



RESPONSE TO 'INVEST 2035 - THE UK'S MODERN INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY'



MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE ALUMINIUM SECTOR

ALFED
ALUMINIUM FEDERATION

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INTRODUCTION

This positioning document outlines the Aluminium Federation's (ALFED) analysis of the UK's Invest 2035 Industrial Strategy and highlights the alignment with the needs of the UK aluminium sector. It draws from the UK Aluminium Manifesto and provides actionable recommendations for areas that require further attention.

The Aluminium sector, a vital component of the UK's manufacturing landscape, requires a supportive industrial strategy to drive growth, sustainability, and innovation.

Summary of Alignment and Key Needs

The new Invest 2035 strategy establishes a framework aimed at sustainable economic growth, with a focus on investment, high-quality jobs, and regional development. This aligns with ALFED's vision for a robust and resilient aluminium industry that contributes significantly to the UK's Gross Value Added (GVA) and supports the transition to Net Zero.

However, more work is needed in specific areas, particularly regarding investment in clean energy, skills development, and regional support for aluminium-intensive manufacturing clusters.

Foundations for a Successful Industrial Strategy

ALFED's ideal industrial strategy emphasises:

1. Long-term Vision and Stability: Policies that extend beyond political cycles to provide sustained support for the aluminium industry.
2. Investment in Skills and Innovation: Programs that develop a workforce equipped with the skills needed for a modern, digital, and green economy.
3. Focus on Clean Energy and Net Zero: Investments in green energy solutions and technologies that reduce the aluminium sector's environmental impact.
4. Support for Regional Growth: Recognition of aluminium manufacturing clusters and targeted support for regional aluminium hubs.

SUPPORT FOR STRATEGY

As the unified voice of the UK aluminium industry, ALFED welcomes the release of the UK Government's "Invest 2035: The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy."

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Clean Energy Transition and Net Zero

The Invest 2035 strategy's emphasis on Clean Energy Industries is promising, yet ALFED advocates for more specific investments and support mechanisms tailored to the aluminium sector:

- Recommendation: Prioritise investments in renewable energy sources to support energy-intensive industries like aluminium. ALFED members could significantly benefit from dedicated clean energy subsidies, as highlighted in the UK Aluminium Manifesto, which urges for support in renewable energy sources and the electrification of industrial processes.
- Evidence: Aluminium production is heavily reliant on energy, making it a significant contributor to emissions. ALFED members are actively seeking pathways to reduce their carbon footprint yet face barriers due to high costs associated with clean energy infrastructure. The industry needs specific commitments to fund and support renewable energy integration.

2. Skills Development and Workforce Enhancement

The UK manufacturing sector, including aluminium, faces a skills shortage, particularly in advanced digital and green technologies. ALFED supports the strategy's focus on skills development but stresses the importance of industry-specific training.

- Recommendation: Develop aluminium-specific training programs that align with Skills England initiatives to ensure a pipeline of skilled workers ready to support a digitalised and decarbonised aluminium sector. Programs should include apprenticeships and reskilling opportunities focused on sustainable manufacturing processes.
- Evidence: ALFED's consultations reveal that 61,000 vacancies remain unfilled in manufacturing, costing the sector an estimated £6 billion annually. Enhanced skills training will enable the aluminium industry to meet future demands, supporting technological advancements in digitalisation and energy efficiency.

3. Regional Development and Support for Aluminium Clusters

The strategy emphasises regional growth, with a focus on maximising productivity and supporting strategic industrial sites. ALFED advocates for targeted support to aluminium manufacturing hubs, particularly in regions with existing infrastructure.

- Recommendation: Allocate funds to develop and expand aluminium production hubs in areas such as the Midlands and the North East, regions with strong aluminium manufacturing clusters. Regional support should include grants for upgrading facilities and incentives for businesses to adopt advanced manufacturing techniques.
- Evidence: Research from the Fraser of Allander Institute highlights the sector's economic impact, with aluminium contributing significantly to regional GVA. With appropriate support, these clusters can enhance their global competitiveness while boosting local economies.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Investment and Innovation in Aluminium Recycling and Circular Economy

Sustainable growth in aluminium relies on robust recycling systems and circular economy practices, both of which align with the Invest 2035 strategy's clean growth objectives.

