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Parliamentary Speaking Session: 15 June 2010

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Manufacturing Insight was delighted to host a timely briefing seminar at the House of Commons to highlight the needs of modern UK manufacturing with an emphasis on careers and skills. At the event, MP's were asked to consider their role in supporting UK manufacturers and the vital contribution they make to the UK economy. They were also asked to recognise the importance of encouraging young talent into the sector and increasing skill levels for future economic growth.

The key speakers shared their thoughts and experiences and identified the issues that most concerned them. The event provided an opportunity for MP's to hear first hand from manufacturers and enabled them to better understand the affects that current and future policy has on manufacturing.



Nick Hussey – Director, Manufacturing Insight:

Nick discussed the campaign to change the negative image of manufacturing, and to create a culture which will encourage young people to join the industry. He stated why it is imperative to improve the image now because manufacturing adds huge value to the UK economy and for its future; it needs a skilled workforce to support it. Nicks aim is also to get people

from education, government and industry talking together to attract skilled and inspired talent to the industry.

David Bell – Chief Corporate Development Officer, JCB

David presented an overview of this global construction equipment manufacturer and the key issues it is currently facing from the economic downturn. He also spoke about skills, working with young people and the new JCB Academy which will take its first intake of engineering and business diploma students from September 2010.



Professor Rajkumar Roy – Head of Manufacturing, Cranfield University

Professor Roy provided an interesting presentation on the recognition of the role of manufacturing in developing niche technologies, increasing innovation and creating jobs and revenue.



Andrea Rodney – Hone-All

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Contact us

[Get in touch by email](#) or at:

Manufacturing Insight
Broadway House
Tothill Street
London SW1H 9NQ
tel: 0207 654 1696
mobile: 07973 5187 127
fax: 0207 233 1119

Precision Limited

Andrea spoke passionately about her experiences of being an SME within manufacturing; how they have succeeded through recession, why it is important for to have the education-industry engagement and why Government needs to provide fair policies on tax and sensible levels of legislation.



The speaking session was then followed by a lively question and answer session and the panel was joined by Peter Morgan of Rolls Royce Plc, Philip Whiteman of SEMTA and Yvonne Baker from Stemnet.

Photos credit: Paul Heartfield 2010

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