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| **Welcome** |
| Paul Everitt_NEWToday saw the launch of government's ‘See Inside Manufacturing’ initiative, which has the commitment of nearly 30 UK automotive companies to open their doors to young people across the country, offering a behind the scenes look at modern manufacturing and encouraging the next generation of automotive engineers. Skills and training also formed the basis of debate at the latest All-Party Parliamentary Motor Group on Tuesday at which SMMT urged MPs to encourage investment in skills and training and help raise awareness of automotive job opportunities. With the Budget less than two weeks away, SMMT also made its submission to the Chancellor requesting a range of measures to ensure the UK sees sustained growth, aligned with a rebalancing of the economy. Included in the submission were calls for a freeze on fuel duty, greater clarity on motoring taxes and improved access to finance for UK businesses.                                                                                               SMMT Chief Executive, Paul Everitt |

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| **UK automotive calls for Budget to back business**  |
| The UK motor industry’s Budget submission to the Chancellor calls for measures to encourage recovery, assist business growth and boost consumer confidence. SMMT expects consistent growth across the automotive sector by 2012 but to ensure and sustain this, positive government action is essential."The manufacturing sector is leading economic recovery and government must use this Budget to sustain and enhance this position,” said SMMT Chief Executive, Paul Everitt. “It comes at a critical time for UK automotive and we're urging government to deliver the right mix of supportive policies to secure sustainable growth and strengthen the role of the UK as a leading developer, producer and exporter of automotive products.” SMMT called for certainty on motoring taxes, a freeze on fuel duty and measures to support business investment and access to finance. To read more click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1104792326300&s=0&e=001I69xkIT8CetL3h4I41cV3D0JEAT8B7b50xHyXNGReW72v-LTTB6xvcJeNTjgXgD6SMgwKtpkELeNw5RNZSqa1X8MZfj_EbbBC92u9nw3wFPCL7UJsUneJdw6XZeAay1pQJaGbJAwQ_e4ZX6qJ_0XWWh3P1AnXx8A).  |

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| **SMMT Open Forum: Vehicle and component makers, 30 March**  |
| Van, truck, trailer, bus and component manufacturers and bodybuilders are invited to attend a free SMMT Open Forum on Wednesday 30 March at the NEC Birmingham, to discuss aspects of the UK's supply chain, the work of the Automotive Council and the latest CV and Off-Road vehicle ‘Technology Road Map’. Attendees will be offered greater insight into respective manufacturing sectors through presentations from Lars Holmqvist, Chief Executive Officer, CLEPA and Neville Jackson of the Automotive Council Technology Group with industry analysis from Ian Henry, Director of AutoAnalysis and independent Analyst, Peter Symons. The event is one in a series of Open Forums, which will offer the latest on component and CV manufacturing, as well as offering new business opportunities for attendees. Paul Everitt will chair the closing Q&A session. Places are limited and offered on a first come first served basis. To attend, contact Claire Balch cbalch@smmt.co.uk.   |

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| **SMMT says strengthening skills is key to growing UK economy**  |
| In a paper published by SMMT this week, titled *‘Strengthening Skills for a Growing Economy’,* the automotive industry has called on government to implement policies that will boost skills in industry and attract young people towards careers in the automotive sector. Discussed at an All-Party Parliamentary Motor Group, the paper highlights the importance of developing skills within the motor industry as part of wider economic growth and rebalancing of UK economy. “The motor industry heavily invests in its employees and looks to government to provide a skills policy which can support the future growth potential, build expertise and strengthen competitiveness,” said Paul Everitt. To read more click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1104792326300&s=0&e=001I69xkIT8CetL3h4I41cV3D0JEAT8B7b50xHyXNGReW72v-LTTB6xvcJeNTjgXgD6SMgwKtpkELeNw5RNZSqa1X8MZfj_EbbBLnVjQi7Cb4NnCFKiS4cL_w==).   |

