

**The Honorary Graduand:** Mark Chapman

**The Orator:** Dr John Lanham

**Mark Chapman is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering**

Mark Chapman has been involved since the early days of Bloodhound in 2008 and took the lead as Chief Engineer in 2010. He studied Engineering at the University of Bath and on graduation started work with Babcock Engineering. After a role with Ricardo Aerospace Mark took a role with Boeing in the Seattle – but returned to the UK and joined Rolls Royce. It was from Rolls Royce that Mark was enticed by the challenges of working as part of the team designing and building a car that would go faster than any vehicle has gone before. Two years after joining the team he was asked by Richard Noble, Director of BloodhoundSSC – to take the lead on the Engineering development of the car. BloodhoundSSC may draw upon established technologies but the design and construction of a car capable of over 1,000 MPH is a novel and unique achievement – hence the universities acknowledgement through the recognition at Doctoral level. This car is not a small evolution of an existing car – 1,000 MPH reflects a 30% increase from the current record. The technical issues, complexities and consequent safe and reliable engineering solutions to this problem are far from trivial and there is virtually no prior knowledge of how a car performs at these speeds anywhere around the globe. Mark, though, as with the rest of the team, joined BloodhoundSSC in part for the engineering challenge – but primarily because of the focus of BloodhoundSSC on engaging youngsters in STEM. Despite the demands of leading the engineering work on Bloodhound Mark has fully support the educational activities – from primary school events to university lectures.

Away from “work” Mark has a young family and lives in a fantastic, slightly ramshackle, old farm cottage with his wife Katia and three children, surrounded by what his wife variously describes as “projects” or scrap. The “projects” started with an old car Mark wanted to restore and has now spawned several more. Given the pressures and demands of BloodhoundSSC Mark admits to having a full garage and yard, and project rich but time poor.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Mark Chapman’s contribution to design and engineering.