
Support our campaign to raise the status of technicians

The UK needs technicians more than ever

The growing influence of technology on business and society is increasing the demand for technicians. Thousands of new technical vacancies arise every year and there is also an urgent need to replace those who retire.

Unfortunately, not enough new technicians are coming through the education system and this is creating a worrying shortfall. By some estimates the UK needs 700,000 new recruits in the next decade.

The Campaign

Technicians make it happen

The Gatsby Charitable Foundation has launched a multi-channel campaign to directly address this issue. We believe the UK's future prosperity depends on achieving, over the longer term, a strong and aspirational technician class.

For this to happen, we need to highlight the contribution technicians make to the UK economy - so that it is more highly valued and better understood by society at large. Only through increased awareness and understanding will technician occupations become more desirable to young people, their parents and advisers.

In order for this campaign to succeed we need influencers to spread the Technicians Make it Happen (TMiH) message and include information about technicians in their own narrative.

What the campaign will do

We aim to change perceptions about STEM technicians and promote some of the outstanding apprenticeship opportunities that lead to technician careers.

We will do this in two ways:

1. By raising the profile of technicians and highlighting the important work they do in many interesting industries.
 2. By inspiring young people and other individuals with STEM skills to consider it as a career option and highlighting the varied career paths into this type of work.
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How you can help

This campaign was born out of industry's need to recruit more highly skilled technicians. Thus, if it is to succeed, we need industry and other supporters to get involved.

You can support the campaign by doing any or all of the following:

- Raise the topic of technicians and the vital work they do in your communications
- Add the TMiH logo to your website or create a link to our site that draws attention to the campaign
- Put us in touch with your technicians so we can interview and photograph them for 'Technician Stories'. This is a series of career case studies that will feature on our website to inform and inspire future technicians
- Write a blog or a feature piece about the campaign
- Promote the Technician Stories out to your networks through email newsletters or social media
- Provide us with a quote about the importance of technicians to your organisation and why you support the campaign

We especially want to hear from the following

Organisations that employ technicians

- Businesses or professional bodies
- Government offices, local councils or public sector organisations
- Charities or non-profit organisations

Organisations or individuals that teach or train technicians

- Schools, colleges or technical departments
- Teachers or lecturers

Organisations that are running other STEM-related campaigns

Individual technicians across every field

Where to begin

If you want to support our campaign in any of the ways mentioned above, or if you have other ideas of your own, please contact:

Kate Ford

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The Gatsby Charitable Foundation

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The Gatsby Charitable Foundation was established by David Sainsbury (now Lord Sainsbury of Turville) in 1967 and acts as an enabler for projects, developing, overseeing and, in some cases, delivering activities across a small number of focus areas where we believe charitable funding can achieve significant impact.

A key ambition of Gatsby is to strengthen intermediate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills within the UK workforce. We aim to achieve this by enhancing the status of technicians and through the development of clear routes into technician roles. For further information please visit: gatsby.org.uk.