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## Supporting SMEs And Strengthening Connections: Why Industry Partners Are Shaping ICS

As the composites industry continues to evolve, the role of SMEs remains critical. They are the backbone of the supply chain, driving innovation, supporting manufacturing, and enabling growth across sectors.

Yet for many smaller organisations, the challenge is not capability, but access.

Access to knowledge. Access to networks. Access to the right support at the right time.

### **Bridging The Gap Between Capability and Resource**

Across the industry, SMEs face increasing complexity.

From regulatory requirements and environmental reporting to recruitment, training, and business development, the demands on smaller organisations continue to grow. Unlike larger corporations, many SMEs operate with limited internal resources, making it difficult to navigate these challenges effectively.

This is where industry collaboration becomes essential.

### **A Platform Shaped by Industry Need**

At ICS, partners are actively shaping how the event supports the wider ecosystem.

One area of focus is improving access to practical support for SMEs, ensuring that businesses can not only learn from industry discussions but also connect directly with the expertise and services they need to move forward.

This includes exploring new approaches such as:

- Facilitated matchmaking between SMEs and specialist service providers.
- Opportunities to connect with experts in areas such as recruitment, sustainability, and compliance.
- Greater visibility of support networks, including industry bodies and training pathways.

### **Moving Beyond Conversation**



While workshops and presentations remain important, there is growing recognition that information alone is not always enough.

Businesses need:

- Direct connections to trusted partners.
- Practical support that can be implemented quickly.
- Ongoing engagement beyond the event itself.

ICS is evolving to meet this need, creating an environment where connections lead to action.

### **Strengthening The Industry Together**

The UK composites sector relies heavily on its SME community. Ensuring these businesses have access to the right support, networks, and opportunities is essential for long-term growth.

By working closely with industry partners and responding to real-world challenges, ICS is positioning itself as more than an event. It is becoming a platform that actively supports industry development.

As the 2026 summit approaches, organisations are being encouraged to consider not only how they participate, but how they contribute.

Because strengthening the composites industry requires more than innovation. It requires connection, collaboration, and a shared commitment to growth.