

Mechanical engineer Evert Hoek awarded an honorary doctorate by the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya · BarcelonaTech (UPC)
Welcome from the rector, Prof. Francesc Torres.

6 March of 2019

Doctor Evert Hoek; Mr Valentí Junyent, mayor of Manresa; Ms Rosa Argelaguet, director of the UPC's Manresa School; Mr David Parcerisa, Dr Hoek's sponsor; authorities; UPC colleagues; ladies and gentlemen.

Today we are gathered in this beautiful Manresa Campus Library to welcome Mr Hoek to our UPC community. It is our greatest honour.

We are in excellent company: actors in the public life of the city have joined us for the final celebration of the School's seventy-fifth anniversary to thank a man who has led the way in aiding and transferring the results of research to the Manresa region.

It is the second time in the history of our university that an honorary doctorate award ceremony is held in Manresa. The first took place in 1992, when the award was for Mr Jan Willem de Leeuw, whose sponsor was the professor Xavier de las Heras, who is a member of this year's committee.

I wish to thank the professor David Parcerisa for delivering the oration and Dr Hoek, an outstanding figure in mechanical engineering applied to rock behaviour, for his speech.

In my first year as the rector of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, I have had the chance to come to Manresa a few times, often to pick up or celebrate some of the prizes awarded to the School for its long history and to its dynamic management team.

Social actors in Manresa and the surrounding area have expressed an interest in the continuity of degrees that have a direct impact on the region, such as Mining Engineering, which in Catalonia is only taught at our university.

To prove the importance of having specialised engineers in the field, today we have been given a true lesson. I hope I can apply this lesson to strengthen rock mass behaviour and to secure the stability of the University's management team. ;-))

Dr Hoek is a much-loved person on this campus and in Manresa. I have witnessed that myself, and I know that the School's members have worked especially hard, so I wish to thank them for making this event possible.

We are delighted to add Dr Evert Hoek to our university's list of honorary doctoral degree holders and we hope that his knowledge and life lesson will inspire our students and teachers to keep working hard in full awareness of the impact that their knowledge can have on their immediate environment.

Thank you very much.