



IBSA Manufacturing SSO



Digital Skills Cross Sector Project Update

Focusing on:

- Digital literacy skills
- Additive manufacturing (3D printing) skills
- Programming/coding skills

September 2017

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Digital Skills

Focusing on: Digital literacy skills, Additive manufacturing (3D printing) skills, and Programming/coding skills.

As the Australian economy, and the broader global economy, are being impacted by a range of economic and social forces – work is changing in profound ways and with it the skills workers require. To ensure the Australian Vocational Education and Training (VET) system can deliver the skills Australian businesses need as they respond to and look to benefit from these changes; the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) has commissioned a number of cross industry projects. These projects will investigate the ways in which jobs and skills are changing to meet these shifting cross sectoral skill requirements.

IBSA Manufacturing is tasked with leading one of these cross sector projects. Initially the project scope was focused on examining whether coding/programming skills are included in Training Packages, and to determine the scope and scale of change required to ensure the ongoing relevance of existing training products for a rapidly changing workplace. At the first meeting of the Project Reference Group – it was unanimously agreed that there were broader digital changes occurring in the workplace (and associated changes to the skills required by workers) that went beyond coding skills. After reviewing the four-year workplans and skills forecasts developed by a range of Industry Reference Committees, a broader scope for the project was agreed. It will be further refined through consultations and research undertaken as part of the project – but *initially* the project will focus on the following skills:

1. **Digital literacy skills** – arising from the digital augmentation occurring in many industries. The Aerospace; Manufacturing and Engineering; Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Refining; and the Laboratory Operations workplans all identify a need for people with the technical skills to “analyse and respond to data provided by the machines in their workplace”. Some of the workplans refer to these skills as digital literacy.
2. **Additive manufacturing (3D printing) skills** – the need for these skills is specifically mentioned in the Manufacturing and Engineering; Laboratory Operations; and the Printing and Graphic Arts workplans.
3. **Programming/coding skills** – the impact of technological change in the workplace and the subsequent need for digital programming skills is identified in the Aerospace; Manufacturing and Engineering; Plastics, Rubber and Cablemaking; Printing and Graphic Arts; Textiles, Clothing and Footwear workplans.

How can you be involved?

Consultations are continuing throughout September and October and the project also has a concurrent research phase. We welcome your participation in the consultations and any advice you have on research related to these and related digital skills.

Please contact Claire Field (0411 240 671) or claire@clairefield.com.au to arrange to be part of the consultations or to provide any research insights you think would be of value to the project.