



# Irish Academy of Engineering (IAE) 2025 Parsons Medal Award presented to Professor Vincent Fusco at Birr International STEAM Heritage Festival



Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – The Irish Academy of Engineering today awarded its highest honour, the Parsons Medal, to leading Irish academic engineer, Professor Vincent Fusco.

The Academy awards the Parsons Medal to an engineer who has made an exceptional contribution to the practice of engineering on the island of Ireland that has resulted in significant social or economic impact.

Professor Vincent Fusco was, until recently, Director of Research for the School of Electronic, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Chief Technology Officer of the ECIT Research Institute at Queen's University of Belfast, where he previously founded an internationally recognised High Frequency Electronics technology research group.

The Parsons Medal, awarded annually, commemorates the work of Sir Charles Algernon Parsons, the inventor of the steam turbine that was used, for example, to propel ships such as HMS Caroline.

The award was presented at the Birr Engineering Heritage Festival, held at Birr Castle Demesne. The medal was presented to Professor Fusco by Lady Alicia Parsons' a descendant of the Earl of Rosse, Sir Brendan Parsons.

Professor Fusco has an extensive background in wireless engineering and holds a PhD and DSc and Chair of High Frequency Electronics from QUB.

He established and led a major internationally renowned research group that works with industry and universities worldwide on advanced wireless antenna technologies for satellite and terrestrial applications.

He has collaborated with many major companies and startups in the wireless sector in Ireland and worldwide. His pioneering work has led to innovations in cellular and satellite technology. He developed advanced microwave and sub-millimetre wave technologies and holds twelve patents related to antennas where he is an acknowledged leader in the field. His research has influenced national and international industry and academia and significantly contributed to sophisticated radio technology development in Ireland and elsewhere.

His other accolades include Fellowships of the Irish Academy of Engineering, Royal Society, Royal Academy of Engineering award of the IET Mountbatten Medal, and the Royal Irish Academy's Gold Medal for Engineering Science.

Sean Finlay, President, the Irish Academy of Engineering commented, "Ireland has for over 150 years been significant to the growth of global data communications. First, through its undersea transatlantic cables, led by Lord Kelvin in 1858, followed by Marconi's wireless transmissions of the world's first commercial radio signal from Rathlin Island to Ballycastle in 1898 and subsequently the world's first live sports event being wirelessly streamed from the Kingstown Regatta in Dublin Bay. Today wireless is a global business offering mobile users much flexibility."

“Vincent has made an exceptional contribution to the practice of engineering nationally and internationally through the innovative application of engineering to advanced wireless technology.”

Professor Fusco commented, “The Irish Academy of Engineering provides independent advice to policy makers on issues related to engineering and technology. I am honoured to be the recipient of the 2025 Irish Academy of Engineering’s Parsons medal and would like to thank the Academy for selecting me. It is an honour to receive this recognition for engineering achievement. Throughout my career I have been privileged to have collaborated with inspirational colleagues and students on many problems in the field of wireless communication that are of relevance to today’s world where the ability to connect wirelessly is a key social, and economic driver.”

**END**

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

### **About the Irish Academy of Engineering**

The Irish Academy of Engineering (IAE) is dedicated to advancing the wellbeing of the island of Ireland by marshalling the expertise and insights of eminent engineers to provide independent advice to policy makers on matters involving engineering and technology. Our membership is made up of eminent engineers, all leaders in their fields, based both in Ireland and abroad. The IAE regularly publishes research and guidance on matters relating to engineering, technology, and the development of Ireland. The Irish Academy is a member of the European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering (Euro-CASE) which is an independent non-profit organisation of national academies of Engineering, Applied Sciences and Technologies from 23 European countries. and the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS) with member Academies from 33 Countries. Visit our website [www.iae.ie](http://www.iae.ie) for more information.

### **About Birr Castle Demesne and Sir Charles Parsons**

The Award-Winning Gardens of Birr Castle Demesne and Science Centre in Ireland are both rich in amazing feats of science and engineering as well as rare trees and flowers, wonderful wildlife, and walks along peaceful rivers and the lake. Created over generations it is an environmental and scientific time capsule. The Science Centre at Birr brings to life the scientific history of the Castle and the story of the Parsons family who lived there since 1620.

Sir Charles Parsons (1854-1931) was the youngest son of the famous astronomer Williams Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse, whose home was at the Birr Castle Demesne, Co Offlay. Sir Charles Parsons was home tutored by leading astronomers of the day and following his academic years in Trinity College Dublin and St John’s College, Cambridge, Charles completed his training as an engineer at Armstrong ship-builders in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Charles is best known for his

development of the compound steam turbine and its application to power generation and shipping propulsion. He built a sizeable and successful engineering company at the Heaton works in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. He had a great influence on the naval and electrical engineering fields in the years leading up to WWI and beyond. Charles Parsons is recognised as one of the world's greatest engineers, an entrepreneur and inventor, whose ability to build the team to succeed in a highly competitive landscape, and through the Great War, to deliver electricity to all.

**For further information, photography, press passes to the ceremony, and interview opportunities contact:**

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