



All Assembly Members

16 October 2017

Dear Member,

I am pleased to invite you to a “Be The Spark” Reception for Assembly Members on **Wednesday 15th November at 6 pm**, immediately following Plenary in Conference Rooms C&D in Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay.

The reception will be an opportunity for Members to learn more about the aspirations of Be The Spark, meet with the REAP Champions and understand how everyone can “play your part” www.bethespark.wales

Over the last two years, Wales has been working with MIT and seven global partners on a Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Programme (REAP) to stimulate our entrepreneurial ecosystem. Fundamental to REAP is the engagement with five major stakeholder groups: **government, corporate, academia, risk capital, and the entrepreneurial community** to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

Under the Chairmanship of Simon Gibson, CEO Wesley Clover, a team of multi-disciplinary Champions have been driving REAP forward leading to the Be The Spark approach. The Champions are senior representatives from each stakeholder group <https://bethespark.wales/meet-the-team>

They are seeking to position innovation driven entrepreneurship as a national imperative for all stakeholders to create a movement that supports more home grown profitable companies creating wealth. Key principles are **simplicity, visibility and connectivity**. At the launch event on 28 June 2017, 300 leaders representing the five stakeholder groups came together to encourage linkage across their networks and spheres of influence with more than 230 pledges made to drive success.

Through Be The Spark we have a unique opportunity to embed a culture, owned and delivered by us all. To achieve this, we need to harness the collective expertise and influence of everyone so that we can translate this powerful vision in to tangible action fit for today, tomorrow and for future generations.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

This is the start of an exciting journey for Wales and we look forward to welcoming you on 15 November Wales, to Be The Spark.

Please could you respond to Ashley Davies Ashley.Davies41@gov.wales by 27 October to confirm your attendance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', written in a cursive style.

Ken Skates AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure



BE THE SPARK

Igniting Innovation Driven Entrepreneurship
across Wales

15th November 2017 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Conference Rooms C&D, Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay

BE THE SPARK – Creating a National Imperative

6.00pm Welcome - BE THE SPARK

6.05pm Opening Address – Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Infrastructure

6.15pm A National Imperative – Simon Gibson, BE THE SPARK Panel Chair

6.25pm Message from Bill Aulet, MIT & Author of Disciplined Entrepreneurship

6.30pm Q&A

6.45pm Call to Action – BE THE SPARK – Make a pledge

6.50pm Reception & Networking

7:30pm Close