



## February–March 2018

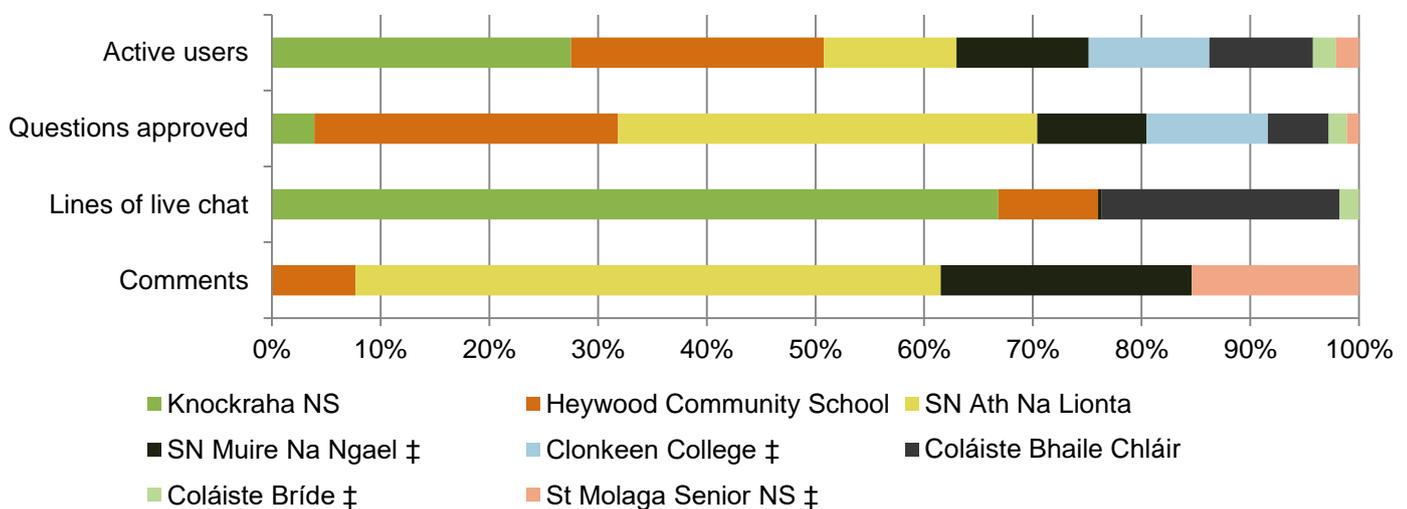
This event was quieter than expected due to bad weather causing many schools across Ireland to close during the first week of the event. The disruption meant that teachers had to cancel lessons they had planned to run on I'm an Engineer. In total, sixteen chats had to be cancelled across the event with many teachers unable to rearrange. This caused our averages across the event to be a lot lower than in previous years.

The Space Zone was funded by Science Foundation Ireland.

- Willi is a professor in mechanical and materials engineering who has been working on the first Irish satellite
- Lána is a PhD student also working on the satellite as well as studying dying stars
- Jonathan is a teaching associate at the International Space University
- James designs spacecraft for the European Space Agency
- Eimear, the winner of this zone, is a satellite data researcher studying the coastal environment.

Thirteen students and three engineers logged in for an evening chat on the last Thursday of the event where students could show their parents the event and ask questions. This was the first time we had run this evening session and most of the students stayed online chatting with the engineers for the full hour.

### School data at a glance

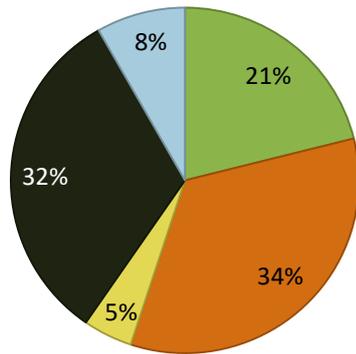


We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Priority schools are noted above. Read more at [about.imascientist.ie/2016/widening-participation/](http://about.imascientist.ie/2016/widening-participation/)

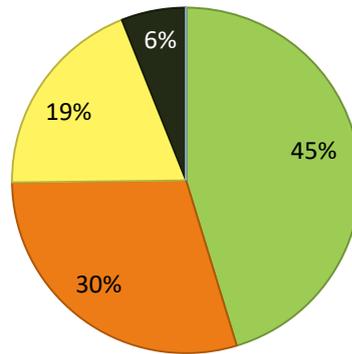
DEIS schools in SFI target counties (\*), other DEIS schools (‡), and other non-fee-paying schools in target counties (‡).

