

‘Driving Success’ UK Automotive Sector Strategy launched

A joint UK motor industry and government automotive strategy has today committed to invest over £1bn in additional funds over the next 10 years to secure the growth and development of its vehicle and component manufacturing sector. This new funding supports multi-billion pound investments announced in the last few years by global automotive companies to boost production capacity and develop new technologies and models. Developed under Automotive Council guidance, industry and government will fund and resource investments in a range of projects including the creation of an Advanced Propulsion Centre, thousands of new motor industry apprenticeships and the creation of an Automotive Investment Organisation. The development of the strategy also sees the provision of finance for tooling investments in the supply chain, and a renewed commitment to encourage the UK as a lead market in the production and sale of low emission vehicles.

The key elements of the strategy include:

- Technology – the creation of an Advanced Propulsion Centre to support and enhance the UK’s expertise in research and development.
- Inward investment – the creation of the Automotive Investment Organisation to drive UK investment by global automotive component companies.
- Skills – an industry framework for skills and a skills roadmap, including the creation of 7,600 apprenticeships and 1,700 graduate opportunities in the automotive industry over the next five years.
- Supply chain – driving growth and competitiveness including creating a framework with suppliers, vehicle manufacturers and banking organisations to solve the problem of financing tooling investment.
- Low carbon – financial support to encourage consumers into lower emission vehicles, and to grow investment in the manufacture of low and ultra-low emissions vehicles and components.
- Business environment – establishing better cross-government relationships by including HM

Treasury on the Automotive Council to ensure the UK remains an attractive place to invest.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2013/07/uk-motor-industry-and-government-commit-to-investment-and-long-term-growth-in-a-competitive-sector/>

Motor Group calls on government to fuel UK automotive ambition

The All Party Parliamentary Motor Group (APMG) called on government to back the UK automotive sector as a key industry for growth in a competitive global market. Launching its annual report, the APMG looked forward to the publication of the Automotive Sector Strategy describing the UK automotive industry as a ‘priority’ and reinforcing that government must sustain investment, and leverage significant overseas opportunities to ensure that UK automotive can seize opportunities for future growth. The report, *Fuelling Ambition: Investment and Strategic Direction for UK Automotive*, looks at the challenges and opportunities facing the industry – including future driving trends, low carbon innovation and exports and trade policy. The report highlights four key recommendations to government:

1. The automotive strategy has established a comprehensive framework and strategic direction for the industry that requires cross-party and long-term government support for implementation.
2. Government needs to support industry to respond to changing driving trends and habits with analysis, accurate and transparent data and further investment.
3. Government must sustain long term investment for the sector, and focus particularly on areas in which the UK is excelling – such as low carbon technology.
4. To expand the UK automotive sector’s success overseas, government should focus on securing deals with priority markets, such as the EU-US Trade Deal, and reducing other barriers to trade.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://motorappg.com/apmg-report-2013/>

World-leading transport systems catapult centre to be located in Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes has been chosen as the location for the UK's new £150 million Catapult centre for integrated transport systems – one of the first of its kind in the world. Milton Keynes was selected following an extensive nationwide search based on a range of criteria including ease of access for the transport community, a skilled talent pool with the relevant expertise, travel times from locations across the UK and abroad, and the availability of high quality business space to set up the world-class centre. The Transport Systems Catapult will provide a national hub for transport modelling and monitoring – testing latest theories on how transport systems interact and function against real-world demonstrators. This will help UK businesses to develop effective and sustainable solutions to our transport needs – for both freight and people. The Catapult will be funded by up to £50 million over five years through the UK's innovation agency, the Technology Strategy Board. With private sector business and collaborative R&D projects the total funding for the centre over 5 years is expected to be around £150 million.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/milton-keynes-chosen-as-site-for-new-150-million-transport-systems-catapult-centre>

Adonis Growth Review launched

Ed Miliband MP, Leader of the Labour Party, and Lord Adonis, Labour's Shadow Infrastructure Minister, have launched an independent growth review which is due to be published in spring 2014. The Adonis Growth Review, which is jointly supported by the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) and Policy Network, aims to set out a radical agenda for change to revitalise the British economy by supporting business innovation and growth across the country. Over the next few months, Lord Adonis will be touring the country to hear the views of local businesses, colleges and communities taking into account the diverse challenges to innovation and growth faced by the different regions. The report will focus on a number of key areas to aim to enable British businesses to become more successful including:

- Enabling Britain to become a world leader in innovation in terms of its ability to develop and exploit new ideas to drive productivity growth.
- Gearing the education and training systems to make sure they meet the needs of employers and employees and help deliver a revolution to support the jobs of the future.
- Focusing infrastructure so it can support the freedom of movement of goods, people and information to maximise its impact on growth and jobs.
- Ensuring corporate governance standards in corporations and equity markets support longer term growth for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- Providing SMEs with improved access to finance as well as support to grow more quickly and export.
- Delivering policies in partnership with businesses and representative bodies at an appropriate national, regional or local level to drive this radical agenda for growth forward.

(Source: Labour)

<http://www.labour.org.uk/ed-miliband-launches-adonis-growth-review>



Week ahead

From Friday 19 July the House of Commons is on recess until September 2.

Commons Committee

Wednesday 17 July

Science and Technology Committee (9:30am, room 15) – Climate: Public understanding and policy implications

Spending Review 2013

Wednesday 17 July

Work and Pensions Committee (9:45am, Grimond room) – The role of Jobcentre Plus in the reformed welfare system