a conscientious objector, and spent four years working on farms and building land drainage systems. After the War he was awarded a scholarship at the London School of Economics, where he took a BSc degree in Economics. He then trained as a teacher and taught in colleges around London, including the London College of Printing (now part of the University of the Arts). Here he was responsible for the support of international students, a role which sometimes included negotiating with their embassies for payment of outstanding fees and sponsorships.

His main career as an inventor and entrepreneur began when he developed a brilliant but essentially simple idea from which many others have since flowed. This was the device known as BigHead: a metal fastener which can be used to join plastics, metals and composite materials. In 1966, with the support of his wife Dorothy and her skills in financial administration, he founded BigHead Bonding Fasteners Limited to develop and make these very strong, versatile and economical fastenings which have been used in an astonishingly wide range of products including medical equipment, robots, Madame Tussaud's waxworks, aircraft, and luxury cars. A Bentley contains 156 BigHead fastenings, and every one of them is invisible. This invisibility is one of the most distinctive and aesthetically attractive features of BigHead fastenings, but it also helps to explain why they are widely familiar in industry and almost unknown to the public: once fitted they are never seen. So BigHead may not be well-known, but many of its clients are: for example, Sunseeker was the first to use these fasteners in boatbuilding over 35 years ago, and now they are used in this industry throughout the world. And some major technological developments, in fields such as injection moulding of plastics, have been made possible by the use of BigHead fasteners.

Sustainability and environmental conservation are key themes in all Ken Stanley's work and thinking. His products minimise waste in manufacture and in use, so they reduce costs and environmental impact. All he does is based on simple but powerful underlying principles. First, he wants to see the intellectual wealth of this country used more, and better. And second, he is convinced that inventions and innovative ideas should be for the common good. Accordingly he has given much time and energy to the development of links between industry and higher education. He is a strong supporter of Bournemouth University, particularly the School of Design, Engineering and Computing, and the annual Festival of Design and Innovation. He has

sponsored prizes for students, many of whom have found his enthusiasm for technology and good design inspirational. As an outstanding example of innovative technological entrepreneurship, he is a role model for those seeking to follow in his footsteps and market their own ideas.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Mr Kenneth Stanley, and ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Technology, *honoris causa*.