- Recommendation: Expand financial support for aluminium recycling initiatives and infrastructure that promotes the circular economy. ALFED also advocates for research funding into innovative recycling technologies and processes that can reduce waste and improve the sector's sustainability.
- Evidence: The UK Aluminium Manifesto highlights the importance of recycling, noting that aluminium can be recycled indefinitely without losing quality. Enhanced recycling infrastructure will support the sector's sustainability goals and align with national Net Zero ambitions.

5. Alignment with Economic Security and Resilience

ALFED recognises the need for a resilient industrial sector, particularly considering recent geopolitical events that have disrupted global supply chains. The aluminium industry is integral to national security, supplying critical materials for sectors such as automotive, aerospace, and defence.

- Recommendation: Include aluminium as a strategic sector within the national security and resilience framework. Provide funding for research and development to ensure that the UK can produce and process aluminium domestically to mitigate risks associated with supply chain disruptions.
- Evidence: The importance of a stable aluminium supply chain is underscored by recent supply chain disruptions and the growing demand for aluminium in green technologies, including electric vehicles and renewable energy infrastructure.

ALFED'S CONSULTATIVE FEEDBACK AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

As part of the consultation process, ALFED will advocate for the following key areas, urging members to submit their own perspectives on:

1. **Enhanced Clean Energy Support:** Emphasise the need for targeted clean energy investments specifically for aluminium producers.
2. **Security of Supply Chains:** Recommend that aluminium is designated a critical material, with associated funding and policy support to ensure secure supply lines and mitigate geopolitical risks.
3. **Focused Skills Programs:** Call for aluminium-specific skills training within Skills England to address shortages in the workforce and support upskilling in digital and green technologies.
4. **Strengthened Regional Policy:** Encourage policies that bolster aluminium clusters, providing infrastructure support and funding for regional hubs.
5. **Commitment to Recycling and Circular Economy:** Advocate for increased funding for recycling initiatives and the development of circular economy practices that align with national sustainability goals.

The Invest 2035 strategy presents a solid foundation for the aluminium sector's growth and sustainability. However, ALFED asserts that tailored support for clean energy, skills, regional development, and resilience are essential to maximise the sector's contributions to the UK economy.

By addressing these areas, the industrial strategy can effectively support the aluminium industry's transformation, aligning with ALFED's vision for a prosperous and sustainable future.

PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE ALUMINIUM SECTOR

To support the Invest 2035 Strategy, ALFED proposes to work with the UK government on key areas that impact aluminium production, processing, and recycling. Each priority area outlined below responds to specific questions posed in the consultation and details actions ALFED and its members are prepared to undertake in alignment with government goals.

1. Sectoral Focus and Identifying Growth-Driving Sub-Sectors

Subsectors and Technologies for Government Focus

The aluminium industry has evolved into a core part of the UK's advanced manufacturing landscape. ALFED recommends prioritising sub-sectors that enable lightweighting, recycling, and low-carbon solutions, including the automotive, aerospace, and construction sectors. Each sector embodies high-value manufacturing capabilities and strong potential for productivity growth. Additionally, advancements in recycling and remelting technologies within the aluminium industry are crucial, enabling more efficient use of energy and resources, which are vital for the UK's transition to a circular economy.

UK Strengths and Capabilities in Aluminium

The UK's aluminium sector already demonstrates strong capabilities in recycling and innovative alloy developments that support the manufacture of energy-efficient products, particularly in transport. By leveraging these strengths and addressing key challenges, the sector can become a flagship for sustainable industrial activity.

2. Skills and Workforce Development for Industrial Competitiveness

Addressing Skills Gaps

A lack of skilled workers remains a major barrier to growth in aluminium manufacturing and processing. ALFED's members report that shortages in engineering, metallurgy, and technology-adoption skills directly impact productivity. ALFED recommends further support for STEM education programs and incentives for industry-led training initiatives, ensuring the workforce is equipped for digital and low-carbon transitions.

Enabling Policies for Skills Investment

To facilitate employer investment in training, ALFED encourages government policies that include tax incentives or co-funded programs for upskilling in technical areas. The government could also consider adopting international best practices, such as apprenticeship models that combine industry-specific technical skills with green technology training.

PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE ALUMINIUM SECTOR

3. Trade and International Collaboration

Supporting Aluminium's Role in Global Supply Chains

As a vital component in transport, construction, and consumer goods, aluminium is essential for global supply chains. ALFED encourages the government to strengthen bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to enhance the competitiveness of UK aluminium. Additionally, active collaboration on regulatory alignment with the EU and other trade partners would streamline cross-border trade, facilitating a smoother flow of goods.

4. Investment in Infrastructure and Decarbonisation Efforts

Infrastructure as a Catalyst for Growth

ALFED supports infrastructure investments that enhance energy grid connectivity and promote electrification across aluminium facilities. Reliable, low-cost energy is fundamental for the aluminium industry's competitiveness, particularly as companies strive to reduce their carbon footprint. The government's efforts to strengthen infrastructure resilience, as outlined in Invest 2035, will facilitate the aluminium industry's contributions to a sustainable industrial base.

International Best Practices for Industrial Electrification

Adopting competitive power purchasing agreements (PPAs) and incentivising on-site renewable generation would enable aluminium producers to mitigate energy costs while achieving emissions targets. ALFED proposes establishing a framework for UK-based PPAs to ensure stable, long-term energy supply for manufacturers, particularly within energy-intensive industries.

5. Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Support for Technology Adoption

Barriers to RDI and Commercialisation

The aluminium sector needs sustained RDI support to address energy intensity, improve recyclability, and reduce emissions. Current challenges include the high cost of R&D and limited access to government incentives. ALFED proposes developing public-private partnerships to fund innovation in aluminium recycling, carbon capture, and remanufacturing technologies, which can enhance circularity and decarbonise the sector.

Policy Recommendations for Technology Diffusion

The UK can accelerate technology adoption in aluminium manufacturing by creating sector-focused digitalisation funds or grants to implement Industry 4.0 technologies. ALFED also advocates for cross-sector partnerships to integrate advanced manufacturing technologies and pilot programs that test emerging technologies in operational environments.

6. Regional Economic Development

Fostering Regional Hubs for Aluminium Processing and Recycling

To ensure even economic growth across the UK, ALFED advocates for regional development initiatives that support recycling and remelting facilities. These hubs could create skilled jobs and attract investment to underserved regions, reinforcing the government's commitment to regional economic revitalisation.

PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE ALUMINIUM SECTOR

Next Steps

ALFED's vision aligns with the Invest 2035 Strategy's focus on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth. By addressing skills shortages, incentivising RDI, and supporting infrastructure and trade, the UK aluminium sector can thrive and reinforce the national industrial strategy's goals.

ALFED stands ready to support its members and calls upon them to submit responses to the consultation, providing valuable insights into how the aluminium industry can drive economic growth and sustainability in the UK. Through these collaborative efforts, ALFED aims to secure a robust future for the aluminium sector, enhancing its contribution to the UK economy and society.



SUBMIT YOUR
RESPONSE

ALFED stands ready to support its members and calls upon them to submit responses to the consultation

PROPOSED RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

ALFED has carefully reviewed and responded to each question in the Invest 2035 Consultation. These proposed responses reflect the collective input of ALFED member companies, emphasising the critical needs and contributions of the UK aluminium manufacturing and processing sector and aligning with ALFED's mission to champion innovation, sustainability, and sector-wide growth.

Sector Methodology

Q1. How should the UK government identify the most important subsectors for delivering our objectives?

The government should prioritise subsectors based on their environmental impact, contribution to job creation, and alignment with net-zero objectives. In the aluminium industry, subsectors such as recycling, remanufacturing, and low-carbon aluminium production are pivotal. They contribute to sustainable practices, support clean energy goals, and generate high-value jobs, especially in regions with traditional manufacturing bases. ALFED's recent UK Aluminium Manifesto highlights the aluminium industry's strategic role in energy transition and the circular economy, showcasing its alignment with long-term national objectives.

Q2. How should the UK government account for emerging sectors and technologies for which conventional data sources are less appropriate?

For emerging sectors, the UK government should adopt dynamic evaluation metrics that reflect technological innovation and environmental gains. For example, aluminium recycling and low-energy remelting are relatively new areas with high-impact potential in decarbonisation. Non-traditional data sources like industry reports (e.g., ALFED's publications) and collaborations with academic research institutions can offer insight into these sectors' economic and environmental value, addressing gaps left by conventional metrics.

Q3. How should the UK government incorporate foundational sectors and value chains into this analysis?

