

How can we make the east's manufacturers more productive?



Despite the recent report published by EEF stating that the region's manufacturers are highly productive compared to the UK average, the country as a whole still lags behind our G6 counterparts. With an uncertain future expected following Brexit, and with Asian markets evolving, how can we as a nation ensure our manufacturing and engineering businesses are operating productively enough to remain competitive? If we do not continue to look inwards at our own capabilities and operations, how can we expect to look outwards at the opportunities that can be taken.

Our G6 counterparts, such as France and Germany all have a considerably higher level of productivity; the time it takes a UK worker to produce £1 of goods, the German equivalent has created £1.35.

Such is the threat of stagnating productivity growth, that the UK government published the UK Industrial Strategy in 2017, detailing the foundations which require attention to allow the UK to become more productive, more competitive and create more opportunities for development.

But what exactly is productivity? Is it being able to produce more? Is it being able to reduce wastage? Or is it even being able to produce new product and service lines quicker? How are businesses improving their productivity? How has the region been ranked as one of the most productive in the country?



In the upcoming NAAME Conference: The Productivity, these questions will be explored, as businesses, council representatives, educators and students will come together to explore how industry leaders have created and implemented strategies and technology to overcome productivity challenges.

Jamie Thums, Chairman of NAAME, said of the event “The Productivity Journey builds on the success of prior events & NAAME’s growing footprint. The conference will feature various speakers from across different spaces in discussing the productivity puzzle. It will draw on exemplar-businesses who are doing things differently in the fields of industrial automation, digitisation, innovation & people engagement - thus demonstrating how the region is, and can further, improve productivity and shine brighter.”

Among the issues to be explored will be defining what is productivity, is there a specific journey that can businesses can take to improve their productivity, does it fall inline with Industry 4.0, and what practical steps and processes are available to increase productivity in businesses.

All attendees of the conference will receive a benchmarking pack, which will allow businesses to evaluate the position of their business, defining how productive they truly are. The benchmarking forms will detail where a business is operating poorly and will highlight which speakers and workshops hold extra significance for their productivity journey.

The day will feature thought-provoking and exciting speakers such as Justin Coote of Rockwell Automation, American Fortune 500 company and provider of industrial automation products, as well as CEO of Lintott Operating Systems, Jamie Thums, responsible for the dramatic turnaround which has seen Lintott recently been awarded the Queen’s Award for Enterprise in innovation. The day will feature workshops allowing a hands-on experience using benchmarking tools to measure productivity and innovation through the Hethel Innovation team. The day will also see the launch of Operations Managers Forum, allowing your workers to share best practice and bring back invaluable systems knowledge.

Simon Coward, CEO of NAAME said “Whilst the report published by EEF details our region’s strength in productivity, economic conditions are making it difficult for manufacturers, and this will continue with the high degree of uncertainty around the implications of Brexit.”

NAAME (New Anglia Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering) is Norfolk and Suffolk’s sector group for everything relating to engineering and manufacturing in the region. NAAME drives innovation and productivity through collaborations, sharing best practice, and piloting new ideas and products.

Learn more about the exciting future of productivity within Norfolk and Suffolk at The Productivity Journey: www.naameprodcon.eventbrite.co.uk