## Engineer activity

### Answers



### Lines of chat



ENGINEER	PROFILE VIEWS	POSITION
Eimear Tuohy	438	Winner
Lana Salmon	388	2nd
Jonathan Faull	269	3rd
William O'Connor	420	4th
James Geary	358	5th

## Key figures from the Space Zone and the averages of the March zones

PAGE VIEWS	SPACE ZONE	FEB-MAR '18 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	10,603	10,023
ASK page	984	977
CHAT page	879	874
VOTE page	908	830

	SPACE ZONE	FEB-MAR '18 ZONES AVERAGE	IAE 2014-18 AVERAGE
Schools	8	9	11
Students logged in	254	265	402
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	74%	79%	85%
Questions asked	288	294	593
Questions approved	179	193	223
Answers given	327	226	436
Comments	16	17	44
Votes	172	162	298
Live chats	13	13	17
Lines of live chat	1,582	1,858	5,369
Average lines per live chat	122	148	309

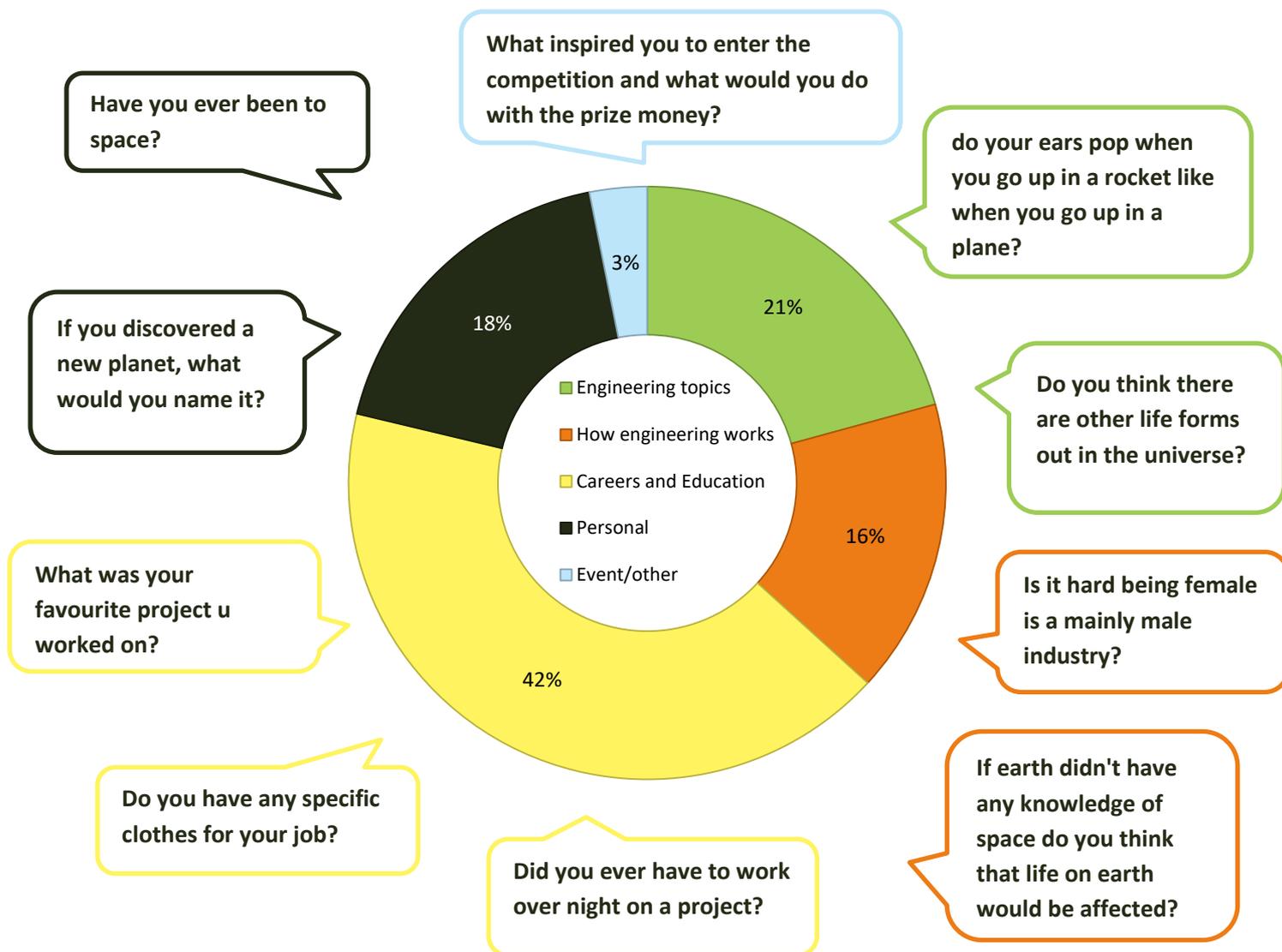
### Popular topics

Students wanted to know about everything to do with space and space travel, asking a huge variety of questions about black holes, galaxies, planets, stars and the moon. There was a real interest in the work of the engineers, especially Willi and Lána's work on Ireland's first satellite EIRSAT-1. They wanted to know how satellites are built, when EIRSAT-1 will be ready and what it will be used for. Students were also interested in SpaceX and whether it will be successful. There were some very specific questions demonstrating a lot of background knowledge from the students and a real engagement with the zone theme.

Lots of questions were careers based with students asking if the engineers went to college or university, what they studied and what grades they got in school. They wanted to know if the engineers enjoy their jobs, what their motivations are, how many different projects they are working on and how long they work for each day. There was also some interest in becoming an engineer with students asking about the different opportunities in space engineering for students.



## Question themes and example questions in the Zone



Find out about how we've coded the questions at [about.imascientist.org.uk/2017/student-question-coding](http://about.imascientist.org.uk/2017/student-question-coding)

## Examples of good engagement

Students asked the engineers for more information about the things they had talked about on their profiles, such as Eimear's work with marine and coastal security.

*"What is marine security and how does it affect Ireland?" – Student*