The government should treat foundational sectors, like aluminium, as critical to the UK's overall industrial resilience. Incorporating aluminium into the Industrial Strategy will support supply chain resilience for critical sectors like automotive and aerospace. An approach that assesses each sector's regional economic impacts and its position within national value chains will highlight aluminium's significant role in supporting both urban and regional economic growth.

PROPOSED RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Sectors

Q4. What are the most important subsectors and technologies that the UK government should focus on and why?

The government should focus on aluminium recycling, advanced alloy development, and lightweighting technologies. Recycling and remanufacturing enable a circular economy, contributing to emissions reduction and reducing reliance on imported raw materials. Lightweighting technologies in aluminium are key for industries such as automotive and aerospace, supporting national targets for energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

Q5. What are the UK's strengths and capabilities in these subsectors?

The UK has a well-established aluminium recycling infrastructure and a skilled workforce with expertise in alloy development. UK aluminium firms are leading in the innovation of low-carbon aluminium products and closed-loop recycling processes, helping to lower the carbon footprint of high-demand sectors like automotive and construction. ALFED's recent industry reports demonstrate the sector's competitive edge in sustainable manufacturing practices and process innovation.

Q6. What are the key enablers and barriers to growth in these subsectors and how could the UK government address them?

Key enablers include investment in green technologies, support for skills development, and enhanced trade support. Barriers include high energy costs, regulatory complexity, and limited R&D funding. The government could address these by offering subsidies for energy-intensive industries, simplifying regulatory processes for aluminium recycling and remanufacturing, and increasing funding for industry-focused R&D initiatives.

Business Environment

Q7. What are the most significant barriers to investment? Do they vary across the growth-driving sectors? What evidence can you share to illustrate this?

High operational costs, particularly energy prices, present significant barriers for the aluminium sector, which is energy-intensive by nature. Regulatory complexity and limited access to capital for sustainable projects also hinder growth. ALFED members report that lower energy costs and streamlined regulations would directly impact their ability to expand and invest in low-carbon technologies.

PROPOSED RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

People and Skills

Q8. Where you identified barriers in response to Question 7 which relate to people and skills, what UK government policy solutions could best address these?

To bridge skills gaps, the government should establish targeted training initiatives, particularly in digital manufacturing and green technologies. Apprenticeships and retraining programs for aluminium-specific skills, supported by government and industry partnerships, would help build a competitive workforce aligned with Industry 4.0 and sustainability goals.

Q9. What more could be done to achieve a step change in employer investment in training in the growth-driving sectors?

Employer investment in training could be encouraged through tax credits and co-funded training programs, especially for roles in green and digital technologies. Direct funding support for industry-specific training, as well as government co-investment in digital upskilling programs, would encourage employers to invest more in long-term workforce development.

Innovation

Q10. Where you identified barriers in response to Question 7 which relate to RDI and technology adoption and diffusion, what UK government policy solutions could best address these?

Government funding for RDI projects, specifically targeting green and digital innovation in aluminium processing and recycling, would address these barriers. Establishing public-private partnerships for pilot programs in recycling and lightweighting would help promote technology diffusion across the industry.

Q11. What are the barriers to R&D commercialisation that the UK government should be considering?

Barriers include high upfront costs and limited funding for demonstration projects. Providing government grants for pilot programs and fast-tracking regulatory approvals for green technologies would accelerate commercialisation and make the UK an attractive location for aluminium R&D investment.

Data

Q12. How can the UK government best use data to support the delivery of the Industrial Strategy?

Data-sharing initiatives, supported by government-funded platforms, could facilitate access to industry best practices, benchmarking data, and environmental metrics. For aluminium, a national platform for energy and emissions data would support transparency and improve sectoral sustainability outcomes.

Q13. What challenges or barriers to sharing or accessing data could the UK government remove to help improve business operations and decision making?

Barriers include data protection concerns and complex access protocols. Providing standardised data-sharing agreements and industry-specific guidance on data privacy would facilitate industry-wide access to operational and emissions data, fostering improved business decision-making.

PROPOSED RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Infrastructure

Q14. Where you identified barriers in response to Question 7 which relate to planning, infrastructure, and transport, what UK government policy solutions could best address these?

Enhancing transport infrastructure and providing energy-efficient facilities in regional clusters would address logistical and operational barriers. Support for the development of industrial clusters and targeted transport investments would lower costs and improve regional connectivity for aluminium manufacturers.