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| **BIS launches 'See Inside Manufacturing' to inspire automotive careers** |
| The UK automotive sector will spearhead government’s ‘See Inside Manufacturing’ initiative with today's announcement that it will be the first sector to get involved. As part of See Inside Manufacturing, nearly 30 companies will throw open their doors in October to enable school children and students to look behind the scenes at what a career in manufacturing or engineering can offer. In June there will be a number of co-ordinated regional events to promote the open days through teachers and career advisers. “Young people buy and use the latest gadgets and products but we also need them to think how exciting it could be to design, engineer or make them too,” said Business Secretary, Vince Cable. To read more click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1104792326300&s=0&e=001I69xkIT8CetL3h4I41cV3D0JEAT8B7b50xHyXNGReW72v-LTTB6xvcJeNTjgXgD6SMgwKtpkELeNw5RNZSqa1T_HNwFPwZCArw0Ys0b5AGTvWVEx5h973Fqxej-8SnVqxPnWIwosZRr65a1KIKq-Xdxy8QVjnbIE).   |

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| **UKTI hosts UK/China business exchange delegation**  |
| A major Chinese aerospace and automotive delegation will visit the Heritage Motor Centre Museum, on 9-13 May 2011 to take part in a series of UK/China and business meetings. Hosted by UKTI, the event will offer UK companies the opportunity to meet key business and technical contacts in major Chinese aerospace and automotive companies. Prospective Chinese companies attending include major AVIC companies, such as the Chinese Association of Automotive Manufacturers (CAAM), Changan, DongFeng, First Automotive Works, SAIC, BYD and Guangzhou Automotive. There will be workshops and presentations for UK companies looking to begin trading in the Far East. Tickets cost £95+ VAT. To book tickets contact Jack Bailey, jack@btob.co.uk or 0207 700 0008. |

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| **SMMT Dealer Energy Efficiency Guide webinar**  |
| SMMT will host a ‘*Dealer Energy Efficiency Guide’* webinar on 7 April, 14:30-15:00, providing guidance for dealers on reducing energy use, CO2 emissions and ultimately cutting costs. The session will expand on a seven-step action plan outlined in SMMT's ‘Dealer Energy Efficiency Guide', produced in conjunction with the RMI and the Carbon Trust, which will be launched on 29 March. Paul Everitt will chair the webinar and writer of the Guide, John Mulholland, Director, NIFES Consulting Group, will make a presentation, which will be followed by a short Q&A session with the audience. To register [click here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1104792326300&s=0&e=001I69xkIT8CetL3h4I41cV3D0JEAT8B7b50xHyXNGReW72v-LTTB6xvcJeNTjgXgD6SMgwKtpkELeNw5RNZSqa1X8MZfj_EbbBsp8KyahU0YIDKNVfh12LfS4NeVppfcJGEsj9-T0668iVgDXMNdCe_r7AS11rnYFT). |

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| **‘Meet the Buyer’ networking event**  |
| SMMT has confirmed 5 April 2011 as the date for its second. ‘Meet the Buyer’ event, to take place at the Heritage Motor Centre in Warwickshire. The event will match OEM and tier one demand with capable UK-based suppliers. Buying requirements from major OEMs including Aston Martin, BMW, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Jaguar Land Rover, Leyland Trucks and Nissan will be matched with suppliers from SMMT's Automotive Supplier Finder (ASF) directory, according to product and service capabilities. Additionally, the event will facilitate tier one, two and three business networking, with key businesses including Aisin, BWI Group, Calsonic Kansai, CAT-Perkins Engines, Faurecia, Futaba Industrial, Futaba Tenneco, GKN Driveline, Koito, Kostal,Toyoda Gosei and Unipart already confirmed to take part. Invites are being issued to suppliers that match the specified buying requirements. To view the list of OEM's 74 required commodities or tier one suppliers' 64 required commodities, contact Nikki Hugget, nhuggett@smmt.co.uk, 020 7344 1611. |

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| **Disruptive technologies in low carbon briefing event** |
| Following the Technology Strategy Board’s (TSB) announcement last month that £9m in funding will be made available to low-carbon R&D projects an event, outlining the entry qualifications for prospective companies and individuals interested in submitting a proposal, will take place on 16 March at the Palace Hotel, Manchester from 09:30-12:30. Specifically, the funding project is looking for feasibility studies and up to £8m is aimed at collaborative research and development into disruptive technology and research. Project costs are expected to be no more than £100k in total, attracting funding of up to £75k. To attend click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1104792326300&s=0&e=001I69xkIT8CetL3h4I41cV3D0JEAT8B7b50xHyXNGReW72v-LTTB6xvXIcAu1V3M2SFbUzPvU9w2yyHdVE3xzuwUW-p_3y1s-Xpn3Yy25jE_85QPleM1cSTy6MK5SpI5JEut4TDs9oaMeFSk5RNthYaRewJGx4XgQwXDPc6MIUMZVGcTlbeHKZ05amXpboyw4l).   |

