

BIS

Department for Business
Innovation & Skills

Manufacturing and Materials Hot Issues March 2010



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Hot Issues - Manufacturing and Materials Unit of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS)
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/Policies/business-sectors/manufacturing-and-materials/hot-issues>

Cover image: Mobile Electronics Mast and Electric Pylons

Hot Topics

Editorial by Marie-Anne Mackenzie – Head of Manufacturing and Materials (MM)

On 17 March I attended the launch of the National Composites Centre at Bristol – a £25m investment supported by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the South West RDA. It was inspiring to hear from major companies, Professors from the Universities of Bristol and Manchester, and the National Composites Network about how they planned to work together. And to see the level of industry interest – with over 300 people there to hear about the work of the centre. Almost as many people as read Hot Topics where, in this edition, we are similarly giving you updates on research and opportunities arising from new technologies. I hope you enjoy reading this update.

New Industry, New Jobs – Stuart Barthropp



Lord Mandelson marked the first year of the New Industry, New Jobs strategy with a keynote speech highlighting progress on 17 March.

Launched in April 2009, New Industry, New Jobs set out a new approach to active government investment driving economic growth. This strategy announced the government's intent to support private sector investment in the development of key new industries, especially in the infrastructure and skills they need to meet future challenges and take advantage of new opportunities, including support for Advanced Manufacturing.

Also marking the first year of New Industry, New Jobs on 17 March:

- Lord Mandelson and Pat McFadden travelled to Sheffield to announce that Government and Sheffield Forgemasters International Limited have reached a conditional agreement in principle whereby Government will provide a £80m loan to the company for the building of a 15,000 tonne press and finishing workshop. This will be combined with private finance, including support from Westinghouse. Completion of the deal will be subject to due diligence and to state aid clearance with the European Commission and satisfactory finalisation of funding arrangements with other third parties.

Business Minister Ian Lucas travelled to Bristol to announce the preferred site for a new National Composites Centre in Bristol, created with £16m funding from the Department for Business and the South West Regional Development Agency. More than 200 leading industry researchers and academic experts will be based at the centre.

The government will publish a one year update of New Industry, New Jobs on Thursday 25 March.

Manufacturing Research Centres – BIS Comms Team



The first three state of the art manufacturing research centres funded under a new £70M Government investment will be based at Southampton; Loughborough and Brunel universities to enable UK businesses develop the technology products and underpin manufacturing growth.

The first three new EPSRC manufacturing research centres were launched in London by the Prime Minister, Business Secretary Lord Mandelson and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Chief Executive Professor Dave Delpy in January.

EPSRC is the largest UK government agency for funding research and training in engineering and the physical sciences, investing more than £850 million a year in a broad range of subjects – from mathematics to materials science, and from information technology to structural engineering. www.epsrc.ac.uk.

These are the first of a new generation of EPSRC centres that will bring researchers and industry together to create technology products of the future, attracting investment and underpinning manufacturing growth. Further centres will be introduced across the UK in the next year representing an investment of £70 million. The three Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) centres will be based at Southampton, Loughborough and Brunel universities and focus research efforts in the fields of:

- Photonics (the science and application of light using optical fibres to revolutionise the internet and telecommunications) at Southampton;

- Regenerative Medicine (therapies to enable damaged, diseased or defective tissues to work normally again) at Loughborough; and
- Liquid Metals (developing innovative technologies for the reuse and recycling of metal) at Brunel.

The three centres will focus on key growth sectors:

University of Southampton

- This centre will work with industry to develop the next generation of optical fibre materials and technology platforms, train a new generation of engineers and fuel growth in photonics-related manufacturing.
- Investment from EPSRC will total £4.7 million over a five year period starting in March and 13 industrial partners will contribute a further £4.6 million.