Q15. How can investment into infrastructure support the Industrial Strategy? What can the UK government do to better support this and facilitate co-investment? How does this differ across infrastructure classes?

Investment in energy and digital infrastructure will support sustainable industrial activity across regions. Co-investment programs, particularly for green energy infrastructure and advanced manufacturing facilities, would strengthen aluminium clusters and enhance productivity across the UK.

Energy

Q16. What are the barriers to competitive industrial activity and increased electrification, beyond those set out in response to the UK government's recent Call for Evidence on industrial electrification?

Beyond cost, barriers include grid capacity and access to renewable energy sources. Policies that subsidise electricity costs for green manufacturing and incentivise renewable energy integration would support electrification and competitiveness in aluminium production.

Q17. What examples of international best practice to support businesses on energy would you recommend?

Germany's subsidised energy tariffs for green industries and Norway's use of long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) provide models that the UK could adapt to improve energy affordability and security for energy-intensive sectors like aluminium.

Competition

Q18. Where you identified barriers in response to Question 7 which relate to competition, what evidence can you share to illustrate their impact and what solutions could best address them?

The aluminium sector faces competitive disadvantages due to higher operational costs and international trade imbalances. Imposing environmental standards on imported aluminium and promoting fair-trade practices would create a level playing field for UK producers.

Q19. How can regulatory and competition institutions best drive market dynamism to boost economic activity and growth?

Encouraging transparency in pricing and ensuring fair access to resources, including energy, will drive competitiveness. Establishing adaptable regulatory frameworks that accommodate emerging technologies in aluminium recycling and low-carbon production would also support sector growth.

PROPOSED RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Regulation

Q20. Do you have suggestions on where regulation can be reformed or introduced to encourage growth and innovation?

Energy pricing reform and streamlined environmental compliance for aluminium recycling would support competitiveness. Regulatory clarity on low-carbon production methods and sustainability reporting would further drive innovation and sustainable growth within the sector.

Crowding in Investment

Q21. What are the main factors that influence businesses' investment decisions?

Investment decisions are influenced by operational costs, regulatory environment, and access to skilled labour. For aluminium, stable energy prices, clear regulatory guidance, and skills training incentives are crucial to supporting sustainable and competitive growth.

Mobilising Capital

Q22. What are the main barriers faced by companies seeking finance to scale up in the UK or by investors seeking to deploy capital?

High capital costs and limited green investment incentives restrict finance accessibility. Government-backed loans and green bonds could support capital flow into scaling up sustainable aluminium production and recycling infrastructure.

Q23. Are there additional financial instruments that could encourage strategic investment?

Introducing green bonds, co-investment schemes, and industry-specific tax incentives would facilitate strategic investments in sustainable and energy-efficient aluminium production.

Trade and International Partnerships

Q24. How can international partnerships support the Industrial Strategy?

Partnerships with major aluminium-producing nations for technology transfer and trade agreements focused on environmental standards would strengthen UK aluminium's position globally and support domestic sustainability goals.

Q25. Which international markets present the greatest opportunity for growth-driving sectors?

The EU and Southeast Asia present significant opportunities for aluminium exports, given the high demand for sustainable materials in infrastructure and manufacturing within these regions.

PROPOSED RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Place

Q26. Do you agree with the characterisation of clusters?

Yes, aluminium manufacturing clusters in regions like the Midlands demonstrate the potential for sustainable growth and regional development. Further support for these clusters, which drive economic output, resilience, and high-value job creation, would benefit both local and national economic goals.

Q27. What public and private sector interventions are needed to make strategic industrial sites 'investment-ready'? How should we determine which sites across the UK are most critical for unlocking this investment?

To make sites investment-ready, co-investment in critical infrastructure, transport connectivity, and energy-efficient facilities is essential. Prioritising sites in areas with existing industrial presence (e.g., aluminium hubs) and high demand for green jobs will maximise return on investment and support sector growth.

Q28. How should the Industrial Strategy accelerate growth in city regions and clusters of growth sectors across the UK through Local Growth Plans and other policy mechanisms?

The strategy should provide targeted incentives for industrial clusters in city regions, including funding for green infrastructure and support for digital and transport connectivity. Local Growth Plans should work with industry associations like ALFED to ensure tailored policies that reflect local and sector-specific needs.