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| **SMMT's UK Pavilion Group to exhibit at Automechanika Moscow**  |
| SMMT's UK Pavillion Group is to exhibit at this year’s Automechanika event, taking place on 24-27 August. This year the Moscow International Motor Show will be a part of this impressive trade event and a limited number of UKTI TAP grants of £1,800 to support exhibitor costs will be available to eligible respondents on a first come, first served basis. For further information contact Ruta Aisthorpe, raisthorpe@smmt.co.uk, 020 7344 9231.  |

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| **Week in Westminster and Brussels** |
| In Westminster this week, the latest ‘Manufacturing Outlook’ survey conducted by EEF, the manufacturers’ organisation, and BDO, the accountancy firm, has shown that manufacturing has maintained strong growth. According to the survey, Q1 brings a better than expected quarter of activity, however EEF has also warned that behind the overall recovery picture, there is growing uncertainty about the location and scale of these capital investment plans which are critical to sustaining growth and competitiveness. To read more click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1104792326300&s=0&e=001I69xkIT8CetL3h4I41cV3D0JEAT8B7b50xHyXNGReW72v-LTTB6xvcJeNTjgXgD6SMgwKtpkELeNw5RNZSqa1elnSYcjAL7r694bY539hyGwrIoFRI-P_Hb5tiO0Zc4FF3BFYWa_poTpkJ_ggTgBB-fh82c0uSlwby31BdlMmutJGHbM2WeUPEX7LLXDqhDoS8Gvkw4p33sK3CHE5Fzfhg==).  In Brussels this week, the European Commission released a communication entitled "A roadmap for moving to a low carbon economy in 2050." The note sets out key elements that could shape the EU's climate action in order to become a low carbon economy by 2050. The Commission believes that innovative solutions are required to mobilise investments in energy, transport, and information and communication technologies, and that more focus is needed on energy efficiency policies. The transition towards a low carbon economy means that the EU should prepare for reductions in its domestic emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990. To read more click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1104792326300&s=0&e=001I69xkIT8CetL3h4I41cV3D0JEAT8B7b50xHyXNGReW72v-LTTB6xvcJeNTjgXgD6SMgwKtpkELeNw5RNZSqa1elnSYcjAL7rLde4ZOdK0xJol9PJjD5DU6NCBufKgEBz5ncyYc8UFs00B_p7xOtHbNiiez5L7ld--5EM56dFuuiQiKPXy_M8WDZejOJDHpCf8nTqgGPG0Aoph-Ry8n8tkQ==). |

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| **Dates for your diary:**Commercial Vehicle Show 2011, NEC Birmingham, 12-14 April 2011 - enquiries@cvshow.com2011 SMMT International Automotive Summit, Millbank Tower, Westminster, 28 June 2011 - [www.smmtsummit.co.uk](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1104792326300&s=0&e=001I69xkIT8CetL3h4I41cV3D0JEAT8B7b50xHyXNGReW72v-LTTB6xvcJeNTjgXgD6SMgwKtpkELc2cc_Tgdvh37ptSwE9oFxdCvoKcWJighM=).SMMT Annual Dinner, London Hilton Park Lane, 22 November 2011 - annualdinner@smmt.co.uk  **Automotive information:**To download SMMT's 2011 new vehicle and UK automotive manufacturing release dates click [here.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1104792326300&s=0&e=001I69xkIT8CetL3h4I41cV3D0JEAT8B7b50xHyXNGReW72v-LTTB6xvcJeNTjgXgD6w5esiragzZ9z5hcJ-1OGVHR414OP_IvjWGWeFyTo3MUEBdV0VGSgNGW-ZE7GfB1UzA8FL2is0EtfQJd-eJbOxIVKzOOUZTfOPFwogQ6G2XwAvL0pbBvoRZ6SEZehkjq7) To download Industry Forum's latest information on sustainable business improvement click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1104792326300&s=0&e=001I69xkIT8CetL3h4I41cV3D0JEAT8B7b50xHyXNGReW72v-LTTB6xvcJeNTjgXgD6w5esiragzZ8mA6s7QorpX3C4UAk43Fc3zjSOVCRDcXgBmVrcODo-Dxs4Bq23KN8NUachD48YuW0HO-oMfuF5cb70rOwxmcrh-ZYdQaE55XAzlRAnROy8oA==). Bottom banner  |

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