



Department  
for Business  
Innovation & Skills

**BIS MANUFACTURING SUMMIT**

Key summary

28 FEBRUARY 2013

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# Manufacturing Summit 2013

On 28th February over 250 delegates gathered at the Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon, Warwickshire to attend BIS' third and most successful Manufacturing Summit. There was strong ministerial presence – the Deputy Prime Minister and Business Secretary Vince Cable delivered the key note speeches, while David Willetts, Michael Fallon and Lord Green all had key roles during the day.

The event provided stakeholders from across the sector with the opportunity to engage with ministers and take part in a programme that focussed on some of the key challenges and issues facing the manufacturing industry.

The two key note speeches set the tone for the day:

- In his address, the Deputy Prime Minister outlined:
  - Manufacturing's steady progress during what are very difficult economic times, and highlighted some of the recent successes in the automotive sector including the UK's record performance in the numbers of cars exported in 2012 and becoming a net exporter for the first time since 1976.
  - The Government's role in creating the right business conditions and leveraging investment
  - Local growth and the role of the private sector. The decentralisation of power and budgets from Whitehall is gaining momentum – City Deals are now expanding from the eight largest to include a further 20.
  - Local Enterprise Partnerships were putting the private sector in the lead on local business priorities
  - The importance of exporting if companies are to grow, increase productivity and their profits
  - The huge importance of links between schools and business and the need to improve in this area.
  
- The Secretary of State addressed delegates on progress since last year's Summit, including
  - The development of an Industrial Strategy to set out a long-term vision for sustainable growth
  - Setting up of a Business Bank

- Successful delivery of the first 2 rounds of the Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI) and further funding for two further rounds of the competition fund
- The key and complex challenge facing the manufacturing sector due to a shortage in engineering skills
- A two year reduction in the annual investment allowance – particularly aimed at SMEs
- The highly successful Make it in Great Britain Campaign, which builds on the work of See Inside Manufacturing.

## Delegate participation

Throughout the day delegates participated in seven interactive breakout sessions, most of which were chaired by BIS ministers. These included:

- Technology and Innovation
- Engineering Skills
- Access to Finance
- Promoting Manufacturing
- Emerging Export Markets
- The Future of Manufacturing
- Diversity in the Workforce

They featured presentations, panel debates and open discussions, with all seeking to engage delegates to get their views on emerging themes and priority challenges. The key points from each of the breakouts were captured and fed back into the main conference.

Included as part of the Summit was an exhibition showcasing the best in local manufacturing. There were many excellent exhibits on display which proved to be very popular amongst delegates.

Rounding off the day was a 'Strengthening UK Supply Chains' Q&A panel discussion. The Business Secretary joined industry experts Richard Parry Jones (Automotive Council/Network Rail), Mike Woodcock (Tate Steel), Richard Bruges (Productiv), Phil Jones (Manufacturing Advisory Service) and Edward Oakden (UK Trade and Investment) to answer delegates' questions about support available to companies via the AMSCI and Manufacturing Advisory Service. They also shared views on what the sector itself could do better to organise or recognise its supply chain relationships.

Immediate feedback from the event has been extremely positive. Approximately, 92 per cent of delegates that completed the official Summit questionnaire rated the event as either 'good' or 'very good'.

## Next steps

We are already committed to holding a further Summit in 2014, however the task until then is to make progress with the key policy challenges identified by industry.

These include:

- building links between industry and education at all levels
- improving careers advice
- retaining skilled workers in the sector
- better communication of what support is available so companies can access the services they need, particularly SMEs.

We will continue to analyse all the feedback from the Summit and engage with businesses to determine how best we can direct resources for the effective delivery of our policy challenges.

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