Q29. How should the Industrial Strategy align with Devolved Government economic strategies and support the sectoral strengths of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland?

The strategy should coordinate with devolved governments to identify and enhance aluminium manufacturing clusters in each region, such as Scotland's alloy processing industry. Joint funding initiatives and shared development goals can ensure alignment and strengthen sectoral growth throughout the UK.

Partnerships and Institutions

Q30. How can the Industrial Strategy Council best support the UK government to deliver and monitor the Industrial Strategy?

The Council can support delivery by collaborating with industry associations like ALFED, gathering data, and conducting regular reviews to ensure progress. It should also provide transparent metrics on the aluminium sector's impact on emissions reduction, employment, and trade performance.

Q31. How should the Industrial Strategy Council interact with key non-government institutions and organisations?

The Council should establish partnerships with trade bodies, research institutions, and private-sector stakeholders for insight into sectoral needs and advancements. Engaging non-government entities in policy formulation will help create balanced, effective policies for the aluminium industry.

PROPOSED RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q32. How can the UK government improve the interface between the Industrial Strategy Council and government, business, local leaders, and trade unions?

Improving the interface requires establishing structured communication channels, feedback mechanisms, and regular consultations. Trade bodies like ALFED can act as intermediaries to communicate industry feedback and ensure cohesive policy implementation across sectors.

Theory of Change

Q33. How could the analytical framework (e.g., identifying intermediate outcomes) for the Industrial Strategy be strengthened?

The framework should include sector-specific metrics on energy consumption, emissions reductions, and job growth. Intermediate outcomes in aluminium, such as increased recycling rates and carbon footprint reduction, will provide valuable data points for assessing the strategy's effectiveness.

Q34. What are the key risks and assumptions we should embed in the logical model underpinning the Theory of Change?

Key risks include fluctuations in energy prices and global trade volatility, which can impact aluminium sector growth. Assumptions should consider ongoing government support for green technologies and regulatory alignment with international standards to ensure the sector remains competitive.

Q35. How would you monitor and evaluate the Industrial Strategy, including metrics?

Monitoring should focus on economic, environmental, and social metrics specific to each sector. For aluminium, tracking metrics such as energy efficiency gains, emissions reductions, and job creation across regions would provide a robust evaluation of strategy effectiveness.

Additional Information

Q36. Is there any additional information you would like to provide?

ALFED supports the UK government's ambition for a sustainable and resilient industrial strategy. We are committed to working collaboratively with the government, industry stakeholders, and research institutions to drive innovation and ensure the UK aluminium sector contributes meaningfully to the UK's economic and environmental goals.

QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS AND TRADE

1. Sector Prioritisation: Could you clarify the specific criteria the government will use to identify the most impactful subsectors? How can aluminium's critical role in green technology and circular economy objectives be highlighted within these criteria?

2. Emerging Technologies: For new sectors like advanced recycling and low-energy production, how should we approach providing evidence, considering these areas may lack traditional data? Would the government consider insights from ALFED and industry-led research as credible data?

3. Value Chain Integration: Given aluminium's foundational role across several industries, how does the strategy account for foundational sectors' contributions to resilience and growth? Are there mechanisms to ensure foundational sectors like aluminium receive due emphasis?

4. Funding and Barriers: Energy prices, regulatory complexities, and limited capital access are significant barriers for the aluminium sector. How will the government address these specifically within energy-intensive industries, and is there potential for dedicated funding or regulatory easing for green aluminium initiatives?

5. People and Skills Development: Considering the aluminium industry's unique skill requirements, would the government support tailored training initiatives? Could apprenticeships or partnerships with educational institutions be prioritised for Industry 4.0 and sustainability skills?

