

Joint conference held on industrial strategy

A joint government-CBI conference on industrial strategy has been held at the University of Warwick. The CBI published a report, 'Raising the Bar – Business Priorities for Industrial Strategy One Year On', which reviews progress on government's sector strategies. The report called on government for a renewed focus on delivery by improving the competitiveness of the UK's business environment and strengthening supply chains. As part of the conference, government announced that five projects had secured £116 million of Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI) funding to strengthen UK supply chains and encourage major new suppliers to locate in the UK. This will create and safeguard around 1,500 jobs. Business Secretary Vince Cable said at the conference: "A stronger economy won't be built overnight. It won't simply emerge of its own volition. It will come from long-term thinking and the government working in partnership with business. We know manufacturing, training and innovation have all suffered. I hear it time and time again from companies across the UK. That's why our industrial strategy is making the most difference by strengthening manufacturing supply chains, supporting new designs and developing skills." (Source: CBI/BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-and-industry-unite-behind-industrial-strategy-to-help-british-businesses-grow>
<http://www.cbi.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/2013/09/government-must-deliver-on-industrial-strategy-to-sustain-recovery-says-cbi-chief/>



JLR creates 1,700 jobs in Solihull from new investment

Jaguar Land Rover has announced that it is to invest almost £1.5 billion in its Solihull plant, creating 1,700 jobs. The plant will introduce the company's advanced new aluminium vehicle architecture, which is set to underpin a range of new models for both the Jaguar and Land Rover brands. The first of these models will be Jaguar's much-anticipated new mid-sized saloon, which will enter the market in 2015 with the brand claiming it will break new ground for efficiency and refinement in its sector. Prime Minister David Cameron said, "Our motoring industry is world class – right out there at the front of the global race – and Jaguar Land Rover is a great example of that British excellence. One vehicle rolls off a production line somewhere in the UK every 20 seconds and the government's automotive industrial strategy will help to continue this success for years to come."

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2013/09/major-boost-for-uk-car-manufacturing-as-jaguar-land-rover-creates-1700-solihull-jobs/>

Government response to careers guidance reports published

Government has published its responses to two reports on careers guidance. Government outlined how it will help schools and colleges carry out new duties on careers guidance in response to reports from Ofsted and National Careers Council. Government will revise the guidance it provides to schools and colleges, which will aim to be clearer about what constitutes excellent careers guidance, ensuring schools are focused on having high aspirations for their pupils. Government will also look to improve the information about where pupils go on to after they finish their GCSEs and A levels (destination measures). It will give schools and colleges more information to assess the effectiveness of their careers guidance. Skills Minister Matthew Hancock said: "People with fulfilling careers are the ones who can really show young people what it is like

to succeed in the world of work. That is why I want more employers involved in providing high-quality careers advice to the future workforce.”

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-calls-for-culture-change-in-careers-guidance>

Successful bids under Employer Ownership Pilots announced

Government has announced successful bids under the second round of its Employer Ownership Pilots scheme. A total of £238 million of government funding has been allocated to design and guide vocational training to meet employers' needs. Further successful applicants will be announced later in the year under the funding envelope of £340 million to 2015/16.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said: “We want the Employer Ownership Pilots to test a new approach, built around an open and flexible offer for employers. I am happy to see that businesses have taken up that challenge. The difference in these schemes is that we will channel funds through employers rather than providers. I look forward to seeing the transformation that this investment will bring to shaping the skills and training of this country's workforce.” (Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-in-government-funding-made-available-to-target-industrial-strategy-skills-training>

CBI publishes results of UK in Europe survey

The CBI has published results of a survey undertaken by YouGov of its members' attitudes to the UK's membership of the European Union. The results of the survey demonstrate that 78% of companies want the UK to remain in the EU. 10% of participants think it is in their interests for the UK to leave the EU. However, the survey suggests that companies want to see the relationship between the UK and EU reformed, calling for a reduction in unnecessary regulations and for EU legislation to be implemented more evenly across member states. John Cridland, CBI Director-General, said: “This sends a clear message that most CBI members, big and small, support UK membership of the EU. Firms want what is best for jobs and growth, and there is genuine concern that an exit would hit business investment and access to the world's largest trading bloc. The UK should take the lead on the push for reform and make sure rules are evenly applied

across the EU. Businesses are also concerned about the UK gold-plating legislation from Brussels.

(Source: CBI)

<http://www.cbi.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/2013/09/8-out-of-10-firms-say-uk-must-stay-in-eu-cbi-yougov-survey/>

London taxi production restarts in Coventry

Production of the London Taxi Company's (LTC) iconic TX4 black cab has restarted at its Coventry plant. A £150 million five-year investment strategy has allowed LTC, formerly LTI, to re-open its Coventry facility after entering administration earlier in the year. The increased funding has also helped create an additional 66 engineering and technical jobs at the plant and increase the company's total workforce to 170. Business Secretary, Vince Cable MP, who was present at the factory's official re-launch, said, “After a period of worry and uncertainty for the workforce, Geely Group's investment has secured the future of the iconic black cab company, protecting highly-skilled jobs in the Midlands and ensuring that London cabs continue to be made here in Britain. It is also a clear demonstration of the success of the British car industry, which has gone from strength to strength even during tough economic times.”

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2013/09/london-taxi-production-restarts-at-upgraded-coventry-facility/>



Week ahead

**Liberal Democrat Party Conference:
14 – 18 September**

The House of Commons is on recess until 8 October.

The House of Lords is on recess until 8 October.