Loughborough University

- This centre will carry out world-leading research, test and implement ideas in clinical and industrial settings, create next generation platforms for manufacturing regenerative medicines and inform business models, policy and public debate.
- Investment from EPSRC will total £5.3M over a five year period starting in September and 28 industrial and government partners will contribute a further £3M.
- Partner universities are Nottingham and Keele.

Brunel University (London)

- This centre will work with industrial partners to develop innovative technologies for the reuse and recycling of metal. This will lead to substantial conservation of natural resources, reduction in energy consumption and CO2 emissions.
- Investment from EPSRC will total £4.5M over a five year period starting in February and 15 industrial partners will contribute a further £4.6M.
- Partner universities are Oxford and Birmingham.

UK Composite Strategy – Sandy Grom

The National Composite Centre (NCC) was launched by BIS Minister Ian Lucas in Bristol on 17 March.

The NCC will be operational by summer 2011 and will focus on developing the UK's capability to make composite structures cost effectively and quickly. £16m of public funding will support the

centre (£12m from central Government, £4m from the South West Regional Development Agency)

Early in April the TSB will announce a £5m prize for the winning consortium of the Grand Challenge' competition to develop new composites manufacturing techniques.

Skills for Growth – BIS Comms Team



The **National Strategic Skills Audit** was launched by Peter Mandelson who announced four important steps to help ensure the UK economy is supplied with the skills needed to fuel growth.

£50 million Joint Investment Programme, matching employer investment pound for pound in priority sectors.

The programme will bring together public and private investment into 50-50 partnerships to support training and skills development. This will be in key areas that will support economic recovery and future growth.

Update on plans for the adult advancement and careers service

In August 2010 a next-generation careers advice service will be launched in England. It will provide access to better information about the labour market and new tools to help adults plan their career development. There will also be a new professional development framework for careers advisers, and the service will gain a new brand to broaden its appeal.

Five new National Skills Academies (NSAs)

New NSAs will cover five sectors: rail engineering, logistics, green building services, biotechnology and composites – funded by £12 million of public investment matched by the private sector. The National Skills Academy for Power is also now open for business, with a further £2.9 million government funding. Together, these academies will aim to attract more than 300,000 learners to the training programmes they oversee over the next four years.

Co-funding up to 1000 apprenticeships per year in the Nuclear Energy sector

The government will co-fund the delivery of up to 1,000 apprentices per year subject to employer demand for places and the availability of training.

The National Strategic Skills Audit is produced by the UK **Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)**. It provides intelligence about current and future strategic skills needs in England – an important role in the industrial activism agenda.

International carbon markets – Beyond Copenhagen

— Vicky Elliott - Head of the Climate Change Projects Office



Last year all eyes were on Copenhagen and the UN climate change meeting held there in December. Companies involved in the international carbon market were particularly interested in the annual discussions which set the framework for doing business in their sector. Although Copenhagen was disappointing in its lack of firm decision for a timetable to reach a binding international climate change agreement, the summit did deliver several notable achievements. For example, a mechanism is now in place to deliver climate finance to developing countries that need it most, and for the first time advanced developing countries such as China and Brazil pledged to take domestic action on reducing emissions.

For the carbon market negotiations that were part of the process the UK had several objectives, including the agreement of high level targets, introducing new mechanisms and reforming the existing 'Clean Development Mechanism' (CDM). Targets were not agreed meaning long term uncertainty continues in the market; plans to introduce new mechanisms for advanced developing countries also remain unclear. A decision was made however on reform of the CDM which should improve its effectiveness and efficiency.

In light of Copenhagen, 2010 will be a difficult year for the carbon market but the UK government remains committed to using a market approach to drive emissions reductions in the most cost effective way. Alongside the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme most other major developed countries continue to push forward climate change legislation with emissions trading as a key element - in the US, in Australia/New Zealand, in Japan and in Korea.

The Climate Change Projects Office (CCPO) is a business advisory office based in BIS and joint funded by DECC that supports UK companies involved in the international carbon market. The BIS website contains further information on the

work of the **CCPO** <http://www.bis.gov.uk/Policies/business-sectors/ccpo> and all the latest from Copenhagen.

