

The Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Position Brief- UK Government Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan



In June 2025 the UK government published the **Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan** as part of the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy. The Sector Plan sets an ambitious target of doubling annual business investment in Advanced Manufacturing from roughly £21bn to £39bn by 2035. The ultimate goal is for the UK to be recognised as the best place in the world to “start, grow and invest” in Advanced Manufacturing by 2035.

To enable this goal to be achieved the Plan identifies six sectors with the highest growth potential, with actions to navigate challenges and realise the commercial opportunities that emerge. The six sectors are: Automotive, Batteries, Aerospace, Space, Advanced Materials, and **Agri-Tech**.

Agri-Tech will focus on innovation that reduces dependency on public investments by drawing **£50mn** in private investment by **2029** with the aim of reaching an Agri-Tech sector turnover of **£20bn** by **2035**. To accomplish this the UK government will bring together industry partners and government to develop initiatives that increase the application of automation in priority farming sectors.

The institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE) welcomes that the UK Government has identified Agri-Tech as one of the six sectors with the highest growth potential and supports initiatives that will deliver automation in priority farming sectors. The IAgrE and its members have a long history of being associated with innovation in agriculture and has been instrumental in supporting the careers of engineers that will ultimately be tasked with developing the Agri-Tech products of the future that are required to achieve the ambitions of the Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan.

The IAgrE also supports UK government actions that bring together partners from industry, government, and academia to develop and implement strategies that accelerate the adoption rates of innovation such as precision farming. We believe that a systems approach is essential if innovation and technology is going to be widely adopted on farms.

Within the Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan, the IAgrE is aware of the newly formed Agricultural Productivity Group that is tasked with supporting industry-led actions that accelerate Agri-Tech adoption. The IAgrE membership consists of highly qualified professional engineers, environmentalists and industry leaders that have a wealth knowledge and experience in developing and deploying agricultural technology. We would encourage the Agricultural Productivity Group to access these skills and knowledge and use it to drive the systems approach that is required to accelerate the adoption of agricultural technology and innovation.

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