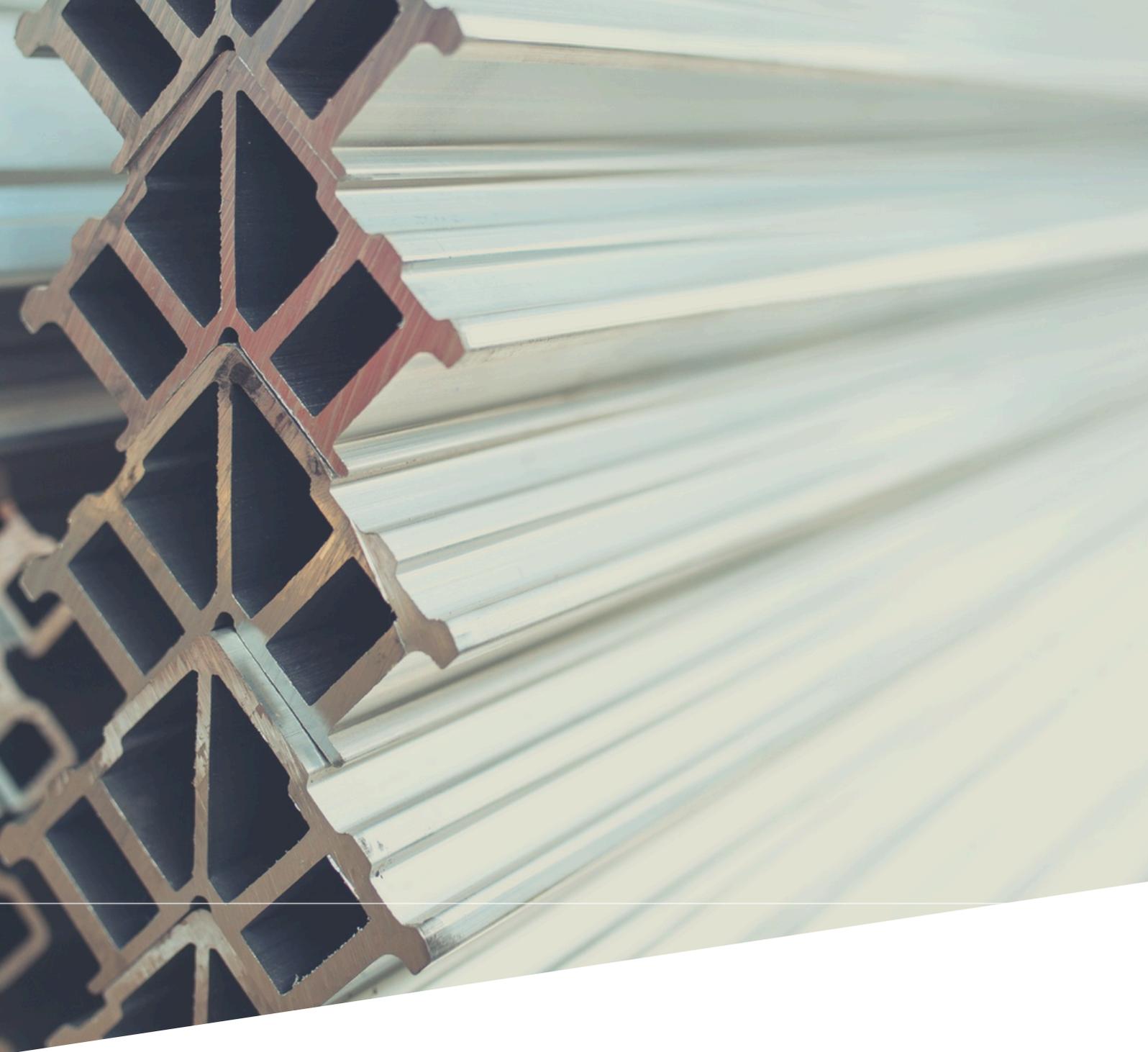
6. Innovation Incentives: Will there be focused R&D incentives or funding specifically for green technology and recycling in the aluminium sector? Are there plans for public-private partnerships that could support innovation diffusion?

7. Data and Infrastructure: How will the government facilitate better data sharing for sectors like aluminium, which rely on transparency in energy usage and emissions data? Additionally, could targeted regional investments in energy-efficient infrastructure be prioritised in aluminium-producing areas?

8. Global Competitiveness: To what extent is the strategy addressing global competitiveness, especially regarding energy costs and regulatory parity with international standards? Could regulatory reform include adaptations for competitive energy solutions like power purchase agreements?

9. Monitoring and Evaluation: What metrics will the government use to track sector-specific impacts in the Industrial Strategy, such as emissions reductions, recycling rates, and regional economic benefits?

10. Submission Strategy: Are there additional ways ALFED can contribute to the consultation, ensuring a comprehensive response that aligns aluminium manufacturing's priorities with broader government objectives?



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