

## Manufacturing Makes an Appearance at First-Ever Twitter Town Hall

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President Obama hosted a [Twitter Town Hall](#) [1] yesterday to field questions from the tweeting public. (Here's the [transcript](#) [2].)

In response to a question from "David," the President touched on a number of issues that are important to manufacturers, like research and development incentives and the need for a strong manufacturing workforce. The President, of course, [recently endorsed](#) [3] the Manufacturing Institutes Skills Certification System, and manufacturers continue to [push for a strengthened and permanent R & D tax credit](#) [4].

Here's the exchange:

MR. DORSEY: Mr. President, 27 percent of our questions are in the jobs category, as you can see from the screen over here. Our next question has to do about jobs and technology. It comes from David: "Tech and knowledge industries are thriving, yet jobs discussion always centers on manufacturing. Why not be realistic about jobs?"

THE PRESIDENT: Well, its not an either/or question; its a both/and question. We have to be successful at the cutting-edge industries of the future like Twitter. But we also have always been a country that makes stuff. And manufacturing jobs end up having both higher wages typically, and they also have bigger multiplier effects. So one manufacturing job can support a range of other jobs — suppliers and the restaurant near the plant and so forth. So they end up having a substantial impact on the overall economy.

What we want to focus on is advanced manufacturing that combines new technology, so research and development to figure out how are we going to create the next Twitter, how are we going to create the next Google, how are we going to create the next big thing — but make sure that production is here.

So its great that we have an Apple thats creating iPods, iPads and designing them and creating the software, but it would be nice if were also making the iPads and the iPods here in the United States, because that's some more jobs that people can work at.

And there are going to be a series of decisions that weve got to make.

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Number one, are we investing in research and development in order to emphasize technology? And a lot of that has to come from government. That's how the Internet got formed. That's how GPS got formed. Companies on their own cant always finance the basic research because they cant be assured that theyre going to get a return on it.

Number two, weve got to drastically improve how we train our workforce and our kids around math and science and technology.

Number three, weve got to have a top-notch infrastructure to support advanced manufacturing, and weve got to look at sectors where we know this is going to be the future. Something like clean energy, for example. For us not to be the leaders in investing in clean energy manufacturing so that wind turbines and solar panels are not only designed here in the United States but made here in the United States makes absolutely no sense. Weve got to invest in those areas for us to be successful.

So you can combine high-tech with manufacturing, and then you get the best of all worlds.

[SOURCE](#) [5]

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### **Links:**

[1] <http://askobama.twitter.com/>

[2] <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/07/06/remarks-president-twitter-town-hall>

[3] <http://www.nam.org/Communications/Articles/2011/06/Manufacturers-Job-Training-Vital-to-Nations-Competitiveness.aspx>

[4] <http://www.nam.org/~media/C480FB95A9A645F590486A45AF26821D.ashx>

[5] <http://www.manufacturing.net//News/Feeds/2011/07/mnet-mnet-industry-focus-facilities-and-operations-manufacturing-makes-an-appearance-at-first-ever-tw/>