
Support our campaign to raise the profile 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 shortfall. By some estimates the UK needs 700,000 new recruits in the next decade, across industries and sectors.

The Campaign

Technicians make it happen

The Gatsby Charitable Foundation 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 their work is more highly valued and better understood by society at large. We believe that 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 employers of technicians to help us spread the Technicians Make it Happen (TMiH) message and to highlight the role of their technicians within their organisation.

What the campaign does

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

We do this in two ways:

1. By raising the profile of technicians and highlighting the important work they do across industries.
 2. By promoting the varied career paths to becoming a technician and so inspiring young people and other individuals with the relevant skills to consider pursuing this rewarding work.
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How you can help

This campaign was born out of industry's need to recruit and retain more highly skilled technicians. 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 feature on our website to inform and inspire future technicians
- Encourage technicians in your workforce to volunteer at TMiH events
- Write a blog or a feature piece about the importance of the campaign
- Promote the Technician Stories to your networks through email newsletters or social media
- Provide us with a quote about the importance of technicians to your organisation, sector and why you support the campaign
- Speak at a TMiH event or invite TMiH to attend or speak at your event
- Promote the awareness of the skills shortage at the technician level

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

Volunteering opportunities

TMiH travels around the country, attending leading STEM and careers fairs with a custom built stand. We do this to help raise the profile of technicians and educate the public about the vital work they do.

We believe that having technicians with us at events is essential, to be ambassadors for their profession and to inspire the next generation of technicians with their knowledge and expertise.

To do this we need your help.

Benefits

The events we attend are an invaluable opportunity for not only the TMiH campaign, but its supporters.

Should you encourage your technical employees to participate in TMiH public engagement activities, your organisation will get the chance to:

- Have organisational ambassadors at national events, representing your organisation's commitment to technical staff.
- Showcase your inspiring technicians and technical career paths. We encourage all our volunteers to wear company branded clothing and to bring along any appropriate promotional materials.
- Be represented on TMiH's social media channels for the duration of the event.
- Provide personal development opportunities to your staff, allowing them to develop their confidence and presentation skills.

Gatsby will pay for all volunteers' registration and membership fees to a relevant professional body for one full year.

Gatsby will also pay for all travel and expenses for volunteers attending the event.

We strongly discourage technicians from taking annual leave to volunteer at our events, and we hope that your organisation will recognise this volunteering as part of your technician's personal development training.

2019: Our biggest events

The Big Bang Fair: The UK's largest STEM education fair, the Big Bang sees around eighty thousand pupils, teachers and parents come together at the Birmingham NEC.

New Scientist Live: An award-winning festival of ideas and discoveries for everyone curious about science and why it matters. More than 140 speakers and 100 exhibitors come together under one roof at London's ExCeL centre.

World Skills UK Live: The nation's largest skills and careers event helping to shape the future of a new generation, by helping young people to go further, faster in their careers. Each year World Skills UK Live brings over seventy thousand people to the NEC in Birmingham.

We will also be attending a series of smaller regional fairs throughout the year. Our new aim is to have a TMiH activity within fifty miles of all secondary schools in England each year.

Where to begin

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

Email: makeithappen@technicians.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7410 7041

www.technicians.org.uk



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.