Are you prepared for the statutory CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme? - Jane Dennett-Thorpe (DECC)



This will start in less than 1 month on 1 April. All organisations with at least one half hourly electricity meter settled on the half hourly market will need to take some action before September. If your organisation (including subsidiaries, and any subsidiaries of your parent organisation) has more than 6000MWh of electricity through all half hourly meters, it is likely that you will be a participant in the CRC.

The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (previously known as the Carbon Reduction Commitment) is a new, mandatory, energy saving and carbon emissions reduction scheme for the UK. It will act as an incentive to improve energy efficiency and will help large private and public sector organisations generate cost savings through reduced energy bills. These savings should exceed the cost of participating. The CRC starts in April 2010.

More information and guidance can be obtained from the Environment Agency:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/default.aspx>

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/98263.aspx>

Going Global - UK Advanced Engineering: China Showcase 2010 – John Strang (UKTI)

Following on from the successful events in India and Brazil UK Trade & Investment's next reputational showcase of UK Advanced Engineering capability will take place in Shanghai 24 June 2010 to coincide with UK science and innovation month at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.

China is the UK's fastest growing major trading partner and British businesses are now the biggest European investors in China. China is the world's third largest economy and is set to become the world's largest GDP economy by 2050, offering enormous opportunities for global partnership.

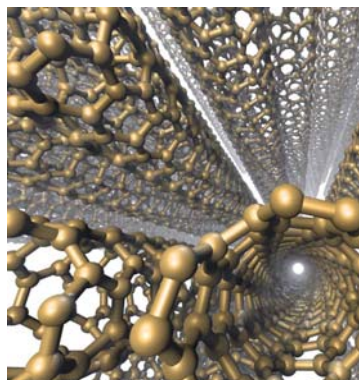
The reputational showcase will promote the strengths of the UK's Advanced Engineering sector in key areas such as **sustainable aviation, low-carbon vehicles, advanced materials** and **efficient manufacturing**.

The opportunities for business in China are not just in the well-known Chinese business centres of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, but also further afield in numerous emerging regional centres. The Showcase will be allied to a number of UKTI-supported market visit programmes which will take place in locations across China around the time of the Showcase.

The UKTI report 'Opportunities for UK Businesses in China's Regional Cities', conducted by the China British Business Council (CBBC) and the University of Leeds identifies 35 Chinese cities (of 270 with a population of over 1 million who were studied) as the most attractive for UK business. The full report can be read at <http://www.cbcc.org/emails/RegionalCitiesa.htm>

To find out how your company can be part of the China Showcase event contact john.strang@ukti.gsi.gov.uk +44 (0)141 228 3607 or visit www.ukaechina.com

Nanotechnology: A UK Industry View – Kenton Thompson



Success with nanotechnology will lead to growth in employment and wealth creation. If we look at nanotechnology today we find a very strong technical base within the UK. It is crucial that this success follows through to commercialisation. On the 14th January 2010, the Nanotechnology Mini-Innovation and Growth Team (Mini-IGT) presented a report to the UK Government and industry entitled, **Nanotechnology: A UK Industry View, giving its recommendations for the future success of nanotechnology in the UK. The report considered the status of nanotechnology in the UK today and provided recommendations in response to the concerns and issues raised.**

Nanotechnology provides a significant opportunity to address global challenges. This is leading to intense global competition to commercialise different products enabled by nanotechnology. UK industry is well placed to capitalise on this opportunity and participate in the development of many new products and services

by operating alone or in collaboration with international partners. Today, nanotechnology is evolving with the production of some mature products but many new products remain in the growth and developmental stage. This is not unlike the condition of the computer science in the 1960s or biotechnology in the 1980s. Nanotechnology has been applied to the development of products and processes across many industries. Products are now available in markets ranging from consumer products and medical products through to plastics and coatings and electronics products.

