



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 September 2011

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Government award BARA £600,000 to roll-out Automating Manufacturing Programme

Following recommendations made in an industry study last year, the *Application of Automation in UK Manufacturing 27 Sept 2010*, Government has now awarded £600,000 to fund an Automating Manufacturing Programme managed by BARA which aims to encourage the uptake of automation among UK manufacturers.

The Programme, which commences with immediate effect until 31 March 2013, has been developed by BARA, the British Automation and Robot Association which is a PPMA Group Association, and offers independent, impartial advice to assist manufacturers in their implementation of automation solutions. The primary objective of the Programme is to help UK manufacturers increase their competitive edge and gain from the benefits that automation offers including increased productivity, reduced waste and greater profitability. Although the Programme primarily looks to assist SMEs throughout all manufacturing sectors within the UK, larger companies with limited knowledge of and expertise in automation are also eligible. "This government funded program is a rare opportunity for UK companies to take what is a risk-free plunge into the automation arena. It could fundamentally change for the better, the way that they do business," comments PPMA CEO Chris Buxton.

Judged on their knowledge and expertise, BARA has carefully selected independent automation advisers who will offer support to the enrolled manufacturers in two stages. The first is a strategic review of their manufacturing operation, commencing with an audit aiming to identify opportunities to improve production through automation, followed by a recommendation report which is presented at a review meeting. The second stage will provide a more detailed intervention to develop the outcomes from the audit, which will provide the client manufacturer with the knowledge and information required to plan and successfully implement the automation solution.

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To complement and support the Programme, BARA is organising a second series of their highly regarded Automation Roadshows (planned for November 2011) at automation user sites where, for those considering the introduction of similar technologies, attendees will not only be able to see first-hand the latest automation in use, but will learn of the user's experience during their adoption of automation.

For visitors attending the PPMA Show (27-29 September 2011, NEC Birmingham) there will be an Automating Manufacturing stand, A98, for companies seeking automation advice. Plus BARA representatives will highlight the benefits of the Programme and how to access the fund in a seminar at the PPMA Show's Manufacturing Forum. BARA President Mike Wilson will present the benefits of automation during the seminar programme at Interplas, the leading international plastics exhibition which co-locates with the PPMA Show.

"Manufacturers keen to increase their global competitiveness and improve profitability are invited to make an application to the Automating Manufacturing Programme online at www.automatingmanufacturing.co.uk and take advantage of the expertise available," comments BARA President Mike Wilson. "The dedicated website will also inform interested parties details of forthcoming automation events, provide access to case studies and contain information relating to every aspect of the Programme. If UK manufacturing is to fulfil its potential of becoming a significant force in global markets then automation needs to be at its very heart – the Automating Manufacturing Programme will go a long way to aid this."

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NOTES:-

Image 1 Automation in use at Harwin, designer and manufacturer of electronic interconnect solutions and host site for BARA's Automation Roadshow

Image 2 Automating Manufacturing Programme logo

www.automatingmanufacturing.co.uk

www.bara.org.uk

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BARA 'The Voice of Automation'. BARA (British Automation and Robot Association) provides a voice for the robotics and automation industries, when dealing with Government, industry, financial and academic institutions. Since 1979 BARA's aim has been to promote the use of, and assist in the development of automation in British industry. The Association has over 40 robotics and automation members. In February 2009 BARA amalgamated with the PPMA and the two organisations, along with the UKIVA and PMMDA, share a common CEO, Executive and administration resource.

