

CenFRA

Centre for Food Robotics & Automation

CenFRA Ltd (Centre for Food Robotics and Automation) is an initiative whose vision is 'To support the future sustainability of the UK Food and Drink industry by providing independent, affordable automation solutions'.

CenFRA promotes links between industry and academia: providing an impartial source of automation expertise; acting as a focal point to pilot equipment and technology; and identifying and assisting in the transfer of technologies from other business sectors. CenFRA:

- Encourages greater understanding of robotic and automation engineering, assembly, programming and maintenance needs
- Conducts technology audits for businesses
- Develops relationships between food and drink companies and the automation/robotic industry
- Provides a facility for research, information and industrial training
- Acts as a catalyst for higher levels of investment
- Helps companies develop unique skills and expertise

To find out how your company could benefit, go to:- www.cenfra.co.uk

EEF launches Manufacturing Manifesto

'Manufacturing Our Future' sets out the actions that government and manufacturers need to take to put the UK on the path to a more dynamic, diverse and durable economy. To download the report go to:-



http://www.eef.org.uk/UK/publications/policy/public/Manufacturing_Our_future.htm

Conference for business growth

Proskills is holding a national conference 'Sustainable Ideas, Practical Solutions' (19 November 2009) which aims to provide delegates with a range of innovative business ideas and practical solutions to support the development of a successful strategy for business growth:- <http://www.proskills.co.uk/conference09/>

The Climate Change Act applies to all UK businesses

Businesses will be required to measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions as part of the country's move to cut emissions by 80% on 1990 levels by 2050:- <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/greenhouse-gas/index.htm>

Cost of regulatory compliance for SMEs hits £9.3 billion

The Forum for Private Business estimates that regulatory compliance costs SMEs £9.3 billion per year in terms of internal costs (time, salary and so on) or an average of 34 hours per month per company.



Low carbon

and environmental goods and services are already worth **£3 trillion** to the global economy, and in the UK employ nearly **900,000** directly and through the supply chain. The sector is set to grow by over **4%** per annum over the next six years.

The Government has published the UK *Low Carbon Industrial Strategy*, building on the framework for supporting British business set out in *Building Britain's Future: New Industry, New Jobs*. In parallel to this, the Government has also published *The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan*, *The UK Renewable Energy Strategy* and *The Carbon Reduction Strategy for Transport*. The low carbon Industrial Strategy is available at:- www.hmg.gov.uk/lowcarbon

Duty Suspensions and Tariff Quotas

Temporary Duty Suspensions and Tariff Quotas allow the duty free importation into the Community of raw materials, components and semi-finished products which cannot be supplied (or supplied in sufficient quantities) from Community sources and used in a process to make another product. NB This regime cannot be used simply to import goods for resale:- <http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/europeandtrade/importing-into-uk/duty-suspensions-quotas/page23164.html>

Government consults on help with business rate bills

The Government is asking for views on a £2bn relief scheme to support the minority of businesses which could see their rates increase as a result of a five yearly revaluation of business property. While most businesses (60 per cent) will see falls in their rate bills next year following revaluation, some will pay more. The consultation document can be found at:- <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrevaluation2010>

Did you know ... ?

The Regional Language Network Yorkshire & Humber is offering a series of seminars to support businesses in the region to branch out into foreign markets by improving their language skills. The training is funded through the Train to Gain Enhancement Fund with an average cost of £35 per seminar.

that businesses proactive in their use of foreign languages achieve on average 45% more export sales?

To find out more, contact in the first instance, Gary Overton, Proskills Regional Manager for Yorkshire & Humberside on: 07824 465538.