It is predicted that in 2014, \$2.6 trillion in manufactured goods will incorporate nanotechnology. Even if this is an over-estimate, it is clear that there is a vast market available for nanotechnology based products. It is extremely important to the UK economy that UK companies are engaged in nanotechnology and participate at each stage of the supply chain.

It was with this background that a Mini Innovation and Growth Team (Mini-IGT) was formed comprising members of the NanoKTN and the Materials KTN as the secretariat, together with members of the Chemistry Innovation KTN and the Sensors and Instrumentation KTN, to prepare a report on nanotechnology on behalf of UK industry. A questionnaire was sent to the members of the various KTNs to solicit feedback on their views on nanotechnology focussing on their commercial position and also their concerns and issues. In the past the UK Government has commissioned reports but has not articulated an overarching national strategy on nanotechnology that can rank alongside those from the likes of the US and Germany. It is intended that this report, with its unique industry led views, together with other strategic documents, including the **Nanoscale Technologies Strategy 2009-2012** produced by the Technology Strategy Board, will provide a significant contribution to a future UK Government Strategy on Nanotechnology.

The report, informed and led by the UK's nanotechnology industry, makes a number of recommendations on Policy, Regulation, Funding, skills and engagement. These recommendations focus on areas where Government can make a significant difference to ensure commercial success for the UK in nanotechnology, BIS needs to act as the champion for nanotechnology within Government by collaborating with other Government Departments to achieve the UK's strategic aims and objectives.

The report can be downloaded at www.nanoktn.com and www.materialsktn.net. Hard copies can also be requested by emailing enquiries@nanoktn.com.

Update - March 18th 2010 UK Nanotechnologies Strategy

The UK Nanotechnologies Strategy was published by BIS on 18th March 2010. The strategy was developed by five Government departments and agencies, and follows a period of consultation with industry and consumer groups. It represents a single plan of action.

Key actions include:

- Chief Scientific Advisers to review coordination of nanotechnology research across Government including research on safety issues;
- A new website to keep the public informed about Government work on nanotechnologies;
- A new Nanotechnologies Collaboration Group to facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration between Government, academia, industry and other interested parties;
- A new Nanotechnologies Leadership Group led by Ministers to address barriers to commercial growth in this area; and
- Government to explore a new industry reporting scheme with a broader scope covering nano-materials as well as products containing them.

SBRI: finding innovative answers to government needs - Mark Glover, Head of SBRI



A new scheme, championed by the Technology Strategy Board, is helping government departments to source innovative solutions from business.

Procurement in government is not necessarily a fertile breeding ground for innovation. At the same time, the UK has a wealth of dynamic innovators, often SMEs, with the potential to supply novel answers to the problems which government bodies need to solve. Often the answers will be based on new technologies, or the application of existing technologies in new areas.

But such innovators can be hard to find. They often don't have easy access to the procurement system, and they may need support in

developing their ideas before they can enter a conventional procurement process. The new scheme, SBRI – or the Small Business Research Initiative - aims to unlock their potential and at the same time help government meet its needs more effectively.

The start point is when a government department or public body identifies a challenge for which it needs a new solution - whether to meet policy objectives or to acquire the solution itself. Through the SBRI process, this challenge becomes an open competition according to an established framework, the competition is promoted and businesses enter. The bids are evaluated and successful companies receive funding in two phases; typically six-month feasibility studies at £50k-100k followed by product development, which might take around two years and involve funding of £250k to £1 million.

Since its re-launch by the Technology Strategy Board in 2009, the SBRI approach has been taken up by thirteen government departments and other public sector organisations, resulting in 28 competitions to date. These bodies include the Ministry of Defence, the NHS, the Home Office, the Department for Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government. Overall, applications have been received from almost 1,000 companies, and over 370 contracts have been awarded with a total value of more than £24m.

