



STEMNET – support for the BIS Plan for Growth

In order to support the BIS Plan for Growth STEMNET will focus recruitment of new STEM Ambassadors on priority growth sectors: Life Sciences; Digital and Creative; and Advanced Manufacturing, with a particular emphasis on representation from SMEs. STEMNET ensures that the cohort of STEM Ambassadors is as diverse as possible and representative of the UK-wide picture for STEM careers and skills.

STEMNET will focus on increasing numbers of STEM Ambassadors from these sectors by approximately 10% per year. The STEM Ambassadors population is reviewed and analysed continually on a local, regional and national level to monitor progress towards targets.

STEMNET will be working towards meeting this target in part by establishing Memoranda of Understanding with key industry bodies. To support the Digital and Creative sector for example, STEMNET has a MoU with UKIE, the Association for UK Interactive Entertainment. This is also helping to meet a key recommendation from the Livingstone Hope Review to “Build a network of STEMNET and Teach First video games and visual effects Ambassadors.”

STEMNET will approach other sector organisations to target recruitment from priority sectors, for example, working with the Life Sciences Skills Strategy Board (Cogent SSC) and with SEMTA for Advanced Manufacturing.

STEMNET’s regional and local staff will be targeting the many SMEs in the priority sectors by building local relationships both directly and through employer organisations such as local Chambers of Commerce. Where local businesses are part of a national network or group, STEMNET nationally will seek to engage the UK-wide organisations with the programme.

Through increasing levels of STEM Ambassador engagement with schools, the profile of STEM will be raised and this will enable young people to understand the value placed on STEM skills by employers. Through focusing on recruitment of STEM Ambassadors from priority sectors, more young people will be exposed to inspiring role models encouraging them to continue study of STEM subjects and supporting them developing exciting careers in valuable industries.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/growth/the-plan-for-growth>

www.stemnet.org.uk