



## News Release

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Ref: 204

### Engineering profession calls for action to secure the UK's future economy and society

The National Engineering Policy Centre, which represents nearly half a million UK engineers, has published a manifesto for a prosperous and secure economy and society, calling on government to work with them to invest in skills, innovation, digital and traditional infrastructure, and clean energy technologies.

Backed by the UK's leading engineering organisations, Engineering priorities for our future economy and society highlights critical policy recommendations to enhance the UK's status as a world-leading innovation and engineering hub, ahead of the forthcoming spending review, the UK's exit from the EU and a possible general election.

This is the first joint publication by the National Engineering Policy Centre, an ambitious new partnership between 39 UK engineering organisations, led by the Royal Academy of Engineering. The National Engineering Policy Centre was established to give policymakers access to the best independent advice, skills and expertise of the engineering profession, which generates £420.5 billion of UK GVA and employs over 5.8 million people. It aims to apply engineers' problem solving skills to some of the biggest problems the UK faces today.

This engineering manifesto includes 20 actions across five key policy areas:

- Skills: Implement the recommendations of the Perkins Review, which sets out actions to ensure an adequate supply of engineering talent for our nation, to secure the engineering skills needed for the future.
- Innovation: Increase Innovate UK's budget to boost support for business innovation and the 'D' of R&D to increase productivity.
- Digital: Deliver fast and resilient digital infrastructure, a thriving business environment, excellent digital skills and a diverse pipeline of workers to create a world-leading digital economy.
- Infrastructure: Deliver on the recommendations of the National Infrastructure Assessment or set out alternative plans to meet the UK's long-term infrastructure needs.
- Energy and climate change: Deliver on the UK's ambitious climate change goals by investing in demonstration and deployment of new low-carbon heat, charging of electric vehicles and carbon capture and storage technologies.

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## Notes to editors

### 1. National Engineering Policy Centre

The National Engineering Policy Centre is an ambitious partnership, led by the Royal Academy of Engineering, between UK engineering organisations representing 450,000 engineers.

The Centre connects policymakers with critical engineering expertise to inform and respond to policy issues of national importance, giving policymakers a route to the best independent advice available from across the whole profession, and the profession a unified voice on shared challenges. Our ambition is that the Centre will be a trusted partner for policymakers, enabling them to access excellent engineering expertise, for social and economic benefit.

### IAGRÉ:

IAGRÉ is the professional body for scientists, technologists, engineers, academics, managers and students working in the landbased sector and has an international membership base.

As a licensed body of the Engineering Council (EngC) and a founding Constituent Body of The Society for the Environment (SocEnv), IAGRÉ registers suitably experienced professionals as Chartered Engineers, Chartered Environmentalists, Incorporated Engineers and Engineering Technicians.

IAGRÉ is a Licensed Body of the Engineering Council and a founding constituent body of the Society for the Environment Company No: 648041 Charity No: 257303

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