*"Marine security is making sure all people (fisher men and women, tourists, cruise ships, tankers) are safe in the water. It involves developing ways to find people quickly in case they get into trouble out on the water. And it is monitoring the marine environment to make sure no one is doing illegal activities." – Eimear, engineer*

*"Illegal ? such as..." – Student*

*“Trafficking of illegal substances, ships fishing where they are not allowed to fish or dumping oil overboard are three examples.” – Eimear, engineer*

*“Thank you!!” – Student*

Willi and Lána joined the evening chat for families a little late, as they had been in a meeting together, which the students were really interested in finding out about.

*“Hi, apologies, I was at a meeting about EIRSAT-1. Just joining.” – Willi, engineer*

*“What was the meeting about Willi?” – Student*

*“Lána and I were at the same meeting. It was telling students about the first Irish satellite which we're working on. We were looking for volunteers to get more involved.” – Willi, engineer*

*“We were trying to get more students involved in our team so we gave a presentation :)” – Lána, engineer*

*“What is the main role of the satellite?” – Student*

*“Its main role is to teach students and the public about space. But we hope to detect dying stars in space.” – Lána, engineer*

*“that sounds really cool” – Student*

### **Scientist winner: Eimear Tuohy**

Eimear’s plans for the prize money: *“I would use the prize money to travel around to schools and demonstrate all the wonderful ways satellites help us understand the environment.”*

Read Eimear’s [thank you message](#).



### **Student winner: Anakin**

For great engagement during the event, this student will receive a gift voucher and a certificate.

### **Feedback**

We’re still collecting feedback from teachers, students and scientists but here are a few of the comments made during the event...

*“We loved the experience and learned so much. Lots of follow up lesson ideas! More work on the role of engineers in science, explore the use of satellites and how they work, women in science, weather, Hubble and Newton telescopes...to name a few. An excellent zone!” – Teacher*

*“I’ve had a brilliant time chatting to the students. So many fantastic questions. I’d definitely recommend the experience to others” – Lána, engineer*

*“We really enjoyed our sessions preparing for and chatting with the engineers. It was unique and gave the children new perspectives on the lives and work of engineers. Space was a fantastic zone to be a part of.” – Teacher*