

Making it in Leeds

News from Leeds Manufacturing

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Top business leaders to debate future of UK manufacturing

A national debate on the future of manufacturing in the UK takes place in Leeds next week (Thursday 24th Nov).

'The Business of Manufacturing' is a Question Time-style debate, featuring a panel of high profile manufacturing leaders and industry experts, and takes place at Leeds Valley Park.

Juergen Maier, managing director of Siemens UK Industry Sector and Steve Pateman, head of corporate and commercial banking, Santander UK, will speak at the event on along with James Averdieck, founder and managing director of Gu Chocolate Puddings.

They will be joined by Graham Bowland, chief executive of Leeds-based medical device manufacturer Surgical Innovations and Mark Ridgeway, managing director of Group Rhodes and manufacturing lead on the board of the Leeds City Region local enterprise partnership.

Tom Riordan, chief executive of Leeds City Council will give an opening address.

In a wide-ranging debate that will explore in depth the conditions needed for manufacturing to spark economic recovery, topics up for discussion will range from measures the

government should be taking to nurture manufacturing to new future growth sectors such as off-shore wind and renewables.

Jean Dent, director of Marketing Leeds said: "Leeds is one of the country's manufacturing powerhouses, so it makes sense that such an important debate on the future of the industry, and of the UK economy itself, should take place in the city."

She added: "Leeds is home to some world leading manufacturing companies and innovative manufacturing businesses spanning a range of sectors – from food and drink to printing and precision engineering – are flourishing here.

"We have gathered together some of the country's most successful and experienced manufacturers for this debate. Their ideas on how we can nurture our vital manufacturing industry to drive growth and boost economic recovery in the UK through enterprise, innovation and exports will be hugely important."

A series of workshops will also be held to provide practical advice and support for manufacturers. Sessions will cover succeeding in overseas markets, strengthening the supply chain, making the most of the new Aire Valley Leeds enterprise zone and careers in manufacturing.

The Business of Manufacturing is organised by Marketing Leeds, in association with Leeds Manufacturing, the Manufacturing Advisory Service and Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and Goodman, the owners of Leeds Valley Park.

The debate will be held at the Ellington Building in Leeds Valley Park, Leeds, from 8.30am on November 24. To attend the debate, register online at www.thebusinessof.co.uk/register-manufacturing

Ends

Photo: (l-r) Juergen Maier, managing director of Siemens UK Industry Sector, and production manager Richard Durham, at the new Siemens plant in Stourton, Leeds.