

PRESS RELEASE

for immediate release
25 May 2018



Engineering and
Machinery Alliance

Jack Semple, Alliance Secretary
Office: 020 7298 6450
Mobile: 07400 394855

www.eama.info

Engineering and Machinery Alliance welcomes initiative on SME productivity

The government's call for evidence on the productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises is very welcome, the Engineering and Machinery Alliance says.

'This initiative by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is asking the right questions. It is seeking to understand what companies see as the barriers and opportunities for investment and growth and deserves a positive, meaningful response. The more business puts into responding, the more it will benefit,' said EAMA alliance secretary Jack Semple.

'Improving SME productivity will be key to UK economic success. There are many aspects but part of the answer to the productivity problem is the adoption of new technology – which in many cases is provided by EAMA members, as well as used by them.

'Large companies are hugely important also, but they are better geared up to talk to government. BEIS' focus on SMEs in this call for evidence will help to ensure balance in framing policies and actions.

'On the downside, many firms may well feel that they have been overloaded with questions and opinions from government, whether it is about employment terms or Brexit. But this is a rare opportunity for firms to tell ministers – and others - what matters to them and what actions government should be taking. The invitation is there and we should take it,' Semple says.

Note for editors:

EAMA is an alliance of 13 trade associations whose members, mostly SMEs, make up much of the little-seen supply chain infrastructure of British manufacturing.

The BEIS consultation is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/business-productivity-review-call-for-evidence>

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