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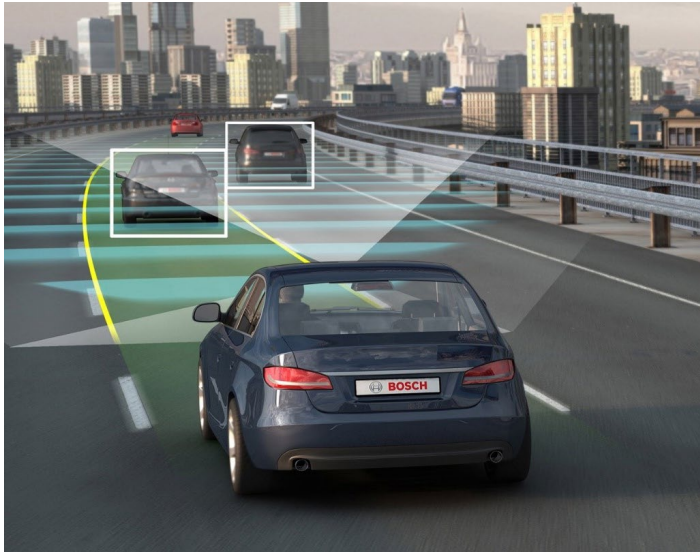
Providing you with all the latest industry updates and insights

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'COLOSSAL UK SKILLS SHORTAGE' THREATENS JOB GROWTH FROM DRIVERLESS CARS



Analysis from the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) and StreetDrone reveals that a 'colossal' skills gap may prevent the UK from leading in the connected and autonomous vehicles market.

The government has made a commitment to see the first fully driverless cars on UK roads by 2021.

The switch to autonomous vehicles is expected to create 37,300 UK jobs by 2035, but enrolments onto degree courses are increasing by just 2%, and apprenticeships by 3.9% each year. According to the research, "at the current rate of growth there will not be enough young people emerging from university and apprenticeship courses to meet the rising demand".

APPRENTICESHIP LEVY REVIEW



Chancellor Phillip Hammond has announced a series of reforms to the government's controversial apprenticeship levy, in the hope of making the levy more flexible for employers.

The limit to the amount of unused apprenticeship funds that employers can transfer to other employers, will increase from 10% to 25%.

The chancellor will also consult business regarding further changes to the apprenticeship levy from 2020.

SMMT: RULE OUT 'NO-DEAL' BREXIT



The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has called on government to rule out a 'no-deal' Brexit scenario, claiming that such an outcome in the Brexit negotiations would add "£5bn to the collective EU-UK auto trade bill".

The trade body claims a no-deal Brexit will undermine the automotive sector's ability to operate and "cannot be an option".

SCOTLAND OUTPERFORMING REST OF UK IN SLASHING CARBON EMISSIONS

According to the Committee on Climate Change's annual progress report on carbon reduction, Scotland is outperforming the rest of the UK in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

However, according to the climate change watchdog, Scotland will need new measures to meet its own recently introduced targets on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



WILL THE UK'S PROPOSED INVESTMENT IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES PAY OFF?



Andrew Perry, Energy Principal at Oliver Wyman global management consulting, claims that the UK's proposed investment in electric vehicles can only succeed through the investment and training of people.

Writing in the Telegraph (Premium Article), Perry states that "as we move towards our EV future, the best investment we can make is in our people. A skilled workforce will be essential, and we must develop a deep understanding of EV technology, smart charging and system management".

UNITE'S TONY BURKE SPEAKS IN SUPPORT OF THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR



At the Labour Party Conference, Unite the Union moved forward an emergency motion on the future of the automotive industry.

In moving the motion Tony Burke, Unite assistant general secretary, explained how the industry became the "jewel in the crown" of UK manufacturing.

Additionally, Burke stressed the importance of ensuring a 'just transition' for workers in the shift to electrification of vehicles.

"Labour must step up the pressure on government to develop a just transition strategy for the move to electrification," Burke noted. "This must be a strategy, which develops our skills base — one which uses the government's spending power to see new fleets of electric vehicles across public transport".

PERCEPTIONS OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS



Ofqual has published the results of a perceptions survey covering a range of regulated vocational and technical qualifications available for study in England.

Key findings:

- ◆ Just 20 per cent of employers know the difference between standards and frameworks.
- ◆ Less than 20 per cent of employers fully understand EPA.
- ◆ Training providers value EPA less than employers and learners do.
- ◆ Two-thirds of employers believe people who've passed an EPA have the skills they need.
- ◆ Training providers are less confident than employers that EPA measures the skill employers need.
- ◆ Employers don't know how to change assessments that don't meet their needs.
- ◆ Learners understand EPA more than training providers think they do.

UK CAR PRODUCTION FALLS FOR THIRD STRAIGHT MONTH



UK car production declined by 12.9% in August, with 89,254 units produced.

Cars made for the UK fell 38.8% to 16,271, while export models fell 3.8% to 72,983.

Year-to-date for 2018, this means a 5.2% decrease for UK car manufacturing compared to 2017 with 1,044,707 cars built.

IEA PROPOSES CANADA-STYLE FREE TRADE DEAL WITH THE EU

Free market think-tank the Institute of Economic Affairs has recommended a 'basic' Canada style free trade deal with the EU for goods, as an alternative to Theresa May's Chequers Brexit plan.

Titled 'Plan A+: Creating a prosperous post-Brexit UK', the IEA calls for the elimination of tariffs and quotas on all products the UK does not produce, restoring sovereignty over British waters in fisheries policy and urges the UK to sign numerous global trade deals.



MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF WHITEHALL APPRENTICESHIP LEVY UNSPENT

According to Times Educational Supplement (TES), more than two-thirds of the money paid by government departments to their apprenticeship levy pot was yet to be spent, more than a year since the levy was introduced.

Three government departments – the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Department for Exiting the European Union, and UK Export Finance – had yet to spend any of their apprenticeship levy funds.

The Department for Education (DfE) had only spent 4% of its levy pot.

