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EXPERTS SOUGHT TO DRIVE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Leading industry figures are to be invited to help develop a long-term improvement plan for the sector after the Strategic Forum for Construction confirmed details of its support for the creation of an *Industrial Strategy for Construction*.

At its meeting on Wednesday (23 January) Strategic Forum members committed to oversee eight separate work streams that will support production of this *Industrial Strategy for Construction*, to be published by the Government in the summer.

The eight work streams are:

Skills	Overseas trade	Supply chain	Access to finance
Image of industry	Whole life value	SMEs	Innovation

For each work stream, industry representatives will identify the change needed for UK construction to deliver world class performance. Building on the back of existing industry initiatives, action plans will then be put in place to ensure that this change is achieved.

Completion of this work will draw from existing foresight work by industry bodies, and will require input from a range of experts, both from within the membership of the Strategic Forum for Construction and from the wider industry. Over the coming weeks Forum members will be inviting individuals and existing industry expert groups to contribute.

Chief Construction Advisor Peter Hansford, representatives from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the CBI were guests at the meeting, reflecting the desire for the *Industrial Strategy for Construction* to be co-created by Government and industry. The Forum looks forward to working closely with both CBI and the Government in the development of the strategy.

Strategic Forum for Construction chairman Bill Bolsover said: *"The industry has a unique chance to work collaboratively with Government to develop a real long-term vision for our sector, backed by hard commitments to ensure this vision is realised.*

"But it is essential that we set off on the right foot, establishing a comprehensive view of where we want to be. The Strategic Forum is keen to work with experts from across the industry to develop this vision, and will be moving forward quickly with this work over the coming months".

Notes to Editors:

The Strategic Forum for Construction is the only construction forum that seeks to represent the whole of the construction community. It comprises senior members of the constituent organisations. The Forum's activities are both proactive and reactive but at all times seek to work in partnership across the industry to achieve long term improvements. The membership of the Strategic Forum comprises:

- Construction Alliance
- Construction Clients Group
- Construction Industry Council
- Construction Products Association
- National Specialist Contractors' Council
- Specialist Engineering Contractors Group
- Trades Unions

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Alasdair Reisner

0207 340 0454

alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk