

Manufacturing, Production & Business Processes

Electronics Manufacturing Report

[Abstract]

This report summarises the results of a number of meetings of a focus group of the Manufacturing, Production and Business Processes Panel focusing on the electronics manufacturing industry. It begins with a description of the UK industry and a description of the trends within the industry. This is followed by a summary of expert inputs to the sub-group. This summary and the balance of the report are used to generate the recommendations of the focus group as follows:

This and other Foresight exercises have confirmed the importance of the Electronics Industry in the UK. It has begun to describe the structure of the industry, the challenges that it faces and identified a significant number of critical areas.

In order to maintain the current momentum and allow informed advice to industry and government it will be necessary for the common conclusions of this and related Foresight exercises to be prioritised in the context of a benchmark that draws together more completely the data describing our international competition as an electronics manufacturing nation.

In such a complex and rapidly changing industry technology management research is required in, for example, the acquisition of technology and its deployment in future products, and identification of the role of indigenous and inward investing companies in both product and technology supply chains for UK wealth creation. It is also important to understand the interplay of product and process technologies, manufacturing volumes and added value as exemplified by the product packaging choice problem.

Education and research must ensure the supply of sufficient, appropriately skilled people to the industry.
