



Welcome



Dear Mr Example,

Welcome to the first edition of The IET Design and Production Sector Newsletter. We'll be bringing you all the latest on IET Sector initiatives, partnerships and thought leadership throughout 2013, publishing on a once-every-two-months basis.

One of the many projects which the Sector is currently involved with is the [UK Manufacturing Summit](#) which takes place on 18 April. Join colleagues from SME's, industry and government for some lively debate and practical forums which will offer a wealth of insights that can be applied to your business. Details are available in this newsletter.

Best wishes

Gordon Attenborough,
IET Sector Head for Design and Production.

IET Design and Production Sector News



**Enhancing Manufacturing through automation
The Technology Strategy Board is to invest up to £7m in
collaborative R&D**

Combined with an additional £1 million from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) the £8 Million collaborative research and development competition is called "Enhanced Manufacturing through Automation". Intended to develop, enhance or improve automation systems and equipment this competition is particularly notable as £2 million of the fund is dedicated to the UK food and drink manufacturing sector.

As the largest manufacturing sector in the UK, it appears that the long held belief that advances in this field could reap great rewards is finally being recognised.

There is specific interest in addressing those issues that have historically proved to be a particular barrier to food companies adopting high levels of automation. The TSB therefore will be looking to fund automation processes that deal not only with hygiene and small batch challenges but also irregular shapes, flexible materials and sticky surfaces.

We will be following the progress of this competition and the collaborations that receive funding.

[Read more](#)



**Engineering in Agriculture – a key discipline enabling agriculture to
deliver global food security**

Welcomed by Prof Sir John Beddington this report discusses the crucial role of agricultural engineering if we are to respond to the global food security challenges highlighted by the UK Governments Foresight Report: The Future of Food and Farming

[Read more](#)

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**What do SMEs want from the Innovation and
Technology Centres?**

Part of the "What does success look like for innovation and technology centres?" International meeting at IET London: Savoy Place, Professor William Webb provides the view from users 'What businesses want from the innovation and technology organisations?' exploring how SMEs can benefit.

[Read more](#)

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Upcoming Events

21 Mar [Small is beautiful: The Ford 1.0 Ecoboost three-cylinder turbo engine - Cambridge, UK](#)

The Ford 999cc three-cylinder turbo engine was overall winner of the International Engine of the Year Award 2012. Join us to learn more about this engine.

IET Sector Highlights



Summit to focus on investment

Now in its fourth year, the Manufacturing Summit continues to shape the debate between industry and government, providing UK manufacturers with the opportunity to quiz the people who impact the future of the sector. The theme of this year's event, taking place in London on 18 April, is 'Investing in UK manufacturing'.

If you're involved in manufacturing, here's your chance to join the debate, ask questions and gain practical insights on the opportunities for skills, R&D and finance for your business. Sign up today.

[Read more](#)



How you can get involved!

One of the Sector's primary roles is to highlight key societal issues that the IET believes could be addressed or alleviated by the Design and Production engineering community and inspire activities around them. This year's key themes, "Sustainable Manufacturing", "Design & Society", "UK Global Competitiveness" and "Driving Innovation to commercialisation" can be accessed via the link below.

This year we have selected two specific topics that will receive additional focus: "Food Manufacturing" and "Independent Living" To get involved, join the debate or just find out more click on the link below.

[Read more](#)



Climate change, food security an aging population. What should be the primary vision for a UK industrial strategy?

What do you feel is the key challenge we need to address as a nation which should form the basis of our industrial strategy and what strategic themes or programmes would you develop to support this strategy?

[Have your say!](#)

Call for Entries

The IET Innovation Awards 2013



There are lots of awards out there. But, for engineers and technologists all over the world, none carries the prestige and authority of the IET Innovation Awards. Last year, 75 applicants were shortlisted from a field of 430 entries and 25 countries.

Next month, the 2013 Awards open for entries. Download and submit your entry form online – these awards are free to enter. Keen to highlight the work of individuals, organisations and companies in the Design and Production sector, we'd like to invite you to share and celebrate your innovation by entering these Awards.

[Read more](#)

Your Feedback

Your feedback welcome!



We hope you enjoy reading our e-newsletter. We're keen to celebrate and champion the work of engineers and technicians working in the Design and Production sectors.

We'd like to invite your suggestions as to subject areas or hot topics you'd like to see covered by the Sector. Perhaps there's a burning issue you feel passionately about or a project you feel your peers would benefit hugely from knowing more about?

Alternatively, you might just want to get in touch to register your interest in getting involved in the Sector or to proffer your comments on this first edition of our e-newsletter. I look forward to hearing from you. Do get in touch!

gattenborough@theiet.org

26 Mar [Rapid Prototyping Lecture](#) - Bath, UK

Dr. Guy Bingham is an academic at Loughborough University's Design School and a member of the Additive Manufacturing Research Group (AMRG). His research focuses on the design opportunities and applications of Additive Manufacturing and Computer Aided Design.

9 Apr [So You Thought Making Food was Easy?](#) - Swindon, UK

Working with expensive materials with properties that change with the seasons offers a challenge to the Process Engineer. Add in the marketing dimension, and what the chef lovingly created in the kitchen is anything but simple.

17 Apr [Visit and presentation at the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centre](#) - Coventry, UK

The presentation will include a description of the HVM Catapult and an overview of the 7 centres that make up the HVM Catapult. There will be a detailed discussion on MTC and achievements to date, including case studies of Reclaim, Sandwell and the Medical Implant – followed by a tour of the MTC facility.

18 Apr [UK Manufacturing Summit](#) - IET London: Savoy Place, UK

The Manufacturing Summit was established to bring government, industry and stakeholder organisations together to promote UK manufacturing and discuss important issues. The theme for 2013 is "Investing in UK Manufacturing"

E&T News



How to Innovate in Manufacturing

It is no longer enough to simply have top-notch operational efficiency, the future belongs to companies that can innovate within that often restrictive fiscal framework. Jim Heppelmann, CEO of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) developer PTC argues that we need to think strategically about the opportunities to create value and innovation and ask where manufacturing companies can turn to gain a sustainable and truly meaningful competitive advantage.

[Read more](#)



A major disconnect exists between technology and sustainability that has to be bridged By Professor Andy Hopper

Engineers have to start working closely with scientists and business, says Professor Andy Hopper

Computing has already revolutionised the way we live our lives, so it is reasonable to predict that it will play a major role in shaping our long-term future. However, first we have to overcome a major disconnect between technology and sustainability, and most importantly be able to harness 'green' innovation to address global environmental challenges.

[Read more](#)