

SMMT Open Forum

Next networking event announced for 4 November. Cranmore Park, Solihull

Open Forum brings together around 350 delegates for a day of presentations, knowledge sharing and discussion. The events offer excellent networking opportunities with leading senior figures from the automotive industry. The events focus on opportunities in the UK's automotive supply chain, with experts and key decision makers speaking on a variety of industry topics.

The event is free to attend for SMMT members and £50 (+VAT) for non-members. [Register here.](#)

If you are interested in exhibiting at the event, please express your interest by e-mailing Mairi Lucas at supplychain@smmt.co.uk.

Meet the Buyer – post event summary

The biggest and most successful Meet the Buyer event yet

SMMT and The Automotive Investment Organisation held the annual Meet the Buyer event on Wednesday 25 June. The event was well attended with over 380 delegates present on the day, making it the biggest event yet!

Initial feedback suggests a successful networking event facilitating over 360 one to one meetings between vehicle manufacturers, tier 1s and supply chain companies.

Hosted by SMMT and UKTI's Automotive Investment Organisation at ExCeL London, the event was opened by Mike Hawes, Chief Executive Officer of SMMT, Joe Greenwell Chief Executive Officer of UKTI's Automotive Investment Organisation and Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, Minister for Business and Enterprise who announced details of a new £24 million government fund for supply chain tooling. For more details, please read the news story [here](#).

SMMT Member Case Study

Van Guard gives us an insight into its business and the benefits it gains from SMMT membership

Van Guard Commercial Accessories Ltd is a British manufacturer based in Devon with over 30 years experience in the vehicle accessory market. Just one year ago, Van Guard launched its new van roof bar – the ULTI Bar - which has absolutely taken the market by storm. Customers love and suppliers love it; rating the Ulti Bar as THE best van roof bar in the market. As a result, roof bar sales have doubled and continue to grow.

The ULTI bar is designed and made in Britain. It's aerodynamic, aluminium, non corrosive, lightweight, more fuel efficient, strong and comes with FREE load stops that use the innovative T-Track running along the top of the bar. It goes without saying that it is quiet, and easy to fit.

Van Guard is part of the Made in Britain campaign. The entire product including the plastic end caps and metal extrusion is made in Britain. Van Guard offer world class British made products but not at premium prices.

Van Guard joined SMMT after attending an extremely informative workshop on Type Approval. Van Guard was keen to be part of one of the largest and most influential trade associations in the UK.

For more information on Van Guard and their products, please visit www.van-guard.co.uk or email sales@van-guard.co.uk.

If you are a member or associate of SMMT and would like to have a case study in one of our Member Services bulletin, please contact Mairi Lucas at mlucas@smmt.co.uk.



Corporate room hire at SMMT

New corporate room hire service available with exclusive discounts to members

Contemporary conference and meeting facilities are now available to hire at SMMT's central London Westminster office.



SMMT members have access to **exclusive discounts** and the seven meeting rooms can accommodate groups from eight to 80 people.

For more information about hiring SMMT's office space, contact Claire Balch, e-mail: cbalch@smmt.co.uk

[Click here to download the SMMT corporate hire brochure](#)

SMMT webinar archive

Listen to presentations on the latest automotive news and announcements within SMMT's webinar archive

They also give you the chance to ask questions directly to the presenters, and therefore enable you to voice your opinion on some of the most highly anticipated subjects.

Topics include:

- Automotive Supply-Chain Skills Fund
- Production Outlook and Economic Outlook
- Helping you save money through energy efficiency

[Click here to access the archive.](#)

E-mail: memberservices@smmt.co.uk

Website: www.smmt.co.uk/members-lounge/member-services

SMMT Award for Automotive Innovation 2014

SMMT
AWARD FOR
AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATION 
2014

Gain industry-wide recognition for your innovation

SMMT invites entries into the most prestigious awards within UK automotive.

Entries in previous years have included passenger cars, engine, buses, coaches, light and heavy commercial vehicles.

Six entries will be short listed.

The short list will feature at the SMMT Annual Dinner in November in front of an audience of 1,000+ guests from across UK industry including OEMs, component manufacturers, government and the media.

Submit your entry today at: www.smmt.co.uk/aai

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National – Tooling Fund Programme

Finance Birmingham has announced the setting up of a £24m Tooling Funding Programme following the success of an application to the Regional Growth Fund

The scheme is open to manufacturing companies seeking a loan of £50,000 to £1 million, although funding requests in excess of this will be considered.

Further details on the Programme can be obtained from Steve Hetherington at Finance Birmingham on 0121 233 4903 or by email stevehetherington@financebirmingham.com to whom you should send your completed EOI.