

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 28 October

### Champions sought for “Make it in Great Britain” campaign

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) are looking for 30 “industry champions” to support government’s *Make it in Great Britain* campaign. The initiative is aimed at transforming outdated opinions of UK manufacturing, and will culminate in an exhibition during the Olympic Games to celebrate the successes of the manufacturing sector, and encourage young people to consider a career in the industry. This announcement follows on from the recent *See Inside Manufacturing* initiative, a collaboration between BIS and the Automotive Council, which saw automotive companies across the UK open their doors to students, parents, and teachers, in order to showcase the breadth of career opportunities available in the sector. (Source: BIS) <http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2011/Oct/make-it-in-great-britain>



### Vince Cable delivers speech on industrial policy

Business Minister Vince Cable has delivered a speech at Policy Exchange, on the role of industrial policy in shaping the economy. In the speech Dr Cable reiterates the importance of the manufacturing sector to the economy of the UK, calling it “most important tradeable sector”. Dr Cable stated how strongly manufacturing contributes to overall levels of productivity as well as generating half the UK’s exports of goods; and is responsible for much of the business R&D in the UK and thus the innovation

which drives growth. Consequently, Dr Cable said that providing the right framework of incentives and support will have a material effect on future rates of growth. The Business Secretary also discussed the importance of developing the skills base in the UK and growing supply chains in order to help the manufacturing sector grow, and be sustainable in the long-term. (Source: BIS)

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/speeches/vince-cable-industrial-strategy>



### Apprenticeship ‘starts’ up 50% on previous year

Provisional figures released by Department for Business, Innovation and Skills show that those starting apprenticeships in 2010/2011 increased by over 50% on the previous year, including a rise over all age ranges and levels of training. In 2010/2011 there were 442,700 apprenticeship starts, compared with 279,700 in 2009/2010. Of these 292,700 were Intermediate Level apprenticeship starts (2009/10 figure 190,500), 147,900 Advanced Level apprenticeship starts (2009/10 figure 87,700), and 2,100 Higher Apprenticeship starts (2009/10 figure 1,500). The largest sectors were Business Administration and Law, Retail and Commercial Enterprise, and Health, Public Services and Care. Within the Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies sector apprenticeship starts were up almost 10,000, to 47,020, compared to 37,860 last year. (Source: BIS)

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/BBB3AE98-AE00-4206-B1F6-915A67F74E75/0/SFR\\_Commentary\\_October11.pdf](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/BBB3AE98-AE00-4206-B1F6-915A67F74E75/0/SFR_Commentary_October11.pdf)

## £4.2 million funding increase for low carbon vehicles in Scotland

£4.2 million has been made available to encourage public bodies to use low carbon vehicles in Scotland. The announcement aims to help Scotland towards its target of cutting carbon emissions by 42% by 2020, and builds on the £4.3 million made available last year to local authorities, who received funding to help to replace conventionally-powered vehicles with low carbon alternatives. This funding helped Scotland's public services to purchase 145 low carbon vehicles, including cars, vans and street sweepers, and install 74 charging points across the country. Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure & Capital Investment, Alex Neil stated: "The Scottish Government has set world leading targets to cut emissions and tackle climate change, so it is vital that funding like this is made available to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles and help develop a network of charging points". (Source: Transport Scotland) <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/>

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## Concerns over MOT change highlighted in Parliament

Maria Eagle, Shadow Transport Secretary, has tabled an Early Day Motion calling on government to rule out any weakening of the MOT system as part of its forthcoming review. The EDM (number 2308), which has currently been signed by 13 Labour and 2 Liberal Democrat MPs, states that the annual MOT test plays an important role in ensuring Britain's roads are among the safest in the world, and outlines opposition to any move to reduce the frequency of MOT tests. SMMT has developed a position paper on the MOT test regime, outlining industry's position. To view the paper [click here](http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-12/2308). (Source: Parliament) <http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-12/2308>

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## Week ahead

### Commons Chamber

Thursday 27 October

Business, innovation and skills questions – 11:15am

### Westminster Hall

Wednesday 2 November

9.30am - 11.00am: Parliamentary lobbying (Paul Flynn, Lab, Newport West).

### Commons Committees

No relevant activity

### Lords Chamber

No relevant activity

### Lords Committees

No relevant activity