As the scheme has taken off some intriguing solutions have been proposed – and often from unexpected quarters. For example, the NHS set up an SBRI competition looking for a way to manage long term conditions like asthma in babies, or others who cannot blow into a conventional spirometer. A company working on an asthma test for racehorses spotted the competition, realised it had an answer which could be adapted to humans, and made a successful bid.

Other recent SBRI competitions have included addressing terrorism threats, finding new ways to combat healthcare associated infections, and, in partnership with the Design Council, making mobile phones less attractive to thieves.

By focusing on problems that need solving, rather than on specific products or services, SBRI helps unlock innovative thinking. Businesses benefit from fast-track funding to develop their technologies, and if successful gain a lead customer and a route to market.

As well as supporting innovative businesses and meeting the needs of government, there is a bigger impetus behind the scheme – to

The core objective is to reinforce the active, strategic approach to industrial policy set out in *New Industry, New Jobs*. It builds on the foundations we have already put in place and outlines how we will build on those in seven key areas – the core capabilities we believe will underpin growth.

Going for Growth reports on what the Government has already delivered since the publication of *New Industry, New Jobs* in furthering the growth agenda. This includes allocating nearly £1bn in the Strategic Investment Fund to develop the UK's industrial strength and build for the recovery. View a [timeline of BIS policies and initiatives supporting growth](#) as part of *New Industry, New Jobs*.

The strategy also announces some important new steps we are taking. For example:

- Our aim and strategy for further improving our position in the World Bank "Ease of Doing Business" rankings, to make the UK the top-ranked business environment in the G20, and therefore one of the most attractive places in the world to invest.
- The commission of Hermann Hauser, working with the Technology Strategy Board, to undertake a review of technology centres in the UK and make recommendations as to how these should be developed in the future.

Alongside the paper, we launched an [EPSRC investment of £70m in new Centres for Innovative Manufacturing](#) in key growth sectors for the UK economy. The first three centres to be announced are photonics, regenerative medicine, and liquid metals.

It was also announced that the Technology Strategy Board is investing £38.5m of funding in nearly 260 new R&D projects including [carbon abatement technologies, low carbon vehicles and high value manufacturing](#). And rural communities will benefit from a share of £1 billion of government investment to upgrade the UK's digital infrastructure to [bring super-fast broadband to 90% of the country](#).

How can I find out more?

Visit the [Going for Growth website](#) to read the strategy and view related announcements, video and links. The report can be downloaded from <http://www.bis.gov.uk/growth>.

Report projects £40bn Space Industry for UK



The BIS Space Innovation and Growth Team (Space IGT), has published its 20-year vision for a greatly expanded UK space industry.

Space IGT, a collaboration between industry, government and academia, says the UK could expand its share of the global space market from six per cent to ten per cent - creating a domestic space industry worth £40 billion a year by 2030, and providing 100,000 new jobs.

The majority of investment needed for the strategy would come from industry, but government would need to play its part by doubling it's spend on space.

Space IGT's recommendations include:

- implementing a dedicated R&D programme for space of £20 million in 2011, rising to £100 million in 2015
- establishing an Earth observation service to provide data on security, climate change, and carbon trading
- helping deliver broadcast and broadband services to rural areas, and helping the ICT sector to grow (with, for example, the development of data centres in space)
- a national campaign to inspire young people about space careers (and study science, technology, engineering and maths)
- the space industry doubling its use of apprenticeships

Space IGT chair Andy Green said: "I have not taken the safe route with this report. I could have focused on simply exploiting the niche markets where the UK excels; instead, I have encouraged the team to look at the bigger picture and identify specific opportunities where we can go further, faster. If we get this right, the UK space sector could provide the basis to help energise an economy emerging from recession."

