

An electrotechnical manifesto for the next Government

Gambica has joined forces with another leading electrotechnical trade body, Beama, to draw up a manifesto for the next government. Steve Brambley, deputy director of Gambica*, explains the main elements of this manifesto, which has energy efficiency at its core.

The polls are indicating considerable uncertainty over the outcome of the general election on 7 May, but there is strong support for manufacturing across the political spectrum. Whatever the result, and whichever party or parties form the next government, we can be sure they will be looking to support policies that boost industrial growth, leading to more jobs and economic stability.

Gambica has partnered with another trade association, Beama, to produce a manifesto on behalf of our joint industries – the electrotechnical sector. The paper focuses on the theme of energy efficiency as the most cost-effective energy policy and a means to grow investment, create jobs and export more UK products.

It sets out six areas where we are seeking

Government and industry collaboration

Government and business must work together to place manufacturing at the forefront of rebalancing the economy.

Implementation of regulations

To give industry certainty, we need to play a greater role in defining the scope and application of regulations and standards, together with government.

Engineering skills gap

The education system needs to have a greater focus on technology- and science-based skills to provide industry with the talent it needs.

Procurement

Public procurement must support UK companies of all sizes. Making the process accessible to SMEs will be central in fostering growth and creating new export opportunities.

Smart infrastructure policy

We want to work in partnership with government to develop a smart energy infrastructure. This will give industry confidence to invest for the long term.

UK in Europe

The continuing membership of the UK in the European Union, with access to its single market, is essential for our industry.

Key elements of the Gambica/Beama manifesto

government support and partnership to achieve this, with a vision of realising 200TWh of energy savings by 2020 – equivalent to 22 new power stations.

That's a massive saving in the amount of generation required, leading to both a significant economic advantage and a major environmental benefit. At the same time as reducing carbon emissions, there will be a cost saving for households, businesses and industry.

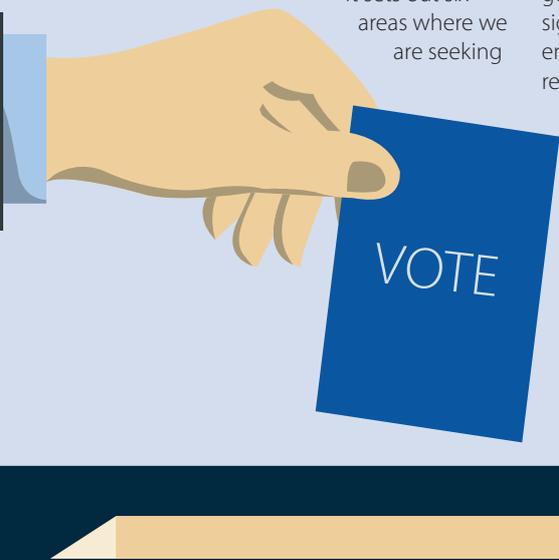
Both industry and government have a role to play in achieving this goal – just as there are alliances between organisations and associations, there needs to be an industry / government partnership to nurture the potential for growth and for economic success.

Gambica is also a member of Escro, the Electronic Systems Community, where we are working on an industrial strategy – a coordinated agreement between industry and government.

So what are we asking a new government for? The six areas where we are seeking support are shown in the table above.

Continued government backing will give our members the certainty they need to release hundreds of millions of pounds of investment, giving UK businesses the potential to be global leaders in energy-efficiency technologies and products.

You can download the full manifesto from Gambica's Web site at <http://goo.gl/3qJECi> ■



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