

“The UK Government's industrial strategy to improve, skills, infrastructure and productivity will of course depend on the training, recruitment and retention of people. We look forward to playing our part in this and broader engineering developments with artificial intelligence, driverless cars and low carbon technologies leading the headlines.”

Alex Downard, Operations Director

Engineering overview & outlook

Winter 2017



Engineering overview



UK manufacturing is the **11th largest manufacturing sector in the world** and accounts for over **10%** of the UK's GDP. There's no reason to believe that this will change in the near future, although the changing nature of Britain's relationship with the EU could potentially affect the industry in the longer term.

Figures from the ONS show that there are **133,000** manufacturers in the UK who contribute **£6.7 trillion** to the global economy.

A new study has claimed that a global electricity network powered exclusively by renewables is possible by 2050, and will be cheaper than today's system. According to researchers, solar PV and battery storage will be at the heart of the transition. Rapidly falling costs for both technologies will encourage widespread adoption, with solar making up **69%** of the energy mix by 2050.

HS2 Ltd, the company responsible for developing the UK's new high-speed rail network, has announced that five manufacturers are in the running to build the 225mph trains that will run on the new high-speed rail network. Alstom; Bombardier Transportation; Hitachi Rail Europe; Patentes Talgo S.L.U and Siemens will all be invited to tender for a **£2.75 billion** contract to design build and maintain at least 54 trains for the new network.

The impact of machine downtime is costing Britain's manufacturers in excess of **£180 billion** every year, a new study has found.

A major campaign will aim to boost **Plymouth** as a manufacturing hotspot as it emerges the city's factories pump **£850 million** into the economy each year.

The **manufacturing** sector continues to account for around half of all vacancies in the engineering market, as it has done for at least the last four years.



British manufacturers looking to invest in new machinery and robots find the main barriers are cost, ROI and skills. A survey by EEF/Santander found only **6.5%** of company turnover is being invested into new plant and machinery compared to **7.5%** in 2015.

51.1% of companies say they plan to spend more on equipment, focusing on replacing old machinery in order to win new business.

They also found that Brexit is having an impact on confidence with companies investing, which has seen **3%** of companies put their investment plans on hold until such clarification is made.

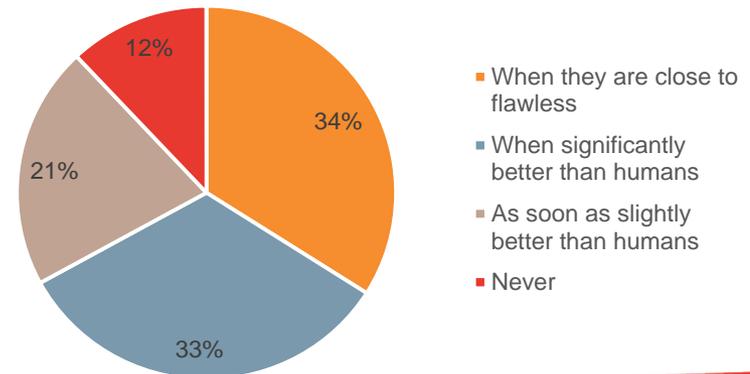
90% of the current engineering workforce will still be in work in the next decade.

In the budget it was announced there will be an investment of **£540 million** to support the growth of electric cars, including more charging points.

Mass autonomy on the road

According to a report from the RAND Corporation, thousands of lives could be saved over approximately 15 years if autonomous technology was widely introduced when it is just **10%** better than human drivers. A survey showed **21%** of respondents took the view that autonomous vehicles should be introduced when they are *slightly* better than humans, and **12%** said they should *never* be allowed on the roads.

When should autonomous vehicles be introduced?





Carbon60 is a specialist in providing flexible and cost effective engineering and technical recruitment solutions on an international scale. We work in partnership through a combination of recruitment, managed services and outsourced projects to help connect the best industry professionals and teams to dynamic businesses across aviation, construction, defence, engineering and technology.

Contact us

01329 227048

