

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 26 September

SMMT host Labour Party Conference event

This week SMMT hosted a breakfast event at the annual Labour Party Conference in Manchester. Shadow Industry Minister Iain Wright MP spoke at the event alongside the Chief Executive of SMMT, Mike Hawes. During the event, the Minister announced that under a Labour government the Advanced Propulsion Centre, Automotive Investment Organisation and the Automotive Council would all continue; a promise that was well received by attendees at the event. Iain Wright MP also outlined Labour's support for SMMT's five manifesto priorities for the upcoming General Election, detailed below:

- Commitment to long-term industrial strategy
- Creating the right conditions for investment
- Positioning the UK as a global leader on innovation
- Supporting ultra-low emission vehicles and a strong, sustainable vehicle market
- Maintaining a strong UK voice in Europe.

Mr Wright acknowledged that there are several key issues within the sector that will need to be addressed in order to ensure a successful future, particularly in the areas of skills, supply chain and innovation.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/09/shadow-industry-minister-pledges-sustainable-future-uk-automotive/>

Car, engine and CV production stalls in August

Car production:

August output fell by 22.1%, with some manufacturers taking additional holiday shutdown. However, with 994,949 cars manufactured so far in 2014, the UK is up 1.0% on January-August 2013. SMMT Chief Executive, Mike Hawes, said, "Volumes are still strong for the year-to-date, however, with the UK automotive sector in the midst of a renaissance."

CV production:

UK commercial vehicle production fell by 1,642 units in August as the 2014 calendar saw some plants take additional shutdown, compared to last year, for

retooling. The year-to-date output is also down by 24.6% to 45,928 units, although greater stability is expected in the coming months. In Europe, however, demand for commercial vehicles is rising, with EU registrations increasing 10.3% in June.

Engine production

In August, UK engine manufacturing output fell by 21.8% to 97,406 units, as the calendar saw some plants lose an additional week due to holiday. So far in 2014 production is down 3.8%, although export volumes have grown by 4.2%. There is growth expected in the coming months as new investments into UK engine production facilities take hold.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/09/uk-car-manufacturing-august-2014/>



UKTI and EEF sign deal to boost global trade for UK manufacturers

EEF, The Manufacturers' Organisation, has signed a partnership agreement with government's trade body, UKTI, to help boost exports and attract more business to invest in the UK. The deal demonstrates commitment from EEF to support UKTI to achieve government's £1 trillion export target by 2020. The agreement has been signed by UKTI CEO Dominic Jerney and EEF CEO Terry Scuoler, and will see both organisations working closely together to build stronger partnerships with manufacturers, boost overseas trade missions and raise greater awareness of the support available from UKTI. Terry Scuoler

said, "Improving our export performance is key to helping Britain achieve the better-balanced economy needed to deliver long-term stability and growth."

(Source: EEF)

<http://www.eef.org.uk/releases/uk/2014/Global-trade-boost-for-UK-manufacturers-as-UKTI-and-EEF-sign-partnership-deal.htm>



New research may help to improve HGV safety

A joint Transport for London (TfL) and Transport & Environment (T&E) funded research project has shown that increasing drivers' direct vision can improve HGV safety. Leading UK academics have presented new changes to lorry designs which could save the lives of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. As a part of TfL's work to lead the way to improve safety for all road users, the Loughborough Design School, a school of the University of Loughborough, was commissioned to show that realistic and economical changes to all HGV cab designs can lead to tangible increases in road safety for all. The project noted that the average cyclist is invisible to the eye of an HGV driver up to 1.9m from the base of the cab; a result of an outdated cab design. Using the recently proposed changes to the length of HGVs by the EU Commission, Loughborough Design School demonstrated the improvements possible to an expert panel in Brussels in September. The changes could result in significant improvements to the amount of direct vision in an HGV that a driver has of their surroundings, and in particular to the vital areas close to the cab.

(Source: TfL)

<https://www.tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2014/september/new-research-points-to-improved-hgv-safety>

Siemens UK Chief Executive appointed to BIS board

Business Secretary Vince Cable has appointed Juergen Maier, Chief Executive of Siemens UK, as a Non-Executive Board member at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Mr Maier has been a member of the Siemens UK Executive Management Board since October 2008, and has held a number of senior roles within Siemens in both the UK and Germany. Business Secretary Vince Cable said "Juergen's significant experience in manufacturing and business will be invaluable to BIS as we focus on supporting local growth, particularly in our innovative high-tech industries."

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vince-cable-appoints-siemens-uk-chief-executive-juergen-maier-to-bis-board>

Week ahead

The Houses of Parliament will be in recess from Saturday 13 September and will next sit on Monday 13 October

The House of Lords is in recess and will next sit on Monday 13 October