



Manifesto

Summer 2024

About Actuate UK

Actuate UK is an alliance representing the multi-billion-pound UK engineering services sector. It works with government and the industry, its clients and other stakeholders to deliver a common goal: a safer, more functional and efficient, and sustainable built environment.

Actuate UK brings together six leading industry and professional bodies from across the sector:

- The Building Engineering Services Association (BESA)
- The Building Services Research and Information Association (BSRIA)
- The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)
- ECA – Excellence in Electrical and Engineering Services/Fire and Security Association (FSA)
- The Federation of Environmental Trade Associations (FETA)
- The Lift and Escalator Industry Association (LEIA)

The reach, and impact, of UK engineering services is beyond the sum of its parts. Actuate UK brings together the considerable experience and expertise of its members to pursue positive change and positive outcomes. The alliance speaks with a single, trusted and unified voice for the sector.

Actuate UK:

- delivers one expert and trusted voice on behalf of UK engineering services
- provides the industry with thought leadership, technical and commercial expertise, and guidance
- works closely with industry partners, policy makers and other stakeholders, across the UK.

Actuate UK actively supports national initiatives such as the CLC's ConstructZero and Vision, the Mission Zero Coalition, the Domestic Retrofit Strategies, the Building Safety Act, the CICV Forum in Scotland, the Welsh Ministerial Construction Forum & Northern Ireland's Procurement Board.

Actuate (definitions):

1. *cause to act in a particular way; to motivate*
2. *cause (an electro-mechanical machine or device) to operate*



40%

Across the UK, engineering services activity accounts for 40% of UK construction by value

Actuate UK represents the multi-billion pound engineering services sector comprising more than 60,000 firms



60,000

The name *Actuate UK* underlines the action-orientated approach of the alliance to **enabling sustained and positive change:**

- in the industry in which the sector operates – and beyond; and
- to help deliver safer, more productive and more sustainable buildings and infrastructure.

350,000

Over 350,000 skilled professionals, employees and contractors are represented by Actuate UK



80%

Engineering services activity accounts for 80% of the operational cost of built assets in the UK



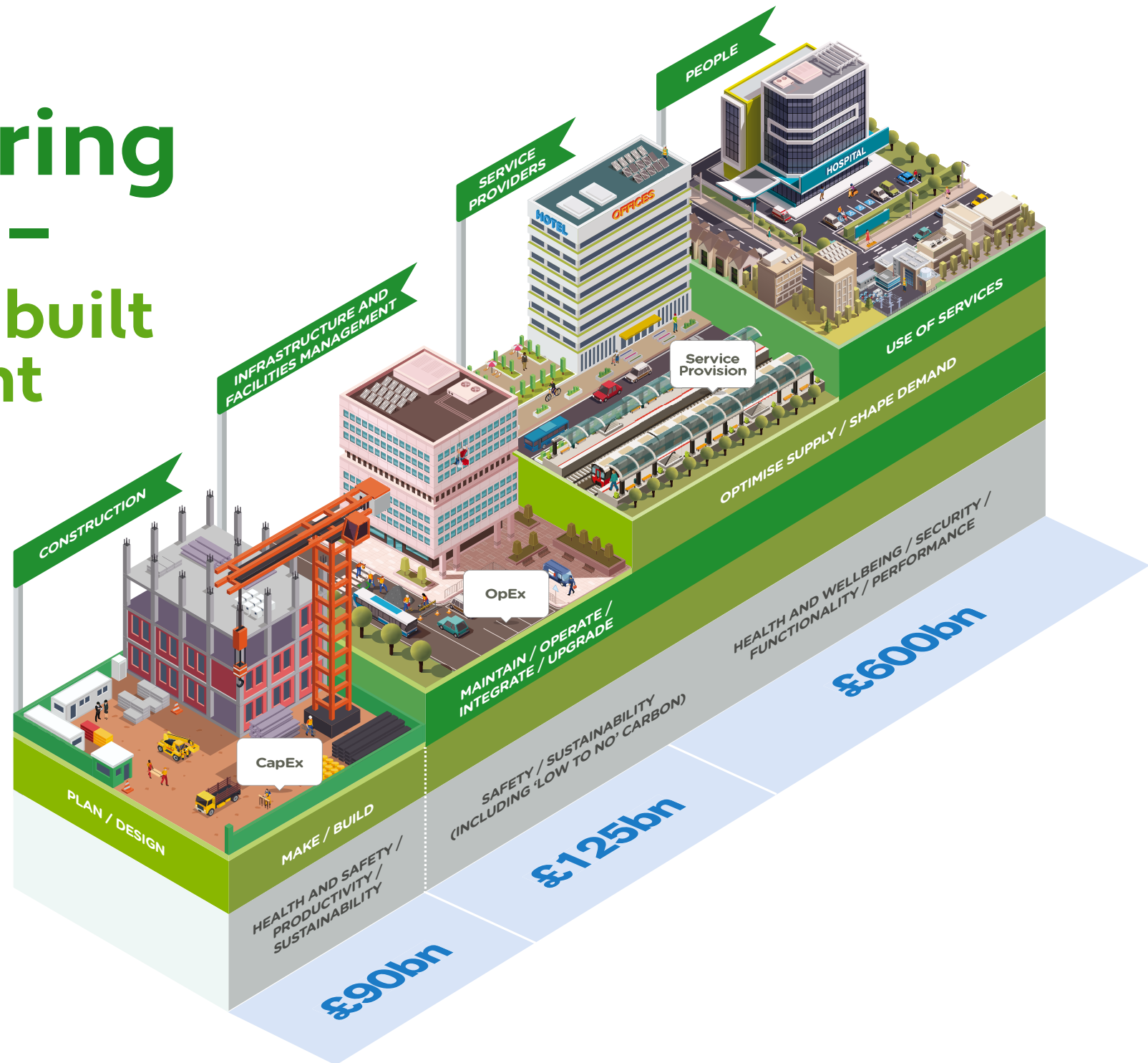
About the UK engineering services sector

Engineering services bring the UK built environment to life. The sector delivers design, construction and services for buildings and infrastructure that contributes £125 billion to UK GDP annually and enables £600 billion of GDP in the wider economy.

