

## Industry Forum March Newsletter

### Changing Priorities

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has upended our planning, and the priorities and the prospects of many companies. As we all adapt to the evolving situation, the Industry Forum will focus on issues arising for trade, supply chains, and business operating costs.

**We will aim, particularly, to cover the implications of the war for energy, the defence sector, and the UK economy.**

Our future programme already covers a broad range of topics, and the following meetings are scheduled:

#### *Opportunities for international trade in 2022*



**31 March 2022**

***Lead Speaker: Andrew Mitchell, Director General, Exports and UK Trade, Department for International Trade***

One argument for Brexit was to enable the UK to pivot from focusing on the EU market, which is shrinking as a proportion of total world trade, to international markets that are growing. To help businesses and the economy to take advantage of new opportunities, the Government has concluded new trade agreements and worked on other initiatives to promote trade. Individual companies have also adapted

their own business strategies. This policy roundtable will be led by Andrew Mitchell, DG, Exports and UK Trade at the department of trade who will outline what the Government is doing and progress to date. A small panel will respond and comment, followed by questions and answers from the invited business audience.

Speakers: **Andrew Mitchell**, Director General, Exports and UK Trade, Department for International Trade

**Oliver Waghorn**, Managing Director of Government Relations, BAE Systems  
**Andy Blackhall**, Chair of British Water's International Forum and Managing Director, Water Research Centre

**Geoff Mackey**, Corporate Affairs & Sustainability Director, BASF

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## ***Helping UK Energy-Intensive Industries***



***26 April 2022***

***Lead Speaker: Bill Esterson MP, Shadow Minister (Business and Industrial Strategy)***

Industries like steel, cement and ceramics are the bedrock of UK manufacturing industry. It is impossible to conceive of a successful UK manufacturing revival dependant on importing their products. But these industries consume enormous amounts of energy currently provided by fossil fuels, and this is the source of two enormous problems. The first is how to remain competitive while still relying on fuels whose prices have risen dramatically. The second is how to transition to sustainable and affordable renewable energy, like hydrogen. Other manufacturing nations are providing quite a lot of help to their energy-intensive industries; it is clear that the UK needs to do the same. Bill Esterson MP, Shadow BEIS minister, will lead a discussion, with a panel of industry specialists, about the policies and practical actions that are urgently needed. Speakers will be: Bill Esterson MP Others to be added.

Speakers: **Bill Esterson MP**, Shadow Minister (Business and Industrial Strategy)

**Robert Ffello**, Chief Executive Designate, British Ceramic Confederation

**Robert McIlveen**, Director of Public Affairs, Mineral Products Association

Other meetings currently in planning for 2022, include:

- Helping SMEs drive the economic recovery
- Levelling up means building more high-quality homes
- Addressing the dementia pandemic
- Realising the potential of green hydrogen
- Building a new positive relationship with Europe
- Valuing and paying for the NHS

**These are all major topics which we hope to cover in some depth at physical meetings. Please let us know if you would like to sponsor and work with us on these or other topics.**

In addition to members, we invite diplomats, academics, union representatives and business guests to participate in our meetings.

Our recent meetings have covered these topics: Can the UK become a new medicines powerhouse?; Expanding US/UK trade and commerce; and How can we create a UK manufacturing renaissance?. As usual these are topical subjects and showcased Industry Forum members. Our last three meetings are listed below:

### *UK economic prospects for 2022 and beyond*



*25 November 2021*

Speakers: **Andrew Smith**, Chief Economic Adviser, Industry Forum  
**Vicky Pryce**, Chief Economic Adviser, CEBR  
**Kate Bell**, Head of Rights, International, Social and Economics Dept., TUC

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*Policy implications of quantum computing*



*18 November 2021*

Speakers:

**Ilyas Khan**, CEO, Cambridge Quantum Computing  
**Marina Jirotko**, Professor of Human Centred Computing, University of Oxford  
**Carolyn Ten Holter**, Research Assistant, University of Oxford  
**Philip Inglesant**, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, University of Oxford

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*Can the UK become a new medicines powerhouse?*



*20 October 2021*

Speaker: **Anne Marie Morris MP**, Chair of the APPG on Access to Medicines and Medical Devices

### *New member offer*

We are interested to sign up new members to work with us and expand our meetings and research activities. We are currently offering new joiners in 2022 a discount on our usual fees. If you're not already a member, and would like to help shape our agenda, host events, and receive invitations to all meetings, get in touch by email at [info@industry-forum.org](mailto:info@industry-forum.org), or give us a call to find out more on 0207 434 0090.



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