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**COO of Actisense Joins Poole Maritime Festival’s****Women in Engineering Panel**

* *Lesley Keets, COO of marine electronics specialists Actisense, will discuss her career journey on the Women in Engineering panel at Poole Maritime Festival on the 5th June.*

The Women in Engineering panel at Poole Maritime Festival features a wide variety of female engineering professionals who have thrived in a historically male-dominated industry.

Lesley Keets is COO of Poole-based marine electronics company, Actisense, and will be sharing her inspiring story with the attendees of the festival.

The discussion panel Lesley is sitting on, which is organised by the Dorset Engineering & Manufacturing Cluster, will explore the next generation of women in engineering as part of Poole Maritime Festival’s business programme. The panel will also give attendees the opportunity to hear stories of what it's like to work amongst the engineering and manufacturing industries.

Lesley worked her way up from Sales & Marketing Manager to being appointed Chief Operating Officer in April 2015. This was a considerable achievement as she had no previous experience of the marine industry nor any formal STEM qualifications. In her role, she has developed an in-depth knowledge of Actisense products, increased sales, improved productivity and established relationships with international marine electronics organisations.

Lesley Keets said:

“To be invited to talk alongside such a great line-up of professionals is an honour. I hope this event can help to inspire women to further their careers and encourage women to engage with science, technology, engineering and manufacturing industries.”

The Women in Engineering panel is free to attend and takes place on Wednesday 5th June 2019 at the RNLI College, West Quay, Poole, BH15 1HZ.

Other speakers on the Women in Engineering panel include Anjie Rook, Business Support and Services Director, RNLI; Victoria Sergeant from Siemens; Angharad Holloway, Head Teacher Talbot Heath School; Diana Parkes from Women’s Sat Nav to Success.

To get your tickets for the Women in Engineering Panel, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women-in-engineering-tickets-59826050327>

* **Ends -**

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Theo Meddelton of Darren Northeast PR (on behalf of Actisense) on pr@darrennortheast.co.uk or 01202 676762