Motorists to receive 25% towards the cost of a Low Carbon Car



The Government intends to roll-out a £30m fund for a network of electric vehicle hubs – called Plugged-In Places – which will see charging infrastructure appearing in car parks, major supermarkets, leisure and retail centres, as well as on the street. The first Plugged-In Places will be located in London, Milton Keynes and the North East; and between them they will be installing over 11,000 vehicle recharging points during the next three years.

Pioneering motorists will receive up to £5,000 to buy an ultra-low carbon car. The Plug-in Car Grant will be distributed directly to the consumer at the point of purchase and will be available across the UK from January 2011, by which time a range of eligible vehicles are expected to be available.

The initiatives are part of a £450 million Government strategy to support the creation of a flourishing early market for ultra-low carbon vehicles. The programme will help to meet the UK's commitment to reduce carbon emissions from transport; as well as creating new business opportunities for UK-based companies in the automotive and charging infrastructure sectors.

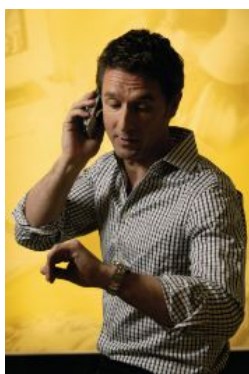
The Plug-in Car Grant will significantly reduce prices by providing 25 per cent towards the cost of a new car, capped at £5,000, and will be open to both private and business fleet buyers. To be eligible for the scheme, cars will have to pass performance criteria to ensure safety, range, and ultra-low tailpipe emissions.

The Plugged-In Places will provide the charge points to support these vehicles – demonstrating how electric vehicle charging works in practice in a range of different settings – urban, suburban and regional – as well as testing innovative technologies such as rapid charging, inductive charging and battery swap.

A second competition for Plugged-in Places funding is to follow later in the year, with consortia from the West Midlands, Cornwall, Sheffield, the Lake District, Greater Manchester and Northern Ireland having already confirmed their intention to bid for the next wave of funding.

These measures – to be delivered by the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) – will move the UK further towards its ambitious carbon reduction targets. They will also support the UK automotive, charging infrastructure and other related supply chain industries in realising the economic opportunities that a shift to low carbon represents.

The Right to Request Time for Training



GUIDANCE has recently been published to inform employers about the new right for employees to request time for training. The introduction of the right will be phased-in and made available to employees in organisations with 250 or more employees from April 2010 before being extended to all employees from April 2011. This will give smaller organisations and businesses time to prepare for the introduction of this new right.

Guidance for employers is being made available through Business Link www.businesslink.gov.uk/timetotrain and is being published 12 weeks before the right comes in on 6 April 2010.

Guidance has also being published on the DirectGov website www.direct.gov.uk/timetotrain. to inform employees about how they make a request under this new right.

The right to request time to train was included in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act, which received Royal Assent in November 2009. Employees' will be able to request to undertake accredited programmes leading to a qualification, or for unaccredited training to help staff develop specific skills relevant to their job, workplace or business. While employee requests may involve agreeing time away from their duties, the primary focus of the new right is about management and staff agreeing relevant training.

Employers are required to consider any requests and respond within a set timeframe. Employers can turn down requests when there is a good business reason to do so, including where you do not believe the training will help improve business performance. This is only applicable to England, Scotland and Wales. This guidance does not apply to businesses in Northern Ireland.

Graduates to receive Internships in Small Business



Around 7000 graduates' career prospects have been given a boost, now that over fifty universities have taken up the Government's £13.6 million fund to provide internships in small businesses by the end of the year as part of the

Backing Young Britain campaign to help young people into work.

The graduate internship programme, which is being promoted by the Federation of Small Businesses, will support small businesses to take on – and get the best from – a graduate intern. Graduates will receive practical assistance before, during and after their internship, including mentoring, pre-employment and interview training, and CV workshops.

In England, more than 50 universities will support graduates and small businesses, as they provide a total of 6,998 internships by the end of this year, rising to 8,500 after that.

