

Mitsubishi Electric UK calls on automotive manufacturers to improve energy efficiency following SMMT warning

Hatfield, UK – July 2026

Mitsubishi Electric UK is calling on the automotive industry to take proactive steps to improve energy efficiency if it is to remain competitive in the face of rising operational costs.

The call follows a warning from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) that urgent action is needed to safeguard the future of the UK's automotive sector, with rising energy and business costs among the biggest barriers to



growth and investment. According to the SMMT's latest State of the Automotive Nation [report](#), seven in 10 automotive business leaders believe cutting energy costs would have the most positive impact on their business.

While manufacturers have little influence over external factors such as energy prices and wider economic uncertainty, improving energy efficiency is one area where businesses can take greater control. Reviewing how energy is consumed across production facilities, identifying inefficiencies and investing in targeted improvements can help reduce operational costs while strengthening long-term resilience.

For many manufacturers, the greatest opportunities lie not in a single solution, but in taking a more strategic approach to energy management. Incremental improvements across a facility can deliver meaningful savings over time while supporting productivity and future investment.

[Richard Lawton](#), Vertical Account Manager at Mitsubishi Electric Automation Systems Division UK, believes manufacturers should view energy efficiency as a strategic business priority rather than simply a cost-saving exercise.

Richard said: “The SMMT's findings highlight just how much pressure automotive manufacturers are under, but they also point to an area where businesses can take meaningful action. While organisations can't control the price of energy, they can control how efficiently it's used across their operations.

"Energy efficiency isn't simply about reducing costs. It's about building more resilient, competitive manufacturing facilities that are better equipped to respond to future challenges. The businesses that act now will be in a stronger position for the future, like improving visibility of energy use, replacing older equipment or taking a more strategic approach to energy management.

As manufacturers continue to invest in electrification and more advanced production technologies, understanding how energy is used across a facility is becoming increasingly important. Greater visibility of energy consumption can help businesses identify inefficiencies, prioritise investment and improve overall operational performance.

Incremental improvements such as upgrading ageing equipment, introducing smarter monitoring systems and embedding energy management into day-to-day operations, can deliver significant long-term benefits. At a time when manufacturers are under increasing pressure to improve competitiveness, taking a strategic approach to energy efficiency can help reduce costs while supporting future growth and resilience.

Richard added: “Improving energy efficiency is a journey rather than a single project. By taking a strategic approach and working with experienced partners, manufacturers can identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption while supporting productivity and future investment. We're always happy to speak to businesses about the challenges they're facing and explore where practical improvements can be made.”

For more information, please visit: <https://gb-fa.mitsubishielectric.com/fa/>

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Guided by its [corporate philosophy](#), Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (TOKYO: 6503) places sustainability at the core of its operations and values stakeholder trust—encompassing society, customers, shareholders and employees. In pursuing profitability, capital efficiency and growth, Mitsubishi Electric works closely alongside customers to develop value-added solutions that address today's complex challenges while enhancing the company's sustainable corporate value.

Founded in 1921, Mitsubishi Electric has over a century of experience in delivering reliable, high-

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Mitsubishi Electric recorded consolidated revenue of 5,894.7 billion yen (U.S.\$ 36.8 billion*) in the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2026. For more information, please visit www.MitsubishiElectric.com

*JPY 160=USD 1, the approximate rate on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market on March 31, 2026

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Offering a vast range of automation and processing technologies, including controllers, drive products, power distribution and control products, electrical discharge machines, electron beam machines, laser processing machines, computerised numerical controllers, and industrial robots, Mitsubishi Electric helps bring higher productivity – and quality – to the factory floor. In addition, its extensive service networks around the globe provide direct communication and comprehensive support to customers. The global slogan "Automating the World" shows the company's approach to leveraging automation for the betterment of society, through the application of advanced technology, sharing know-how, and supporting customers as a trusted partner.

For more about the story behind “Automating the World” please visit:

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Factory Automation EMEA

Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., Factory Automation EMEA has its European headquarters in Ratingen near Dusseldorf, Germany. It is a part of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V. which has been represented in Germany since 1978, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan. The role of Factory Automation EMEA is to manage sales, service, and support across its network of local branches and distributors throughout the EMEA region.

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