54% of companies globally report talent shortages, the highest in over a decade.

With such an acute talent shortage, employers are challenged with catering to the needs and desires of an increasingly in-demand workforce while others are trying to do the same. To be successful, they need to understand what workers want as part of a holistic talent strategy.

### Talent Shortages Over Time
75% of employers in Hong Kong are having difficulty filling jobs.

### The Hardest Skills to Find
Sales & Marketing followed by IT and Engineering are the hardest roles to fill.

### Difficulty Filling Roles by Company Size
Large companies (250+ employees) have the most difficulty filling roles; followed by medium (50-249 employees), small (10-49 employees) and micro (less than 10 employees).

### What Workers Want
Get it right the first time. What attracts workers to an organization can also be what engages and makes them stay.

When competition for talent and skills is so acute, getting it right up front brings return on investment for the long term.

Globally, these are the top five needs and desires that are non-negotiables for all workers.

1. **Challenging work in the form of education, experience and exposure**
   - People want challenging work, to develop skills and further careers. Challenge ranks among the top 5 priorities for workers of all ages, genders and geographies.

2. **Personalized career insight, driven from data and assessment**
   - 81% of workers who have been assessed report higher job satisfaction.

3. **Flexibility and control over calendar is a must and contributes to worker wellbeing**
   - Flexibility ranks among the top 3 priorities for workers of all ages, genders and geographies. It’s the 2nd most important factor.

4. **Purpose is a must. Workers want to take pride in what they do and who they work for**
   - Purpose, brand and reputation rank among top 10 attraction factors for all workers.

### A Holistic Talent Strategy
Winning in the digital age demands faster, more targeted approaches than ever before. To meet the needs of today’s in-demand talent, an effective talent strategy should comprise a mix of four key elements: Build, Buy, Borrow and Bridge.

1. **Build**
   - Invest in learning and development to grow your talent pipeline

2. **Buy**
   - Go to external market to find the best talent that cannot be built in-house in the timeframe required

3. **Borrow**
   - Help people move on and move up to new roles inside or outside the organization

4. **Bridge**
   - Cultivate communities of talent outside the organization, including part-time, freelance, contract and temporary workers to complement existing skills

[2019 Talent Shortage Survey data was collected in Q4 2017]