



Business Secretary Vince Cable Praises UK Wide Talent Retention Solution

Business Secretary Vince Cable met Allan Cook, Chairman of the Skills and Jobs Retention Group yesterday, together with representatives from BAE Systems, Rolls Royce and Nissan.

The Group has created the Talent Retention Solution (TRS), a website that holds details of engineering staff at risk of redundancy and vacancies in the engineering sectors. This is good news for engineers looking for work, for companies looking to recruit and for the UK as a way of retaining vital skills for the benefit of growing sectors in engineering such as aerospace, automotive, renewables, marine and nuclear.

The Business Secretary Vince Cable said:

"I was pleased to hear today from Allan Cook and representatives of leading engineering companies about progress in the development of the Talent Retention Solution, which the government helped business to create. The TRS provides a way for advanced manufacturing and engineering companies to recruit engineers quickly.

"It supports UK economic growth by ensuring that sectors who are winning business and recruiting can secure vital engineering talent from companies that are in a different economic cycle. I encourage engineering firms to take advantage of this important opportunity to add to their skillsets, and particularly SMEs for who the service is free."

Allan Cook said:

"I continue to be encouraged and delighted with the level of support for the TRS across all engineering sectors, from large, medium and small engineering firms to trade associations and the UNITE union. This is the first national system to support the redeployment and retention of engineering talent.

It is very clear that there is real demand for engineering skills in the market which is reflected in the success of TRS. The system is already fully operational and working well. Many of the larger and medium sized engineering companies are actively engaged, but it is relevant to all companies in the supply chain with demand for engineering skills or where there is, unfortunately, a need to engage with companies where employee numbers are reducing due to market forces.

The service is free for SMEs with employee numbers less than 500, so they can benefit from the system at no cost. For all companies interested in engineering recruitment, this is an opportunity not to be missed - for more details and to sign up to the TRS see the website www.talentretention.biz."

Background

1. The TRS was launched in July 2011, and was supported by a grant from the UKCES in 2011. It is now fully self-financing in the private sector. It is a redeployment and retention tool. To date 345 UK companies have registered on the TRS. The number of vacancies on the system is growing quickly - there are 500+ live vacancies today, and the system currently holds details of 690 people. All of these numbers are expected to continue to grow quickly over the next few months. The system is devoted entirely to the needs of recruitment in the engineering sectors.

2. Allan Cook, Chairman of WS Atkins is also Chairman of the Skills and Jobs Retention Group. This was set up to help redeploy and retain vitally needed engineering skills that might be put at risk as a result of changes arising from the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The system is now available to engineers at risk in all of the advanced manufacturing and engineering sectors, and across the UK.