



LEADERSHIP FOR BUSINESS AND HIGHER EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE: 25th November 2009All Enquiries: Dr David Docherty
Chief ExecutiveEmbargoed until Wednesday 25th 2009 at 00:01hrs

Council for Industry and Higher Education launches “Partnering For Success” Task Forces

The Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE) has today announced the formation of two strategic task forces. The first will explore the next wave of engineering and manufacturing jobs and research. The second will focus on the digital and creative industries. Both task forces will explore where businesses and universities can better work together on relevant research and on creating the right jobs for the right graduates. They will also look at what the UK can learn from other countries and identify key industry trends.

The Engineering and Manufacturing Task Force will be co-chaired by Richard Greenhalgh, former Chair of Unilever UK and current Chair of the CIHE, and Professor Nigel Thrift, Vice Chancellor of the University of Warwick. The Digital and Creative Industries Task Force will be co-chaired by Rona Fairhead, Chair and CEO of the Financial Times Group, and Professor Christopher Snowden, Vice Chancellor of the University of Surrey.

The names of the Task Force participants will follow early in the New Year.

Dr David Docherty, CEO of the CIHE, said: ‘The shared insights generated by the Task Forces will improve the ways in which students are better prepared for the world of work, and ensure that business and university research collaborations more clearly focus on the UK’s need for global competitiveness and a better society. Sector by sector, the Task Forces will take an international perspective and look for best practice at home and abroad, and will develop creative and collaborative solutions to the global challenges we face.’

The CIHE would also like to acknowledge the support and participation of HEFCE, UUK, the CBI and the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Notes for Editors

CIHE

The Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE) is a strategic leadership network of senior business leaders and Vice Chancellors working together to enhance economic competitiveness and social cohesion.

The CIHE’s strategic leadership network will focus specifically on where businesses and universities can combine to help resolve some of the most intractable challenges we face on climate change, new energy sources, the future of engineering and life-sciences, the digital and creative economies and financial services.

Task Force Chairs

Richard Greenhalgh: Formerly chairman of Unilever UK from 1988 until 2004, he now has a portfolio of activities which include a range of business, education and charitable appointments. Currently Chairman of the Council for Industry and Higher Education, CARE International UK, and the advisory board of a US listed outsourcing company, OPI. Richard is also non-executive Director at Rank Group Plc and adviser to the Boards of Calor UK, and All Nippon Airways.

Rona Fairhead: Joined Pearson in October 2001 as Deputy Finance Director, became Chief Financial Officer in June 2002 and was appointed Chief Executive of the Financial Times Group in June 2006. She sits on the Pearson board and is also a member of the Pearson management committee. In 2007 she was appointed Chairman of Interactive Data Corporation's Board of Directors. She was appointed a non-executive Director of HSBC Holdings plc in 2004.

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Professor Christopher Snowden: Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Surrey and a distinguished engineer with wide experience of the international microwave and semiconductor industry. He is President of the Institute of Engineering and Technology 2009-10 and Vice-President of the Royal Academy of Engineering and chairs the Academy's Engineering Policy Group. He has recently been appointed to the UK's Technology Strategy Board and is a Board member of Universities UK.

Professor Nigel Thrift: Vice Chancellor of the University of Warwick and one of the world's leading human geographers and social scientists. During his academic career, he has been the recipient of a number of distinguished academic awards, including the Royal Geographical Society Victoria Medal for contributions to geographic research in 2003 and Distinguished Scholarship Honors from the Association of American Geographers in 2007. He was made a Fellow of the British Academy in 2003, and is co-author, author or co-editor of over 35 books.

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