Through the internship programme:

• Small businesses will:

- Get financial support to take a graduate intern (around £1300 in wage subsidies on average)
- Have access to a national, single point of contact for advice in getting a graduate intern
- Get access to new skills and fresh talent to help build your business.

• Graduates will:

- Benefit from more than just the internship. They'll get other structured support before, during and after their placement – including mentoring, pre-employment and interview training, and CV workshops.
- Get the opportunity to make a real difference in a small business – a great experience for budding entrepreneurs.

Interns under this scheme will be placed with small business and businesses in the Government's priority areas, which were set out in **'Building Britain's Future – New Industry, New Jobs'**.

They are:

- low-carbon products and services
- digital industry
- life sciences and pharmaceuticals
- advanced manufacturing
- professional and financial services
- engineering construction
- industrial opportunities presented by the ageing society.

How to Save on Import Duties



British manufacturers could save millions of pounds in import duties through an EU scheme promoted by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) that enables companies that are unable to source the materials they need to manufacture their products from within the EU. British Manufacturers could be eligible to import those materials duty-free by applying to the EU Duty Suspensions & Tariff Quotas Scheme.

Currently UK companies save over €30 million (£27m), per year through the scheme - a figure that rose by €4.6 million (£4.1m), in the first half of 2010. But this could rise even higher if more manufacturers become aware of the scheme and how easy it is to apply.

BIS is urging UK manufacturing companies to take the opportunity to find out more about the EU Duty Suspensions & Tariff Quotas scheme.

Tom Brown, Technical Manager of Holders Technology, a distribution company importing materials for the circuit board industry, saved his customers thousands of pounds in import duties last year by applying for the scheme on their behalf. Mr Brown commented "I found the process straightforward and was impressed at how smoothly it went. BIS were helpful and kept me updated on the progress of the application. The successful outcome is very welcome and strengthens the position of the UK circuit board industry within the global market."

Companies can find out more about the EU Duty Suspensions & Tariff Quotas scheme at:

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?r.s=sl&r.lc=en&topicId=1084337138>

Fathers' Rights at Work



BIS has launched a campaign to make sure dads are aware of their rights at work to help them care for their child.

The month-long campaign comes as research reveals a significant number of fathers are not aware of their rights and could be missing out on their entitlements.

The artwork will appear on posters and information leaflets sent to 23,000 organisations such as GP surgeries and antenatal clinics. It will also appear as banner ads online.

The campaign focuses on these three rights:

The right to request flexible working

Parents of a child of 16 or under can request flexible working, including flexitime, part-time, or working from home. By law, their employer must seriously consider the request.

Paid paternity leave

New dads can take two weeks' paid leave. They must notify their employer 15 weeks before the due date.

Parental leave

Dads have the right to take up to 13 weeks' unpaid leave until their child is five.

The campaign provides comprehensive information by directing dads to www.direct.gov.uk/dadsatwork

Lord Sugar's Business Tips



Lord Sugar shares his extensive business expertise in a series of short clips, answering many of the questions he is frequently asked at his advice events.

Having previously sat on the Business Council for Britain and fronted a campaign promoting the benefits of apprenticeships, in 2009 he was named as Enterprise Champion and appointed to the House of Lords as Baron Sugar of Clapton in the London Borough of Hackney.

Please see webpage: <http://www.youtube.com/bisgovuk#p/a/u/1/chc4gyTghk4> for further information.

Consultations - The Department needs your views

We want your views



The Department needs you to respond to consultations as they make a difference to the outcome of the Department's policies. Please let us know your views.

Full details of the Consultation process may be found on the **BIS Consultation website** together with details of closed and archived Consultations. You can **order a printed copy of the consultation** document online. If you would prefer to request a copy by telephone, phone **0845 015 0010**.

Once the consultation deadline has passed and we have analysed the responses, the Department will place a copy of the Government Response on the consultation's page on the BIS Consultation Website - you will find this by using the link **Closed with Response**. The Department aims to do this within three months of the date the consultation closed.

