



## Rebekka's current position:

Rebekka is setting up a joint venture with a company to market the first of her inventions - a 'smart' plant pot that 'speaks' to tell you whether a houseplant is too hot, too cold or needs watering!

## Rebekka's work:

'I invented the smart plant pot as my final year project at university. Many people love their houseplants but often do not know how to look after them properly. My invention uses built-in sensors to monitor the household plant environment, and a speech chip enables the plant to "talk" to you when it needs attention. The user can even check how the plant is feeling while they are away from home by communicating over the telephone, and then watering it if necessary with one touch of the keypad. 'My smart plant pot was featured in a "gadget" magazine and I was approached by the BBC who asked me to appear on the Best Invention Award programme, along with two other finalists. To my amazement and delight I was the winner. Now a company is interested in developing my prototype, and hopefully my plant pot will shortly be in commercial production.'

## Her route to success:

'I think I have always wanted to solve problems by inventing products.'

Rebekka took physics, design technology and geography A levels and went on to do a BA Honours in design and technology at the University of Brunel. During her degree course she had a six-month placement studying design at San Francisco State University, USA. After graduating, Rebekka worked with a technology company on sensors that detect the accurate position of various moving objects, for instance underground train doors, and monitor whether or not they are malfunctioning.

When Rebekka won the Best Invention Award she received widespread publicity and even appeared in Hello magazine. This encouraged her to pursue her dream of developing a commercial product.

## More about Rebekka:

'I used to swim competitively and now I enjoy teaching swimming. I also love gardening: in fact it was my father's beautiful garden with its successful built-in irrigation system that originally inspired me to develop the smart plant pot.'

## What next?

'I would love my invention to make a lot of money and then I could develop my other ideas. What really fascinates me is the "emotional" aspects of inventing and product design: finding out exactly what the problem is and understanding what people really need to solve it.'

