



The Royal Academy
of Engineering

Competing in the Global Economy Debates – Debate 3

This House believes that the best innovation happens without government intervention

Chair:
Professor Sir William Wakeham FREng

Thursday 20 January 2011
5.30pm for 6.00pm

Venue:
3 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5DG



Competing in the Global Economy Debates – Debate 3

In this series of debates, The Royal Academy of Engineering is exploring some of the fundamental challenges facing the UK as it strives to compete in a turbulent global economy. The series brings together engineers, industry leaders, economists and policy makers to test through debate the validity of a range of policies at the heart of UK competitiveness.

The debates also provide participants with an important opportunity to influence policy: key messages emerging from the series will be captured in a report to policy makers and will form the basis of future Academy work in this area.

The motion to be addressed in this third debate is:

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Innovation in both product and process is universally seen as essential to competitiveness in global markets. But what role does the government have, if any? Attempts by past UK governments to “pick winners” met with limited success, and outside the defence field publicly-owned corporations often seem to have been slow or inefficient in adopting new technologies. Should the government stay out of direct involvement in innovation and restrict its activities to creating the best possible conditions for businesses of all kinds to flourish? Does the best innovation result from market pull rather than technology push? And are companies that are close to their customers always going to be better placed than governments to deliver true innovation?

Chair: Professor Sir William Wakeham FREng
Vice-President and Honorary International Secretary
The Royal Academy of Engineering

Panel:

For: Professor David Payne CBE FREng FRS
Director, Optoelectronics Research Centre, University of Southampton
[TBC]

Against: Professor Adrian Smith FRS
Director General, Knowledge and Innovation
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Professor Ian Shott CBE FREng
Chairman, Leadership Forum on Industrial Biotechnology

Programme: 5.30pm Registration
6.00pm Debate
8.00pm Drinks reception

Dress: Business attire

Please note that this is the final debate in the Competing in the Global Economy series.

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Registration Form

Tickets

Please note you must reserve tickets for the debate.

I wish to reserve ticket(s) for the debate on Thursday 20 January 2011

Title _____ First name _____ RAEng Fellow

Surname _____ Honours _____

Position _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Guest

Title _____ First name _____

Surname _____ Honours _____

Position _____

Organisation _____

Email _____

Please return to: Cuong Dang, International Officer
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The Royal Academy of Engineering

As Britain's national academy for engineering, we bring together the country's most eminent engineers from all disciplines to promote excellence in the science, art and practice of engineering. Our strategic priorities are to enhance the UK's engineering capabilities, to celebrate excellence and inspire the next generation, and to lead debate by guiding informed thinking and influencing public policy.

The Academy's work programmes are driven by three strategic priorities, each of which provides a key contribution to a strong and vibrant engineering sector and to the health and wealth of society.

Enhancing national capabilities

As a priority, we encourage, support and facilitate links between academia and industry. Through targeted national and international programmes, we enhance – and reflect abroad – the UK's performance in the application of science, technology transfer, and the promotion and exploitation of innovation. We support high quality engineering research, encourage an interdisciplinary ethos, facilitate international exchange and provide a means of determining and disseminating best practice. In particular, our activities focus on complex and multidisciplinary areas of rapid development.

Recognising excellence and inspiring the next generation

Excellence breeds excellence. We celebrate engineering excellence and use it to inspire, support and challenge tomorrow's engineering leaders. We focus our initiatives to develop excellence and, through creative and collaborative activity, we demonstrate to the young, and those who influence them, the relevance of engineering to society.

Leading debate

Using the leadership and expertise of our Fellowship, we guide informed thinking, influence public policy making, provide a forum for the mutual exchange of ideas, and pursue effective engagement with society on matters within our competence. The Academy advocates progressive, forward-looking solutions based on impartial advice and quality foundations, and works to enhance appreciation of the positive role of engineering and its contribution to the economic strength of the nation.



The Royal Academy of Engineering promotes excellence in the science, art and practice of engineering.

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