

ACE National Conference 2017 Connecting Markets – UK and the World

The UK has now voted to leave the European Union and much of the country's attention and focus, politically and economically, will be on that for the foreseeable future. It is imperative that we all work together to ensure the successful outcomes that the nation needs to continue to compete on the global stage and that the negative aspects of 'Brexit' are minimised.

This will mean that we must be sure what kind of 'Brexit' we wish to see, how we present ourselves as open for business to our economic partners, and how the engineering consultancy sector meets these challenges. These issues will be dealt with in the morning session of the 2017 ACE National Conference.

During the afternoon, delegates will choose between two streams, focussing on the important role that small and medium enterprises will play, and how member firms can make the most of new, international markets. Those attending will all the sessions will pick up vital knowledge and information that will stimulate and inspire, ensuring the UK is best placed to be a success in the years ahead.

8.15 – 8.45am

Registration

8.45 – 9.00am

Welcome address

Dr Nelson Ogunshakin OBE, ACE chief executive

9.00 – 10.00am

Session 1: What is the vision of Brexit we should be aiming for?

Keynote 1: Representative from BrExEU (15 mins)

Panel 1 (45 mins)

What is current government thinking on what Brexit will look like?

What will the process look like?

When will the UK officially leave the EU?

What are the best possible outcomes we can expect?

How do we achieve these outcomes?

10.00 – 10.30am

Coffee break

10.30 – 11.30am

Session 2: What critical infrastructure does the UK need?

Keynote 2: Representative from BEIS / NIC / IPA (15 mins)

Panel 2 (45 mins)

What will be the most important types of infrastructure?

How do we decide what is required?

11.30 – 12.30pm

Session 3: Ensuring engineering consultants meet the challenges?

Keynote 3: Expert commentator on the sector (15 mins)

Panel 3 (45 mins)

What skills will we need? How do we encourage their development?

How will we pay for the new infrastructure?

What kind of planning system will be required?

How can better engagement be encouraged between all involved?

12.30 – 1.30pm

Lunch

1.30 – 2.30pm

SME stream

Session 4a: Planning

Keynote 4a (15 mins)

Panel 4a (45 mins)

How do we improve engagement between large and SME consultancies during planning stage?

What can SMEs bring to projects of any size?

International stream

Session 4b: UKTI and government action

Keynote 4b (15 mins)

Panel 4b (45 mins)

Branding UK Plc post-Brexit

Opportunities of Brexit and the low pound

UKTI actions and involvement post-Brexit

Update on

2.30 – 3.30pm

Session 5a: Procurement

Keynote 5a (15 mins)

Panel 5a (45 mins)

How can better collaboration between large and SME consultancies be encouraged in the procurement process? JVs, Alliancing, etc?

How can better understanding be imparted on value that engineering consultants can bring to projects? Value for money? Fees?

Session 5b: Brexit and emerging markets

Keynote 5b (15 mins)

Panel 5b (45 mins)

Analyst's view

Market updates: Americas, Asia-Pac, Africa, China

Commonwealth opportunities

3.30 – 4.00pm

Coffee break

4.00 – 5.00pm

Session 6a: Delivery

Keynote 6a (15 mins)

Panel 6a (45 mins)

What techniques can SMEs bring, adopt to enable better delivery?

What does the business of the future look like?

How are lessons learnt from projects, best practice shared?

Session 6b: Skills and professional development

Keynote 6b (15 mins)

Panel 6b (45 mins)

Exporting skills from the UK

Employment of skilled labour from outside the UK

Effect of HE restrictions on foreign students

Attractiveness of industry in post-Brexit world

5.00 – 5.15pm

Closing address