This multi-billion pound sector is vital:

- to the successful design, construction, and ongoing management of the UK's:
 - commercial, industrial, public sector and other premises;
- infrastructure – such as utilities, communications and transport, and domestic premises.
- to ensure that the UK's built assets are:
 - safe
 - secure
 - sustainable
 - able to deliver future-proofing and whole-life performance, and occupant wellbeing and productivity.

Engineering services – Vital to the built environment



The engineering services sector is vital to the whole-life performance of UK buildings and infrastructure, and to the UK economy.

Figures show typical contribution to GDP and exclude UK infrastructure mega-projects

Actuate UK – representational activity

Actuate UK's initial focus is on four essential areas for the sector and the wider economy, society and environment:

1. Business environment
2. Building Safety Act implementation
3. Skills for tomorrow's built environment
4. The drive to UK net zero carbon.

Business environment

Actuate UK will bring together all those who maintain, upgrade and operate engineering services – to develop the business models, choices and behaviours that will deliver project success and whole-life value. This includes working together on how the industry procures and shares not only information but also risk and reward, to enable productivity and whole-life value.

Overall objectives:

- Support and promote whole-life value-led procurement to encourage growth within a life-cycle approach to the built environment
- Improve payment performance to protect

the supply chain and cultivate a sustainable engineering services sector capable of delivering the requirements of both construction and facilities management

- To encourage adoption of innovative safeguards within the commercial delivery processes of the engineering services sector
- Support industry-facing business challenges, such as product availability testing and marking.

Through our member bodies, we actively support the work of CLC, CICV Forum's Industry Plan and participation in the Conflict Avoidance Pledge, Welsh Ministerial Construction Forum, the Social

Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act, Northern Ireland's Sourcing & Contracting Toolkit, Constructing Excellence's Project Bank Account guidance, the IPI/IBA procurement model, the Common Assessment Standard, the Prompt Payment Code and the UK Government's Construction Playbook.

Building Safety Act implementation

Engineering services are vital to achieving safety and quality in higher risk and other buildings. Actuate UK's 'positive change' agenda supports radical change. We welcome the UK Government's commitment to a major reform of the legal framework for building construction and operation, focusing on structural and fire safety.

The Building Safety Act will drive radical changes in England – with clear implications for the rest of the UK. Actuate UK provides expert input, competencies and industry

advice that supports a step change in building safety throughout the UK.

Overall objectives

- Ensure that the positive role of engineering services is properly considered in the development of the new building safety regime, working with the Building Safety Regulator and looking into the new roles of Principal Designer, Principal Contractor and Building Safety Manager
- Provide active support to governments, regulators and key stakeholders on engineering services-related building safety, and on the

interaction between engineering services, safe products, healthy indoor environments and wider construction and maintenance activity

- Maximise the positive impact of the engineering services sector in the delivery of building safety, including fire safety and safe indoor environments
- Ensure that engineering services delivers the aims of the Golden Thread of building information.

Skills

The availability of sufficient engineering services skills is vital to our sector and its ability to deliver on policy objectives. Working with others as part of EBSSA (Engineering & Building Services Skills Authority), we will act to support recruitment and retention, champion competency and the professionalism of building services engineers, and develop and ensure clear career pathways and opportunity mapping across our sector.

We will also ensure robust assessor models to increase provision, simplify the model of engagement with building service engineers, identify specialisms where there is skills crossover and enshrine distance learning as a recognised delivery option.

Overall objectives:

- Net zero skills development: develop and support training for individuals and employers, covering upskill, reskill and new entrants. Encourage new and diverse entrants into the sector using clear, targeted campaigns
- Develop the skills and capacity needed to design and install engineering solutions, including digital and integrated systems, and ensure there is a pipeline of talent through apprenticeships across the UK to meet the needs of the future industry
- Provide reliable Labour Market Intelligence for our sector

- Set requirements for competence and compliance.

Actuate UK will look to support and enable the successful implementation of government skills and associated net zero strategies across the UK and its devolved nations.

The drive to UK net zero carbon

Engineering services are a vital component of the UK's drive towards net zero carbon, in addition to enabling productivity and wellbeing across the built environment.

Actuate UK will focus on whole-life carbon performance, and on the provision of efficient heating and cooling, improved indoor air quality, and a fast vehicle charging infrastructure.

Overall objectives:

- Achieve net zero targets in new and existing buildings. Maximise the contribution of engineering services to carbon reduction strategies in public sector, commercial and

industrial premises

- Support changes to more sustainable practices by increasing stakeholder understanding of whole-life engineering services carbon impacts: “standards, quality, education”
- Promote low carbon technologies across the board and work with government, asset operators and industry partners to achieve UK net zero carbon targets.

Actuate UK actively supports key industry initiatives such as the Construction Leadership Council's ConstructZero, the National Retrofit

Strategy and the electric vehicles roll-out strategy. We support the Mission Zero Report recommendations & contribute to the Mission Zero Coalition.

Actuate UK calls on decision makers to listen to the professionals whose skills turn their vision and targets into a practical reality for everyone. Our industries bridge the gap across products, installation process and practical end use.



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