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SUPPORT UK  
MANUFACTURING



# The Voice of the UK Supply Chain



# → Our mission

The members of “Support UK Manufacturing” are a diverse expert group of SME Manufacturing Owners, Leaders, Influencers and Support service providers supplying into a multi-sectoral industrial base providing OEM products, sub systems, specialist subcontract and Automation, design, and technical business system services.

## **We are the life blood and foundation of British industry.**

The strength of the UK economy, its ductility, resilience, and agility are directly dependent upon a flourishing SME manufacturing sector, with the advent of reshoring, to support OEM’s inward investment, global supply of subsystems and specialist processes.

An industrial focus will lead to export growth and high value-added long-term employment by “hidden champion” collaboration, shaping lifelong vocational skills (full time and day release). In addition, the commercialising of research establishments’ deliverables into viable, high value products for global consumption, will allow the UK to lead the World in an array of diverse sectors and not compete upon price as the main imperative.

The impact of Ministerial concentration on SME manufacturing will positively impact society – including improving the environment by reducing Supply Chain CO2 emissions through local manufacturing, reducing time to market, and increasing productivity, allowing levelling up by setting up production satellites in economic zones – all supporting the UK strategic and competitive advantage on the World stage.

Due to the large number and outstanding agility of SME manufacturing Owners, Leaders, and Influencers, alongside the appropriate Ministerial support, significant growth and productivity gains can be achieved.

“Support UK Manufacturing” are calling for a dedicated Minister for Manufacturing, with a focus on, but not limited to, SME manufacturing, with strategic and competitive advantage guidance from businesses within, and throughout all levels of the UK Supply Chain – from idea to innovation, design to delivery.

## → Who

- A growing group of passionate supporters of Manufacturing, SMEs, and the UK Supply Chain representing over 250m of revenue.
- Our aim is to improve, promote and secure the long-term future of the UK Engineering & Manufacturing Sector.
- We will achieve this by representing SMEs, raising awareness of the depth, breadth, and value they add to the Manufacturing sector, and how they can contribute to achieving economic growth and contribute to the current political agendas and goals of the UK Government.

## → Why

- To unite a large number of Manufacturing supporters, experts, and business owners to create a strong and single voice for SMEs.
- The appointment of a Minister for Manufacturing would help champion the Industry and the UK SME Supply Chain. Currently there is no Minister for UK Manufacturing. The idea was suggested back in 2016, without any appointment at that time. This was prior to Brexit and the subsequent global Covid-19 pandemic. Circumstances have changed and the appointment of a Minister for Industry is too broad sweeping to achieve true commitment to growth in our sector.
- Manufacturing is at the heart of economic growth and with returned optimism needs renewed encouragement and recognition from Government.
- The absence of an Industrial Strategy setting out a long-term strategy for UK Manufacturing hampers growth, investment and reduces competitiveness.



## ➔ What are we doing / planning to do?

- Gaining support and momentum via LinkedIn and expanding this to other networks, membership organisations and business support agencies BUT not tying us to one partner where agendas could become confused.
- Support from Primes/OEMs would certainly benefit the cause and help raise the profile of the campaign. However, they can only support, not take over!
- There is a plan to visit Parliament when an invite is secured.



# → Goals



## Skills

- Fund a national roll out of a primary level, educational scheme to introduce engineering and manufacturing to under 11's and consider the re-introduction of craft/technical skills within secondary schools to continue technical education.
- Work alongside the National Manufacturing Skills Taskforce to expand upon and promote events such as the National Manufacturing Open Day & the Festival of British Engineering and Manufacturing to showcase how great UK manufacturing is. This content, along with the Egnuity Minecraft games, to be promoted in schools and colleges to address the need for more technically trained personnel and highlight the enormous opportunities available.
- Showcase UK SME business and role model diversity and inclusion to attract talent and celebrate and promote this through the Egnuity Skills Awards.
- A review of skills funding to enable businesses to conduct in-house training which is appropriate and applicable to the skills required rather than the "one size fits all" approach currently in place.
- Campaign for a T&D Tax Credit (Training & Development) credit similar in format to the existing R&D Tax Credit scheme.



## Productivity & growth

- Any replacement or alternative for the Industrial Strategy must include and incorporate the needs of SME's and be proportionate for the value SMEs add to the UK economy. An "All-Party Plan for Manufacturing" with a vision to the future is needed to break through political agendas and ministerial reshuffles.
- A review of ROI on existing support packages and expansion of investments made by Government and SMEs in productivity improvement projects such as Sharing in Growth (SiG) and ADS SC21 /SMMT NMCL Competitiveness & Growth Programmes.
- A shift of focus for future grant funding to improving productivity rather than just job creation or retention.
- More accessible help, fewer barriers, and encouragement for SMEs in exporting.



# ➔ Goals



## Levelling up

- Review the LEP's, their ROI, engagement, and performance. Investigate why some perform so well and share the Best Practice with those who perform less well ensuring a national standard of excellence within business and economic support.
- Understanding and harnessing the power of the UK SME supply chain will dramatically contribute to the Levelling Up agenda. Currently representing 250m+ - a growth of 10% across these few would contribute 25m+ to the economy.
- A stronger voice for SMEs to feed into Government discussions relating to new investment, training, support, and legislation particular to UK Manufacturing.
- A push for all OEMs to commit to a percentage of reshoring where possible with commitments within Defence procurement to source a minimum % from UK SMEs [e.g., BOXER UK had a requirement that 60% was to be sourced from UK SME's].
- Help grow UK SME manufacturing beyond purely component supply to provide subassembly/assembly capabilities and compete on a global scale.



## Net zero & sustainability

- Create a Net Zero task force for Manufacturing where a single point for advice, support, and funding, can be accessed by all.
- Increase the focus towards, and awareness of, our Local Supply Chains ensuring minimal environmental impact whilst maximising opportunities for growth within regions.
- SMEs to have a voice in the journey towards a sustainable net zero environment.
- Access to financing in support of changes made that contribute to emissions/carbon reduction programmes.

