

EMBARGOED - Until midday 11 December

Press Release

11 December, 2014

**Tackling the Manufacturing Skills Deficit – Business Secretary Dr Vince Cable
announces National College for Advanced Manufacturing**

Business Secretary Dr Vince Cable today announced the launch of the National College for Advanced Manufacturing, during his visit to the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre.

Developing the skilled workforce of tomorrow, equipped with the knowledge and understanding of emerging technologies, is essential to enabling UK industry to compete in global markets.

The Government intends to work with the High Value Manufacturing Catapult and with the EEF, the manufacturers' organisation to establish a National College for Advanced Manufacturing which will identify the needs of industry and develop training provision to meet those needs. The High Value Manufacturing Catapult and EEF have agreed to work together with Government to agree the detailed organisational structure of the National College for Advanced Manufacturing. This will be based on autonomous institutions working together under the umbrella of a common National College offer and quality framework.

The National College for Advanced Manufacturing is part of a new wave of employer-led National Colleges to help the UK develop world-class practical skills, with other colleges focusing on digital skills, nuclear, high speed rail, onshore oil and gas, and wind energy. Up to £80 million of capital funding will be matched by employers over 2015-16 and 2016-17 – a potential total investment of £160 million by 2017.

The National College will be established as a network of hubs that link innovation to training provision. The initial hubs will be the MTC Lloyds Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre which was the first organisation to adopt the National College approach and now an expanded AMRC Training Centre in Sheffield. Both will be designated as hubs of the National College for Advanced Manufacturing. Further High Value Manufacturing Catapult training hubs are anticipated in Darlington and Bristol. The National College for Advanced Manufacturing will deliver nationally by identifying and working with the best established providers and engaging with them as spokes of the network.

Dick Elsy, Chief Executive of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, said:

“This is a tremendously important announcement. Ongoing growth and success of high value manufacturing requires us to continually deliver new breakthrough technologies. We can only do that by increasing the number of people entering the industry with the right skills to work on the latest technologies and equipment. The High Value Manufacturing Catapult is at the forefront of the development of new manufacturing technologies and as such, we are extremely well-placed to develop and deliver the kind of skills training that meets current and future industry demand.”

Backing the announcement made today by the Secretary of State for Business, Terry Scuoler, Chief Executive of EEF said:

“The new college will help Britain take several jumps ahead in the race to bridge the skills gap in this country and attract more people to develop a career in engineering and manufacturing, from high level apprenticeships to post-graduate learning.

“In Britain we’re often compared unfavourably with our German counterparts, who have for decades been seen as the leaders in vocational education. This announcement will help redress that balance and do so with a sense of urgency as we look to strengthen our own industrial base for the decades to come.

“Critically this College will be employer-led and the partnership behind it - between the Department for Business, EEF and the High Value Manufacturing Catapult – will ensure that it is employers who will take the lead in defining and setting the standard that industry expects for higher level qualifications.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said:

“Economic growth is underpinned by technological innovation, a strong manufacturing sector and scientific excellence. The UK can no longer afford to lag behind countries like France and Germany, which have invested heavily in technical skills at the highest level for generations.

“The National Colleges will function on a par with our most prestigious universities, delivering training that matches the best in the world. They will help build a strong, balanced economy that delivers opportunities for everyone across all regions in the UK.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

- The High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Catapult was established in 2011 by UK Government through Innovate UK - which was then called the Technology Strategy Board. The HVM Catapult is the catalyst for the future growth and success of manufacturing in the UK. We help accelerate new concepts to commercial reality to create a sustainable high value manufacturing future for this country.
- The HVM Catapult's ultimate aim is to more than double the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the UK economy. The HVM Catapult forms part of the Innovate UK's Catapult programme, which has established Catapult Centres around areas with great global market potential, and where the UK has inherent strengths, Catapults will open up global opportunities for the UK and generate economic growth for the future. To date, there are seven Catapults, with two more announced to open in 2015 and a government target of 30 Catapults in the UK by 2030.
- The HVM Catapult has seven Centres throughout the UK. They collectively have capability which spans basic raw materials through to high integrity product assembly processes, provide companies with access to world class facilities and manufacturing equipment generally out of reach to individual companies, employ over 1,250 scientists, engineers and technicians to provide at elbow support to companies and unite industry, government and research in a shared goal to make the UK an attractive place to invest in manufacturing.
- The seven High Value Manufacturing Catapult centres are:
 - Advanced Forming Research Centre (Glasgow)
 - Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (Sheffield)
 - Centre for Process Innovation (Wilton & Sedgefield)
 - Manufacturing Technology Centre (Ansty, Rugby)
 - National Composites Centre (Bristol)
 - Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (Sheffield)
 - Warwick Manufacturing Group (Coventry)
- With an innovation order book of in excess of £218 million, industry demand for the services of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult is clearly strong.

- **EEF**, the manufacturers' organisation is the representative voice of manufacturing in the UK together with UK Steel. EEF has a growing membership of over 6,000 companies of all sizes, employing some 900,000 people from every sector of engineering, manufacturing, engineering construction and technology-based industries.
- **Innovate UK** is the new name for the Technology Strategy Board – the UK's innovation agency. Taking a new idea to market is a challenge. Innovate UK funds, supports and connects innovative businesses through a unique mix of people and programmes to accelerate sustainable economic growth. For further information visit www.innovateuk.org.
- **National Colleges** are being established by employer-led partnerships with Government support to provide specialist higher level vocational training in sectors critical to economic growth, where there are recognised skills gaps. They will set industry standards for training within their particular sector based on emerging and future technology, with learners able to use state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Up to £80m Government capital funding is available over 2015-16 and 2016-17 to match employer investment. Other National Colleges announced today are for advanced manufacturing, wind energy and digital skills, adding to the already announced high speed rail, onshore oil and gas, and nuclear Colleges.

Press Contact

Henriette Lyttle-Breukelaar – HVM Catapult Marketing and Communications Director

E: Henriette.lyttle@hvm.catapult.org.uk

T: 0121 5069828

ENDS