

Industry 4.0: Unpacking the Skills Challenges

IBSA Manufacturing Conference Survey Results



Executive summary

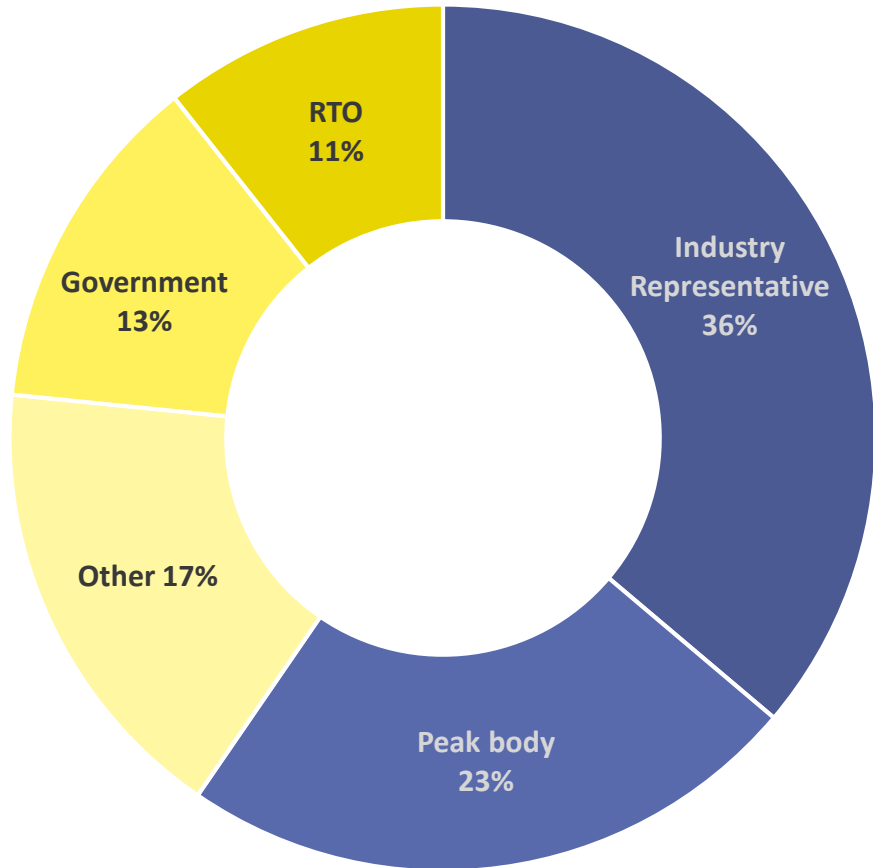
IBSA Manufacturing's *Industry 4.0 Conference: Unpacking the Skills Challenges* was attended by 100 delegates from manufacturing and related sectors, Federal and State government representatives along with leading education providers.

A survey of attendees found that:

- *88% stated that the challenge of technology in their industry was significant or very significant*
- *72% said the VET sector was not meeting the need for skilled workers to tackle these technological challenges*
- *A third of people's views changed regarding the importance of technology*
- *Key takeaways included the need for collaboration and to better understand Industry 4.0 along with its related skills challenges*



Survey respondents



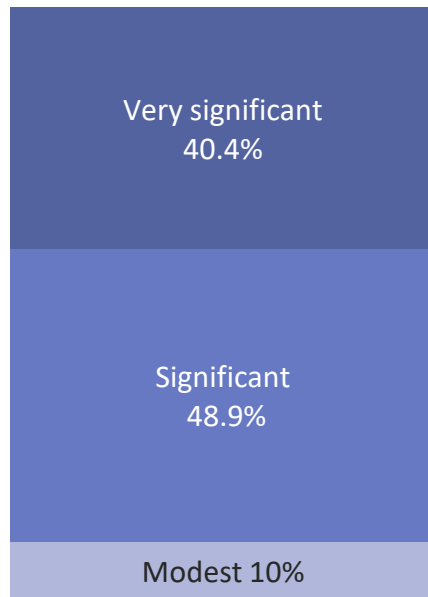
Half were industry representatives or members of industry peak bodies...

... the Furnishing industry had the highest number of individual sector respondents

Challenge of technology

Two-thirds (62%) noted challenges relating to: Workforce development and getting the specific skills needed

89% said the challenge was significant / very significant

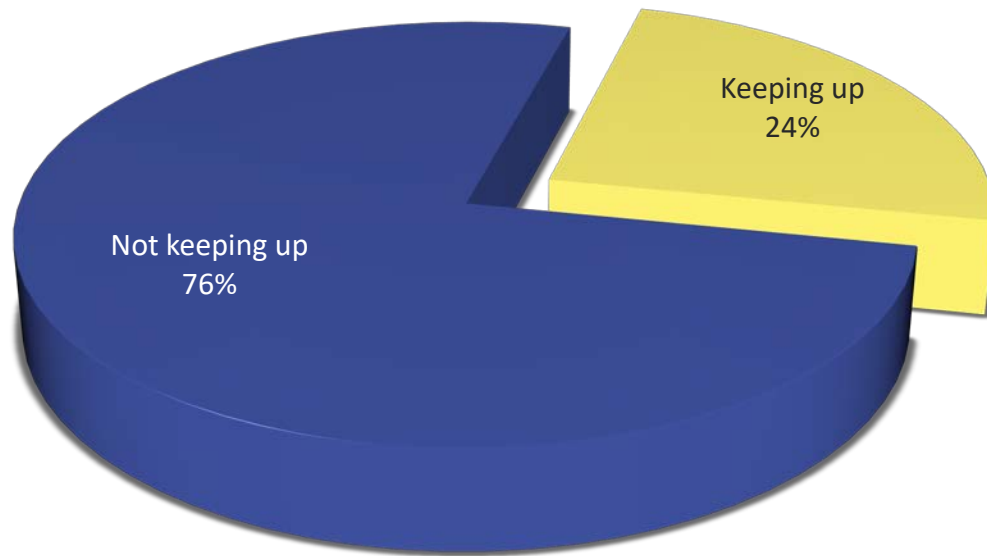


“Developing the skills of the workforce to underpin the successful deployment of new technology”

“People not being trained in some of the emerging technologies”

VET Sector is not keeping up

76% of respondents said the VET sector was NOT keeping up with changing technology



“Often VET prepares workers for current work roles with little capacity to adapt to changes, especially when they are rapidly occurring”

“There is not much awareness of technological impacts in the development of training packages”

Lessons learnt from the conference

The three most valuable lessons learnt were:

Need for collaboration in addressing the challenges of digitalisation

There is no consistent definition for Industry 4.0

Consequent skills challenges that are created by Industry 4.0



The conference changed people views

The presentations and discussions shaped participants' thinking:

One third of people had their views changed around the impact technology is going to have

The conference also reaffirmed the views of others regarding the importance of technology

Many participants commented on the heightened need to respond to technology changes



What should the priority be for the VET sector?

The two common themes were:

Importance of collaboration and partnerships

“Look at opportunities for engagement and collaborative projects like the embedding of digital technology skills in all Training Packages”

Need for the VET system to be more responsive

“The VET sector needs to become more flexible and responsive to the rapidly changing needs of industry”



Conclusion

The conference provided an opportunity for industry, government and SSO representatives to engage on the topic of Industry 4.0

Key takeaways included:

- *More clarity needed on how best to define Industry 4.0*
- *A considerable amount of work is required to cohesively respond to technology challenges*
- *VET system is challenged by the pace of technological change*
- *Collaboration and partnerships with industry are paramount*

Read the
***Preparing for Industry
4.0 – will digital skills
be enough?***
Research report