A selection of our current Consultations:

Consultation on proposals for a Next Generation Fund

Start date: 07 January 2010

Closing date: 01 April 2010

Consultation on proposals for a next generation fund (PDF, 997KB)

The consultation is aimed at seeking feedback on a number of specific questions regarding the proposed Next Generation Fund, including the approach to the procurement processes and the technology solutions that will be eligible.

Other Departments Consultations

The **DirectGOV Website** has a full list of other Departments Consultation Websites.

Useful Link: **DirectGOV**

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/UKgovernment/PublicConsultations/DG_170463

Policy statement on regional strategies

URN: 10/749



Policy framework for preparing regional strategies under part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act. Published 23 February 2010.

Want to know more about your pay and work rights? You have a powerful friend [poster]

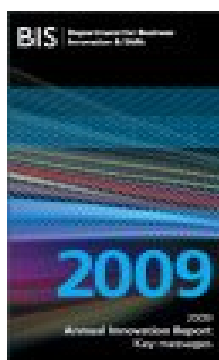
URN: 10/694



Double-sided poster that promotes and explains the scope of the pay and work rights helpline. Published 23 February 2010.

Annual innovation report: key messages 2009

URN: 10/684



Overview of the annual innovation report 2009 (URN 10/P88). Includes key facts, a foreword by Lord Drayson and summary introductions for each chapter. Published 22 February 2010.

Russia: opportunities for UK-based companies in the ports sector

URN: 10/563



Report on the findings of the UK Trade & Investment sponsored scoping mission to Russia in September 2009 that coincided with a ports conference in St Petersburg. Provides an overview of the current market conditions and opportunities in the Russian ports sector, focusing, on the north-west and south of this vast country and identifies some opportunities in the Baltic, Arctic, Black and Caspian Seas. Published 10 February 2010.

Space: UK. January 2010 issue 29

URN: 10/69A



Magazine issued three times a year. Contains news on UK civil space activities science and industrial matters as well as feature stories and educational resources. Hard copy includes pull out poster on UK space history. Poster also available separately see URN 10/69A1. Published 10 February 2010.

The space economy in the UK: an economic analysis of the sector and the role of policy

URN: 10/624



BIS economics paper no 3. Describes the UK space economy, with a focus on the companies in the UK space sector, looking at the rationale for Government intervention in the context of its industrial strategy. Also reviews the evidence on the extent and impact of UK Government support for civil space programmes. Published 10 February 2010.

Machinery Directive: independent sources of advice

URN: 10/77A



Lists independent consultants who have indicated that they are able to offer advice on the EC Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC. Published 10 February 2010.

Manufacturing Strategy - Events

Date	Event / Publication	Additional Diary Dates
02-Feb-10 to 29-Mar-10	Life Sciences Regional Roadshows - UKTI	
Feb-Mar 2010	UK Advanced Engineering Regional Roadshows (UKTI)	18 March - NW 30 March - NE
11-21/03/10	National Science and Engineering week - British Science Association (sponsored by BIS and Engineering UK and part of "Science: So What, So Everything" campaign.)	
wc 15-03-2010	Launch of Nanotechnology Strategy (probably as part of Science Week) tbc	
17-Mar-10	Launch of National Composites Centre, Rolls Royce - Bristol	
18-Mar-10	Federation of Small Business Annual Conference - Aberdeen	
24-Mar-10	National Cluster Award 2010 at Lancaster House (tbc)	
25-Mar-10	Biofinance and Bioinnovate 2010	
31-Mar-10	Affordable Composites Manufacturing - Grand Challenge - Grand Prize Award	
end March-10	Guardian supplement on Manufacturing	

28-Apr-10	Institute of Directors Annual Conference	
19-May-10	CBI Annual Dinner	
If you require Further details of these events please e-mail Hot Issues		

Contact US

We trust that you enjoy this new edition. If we can assist you with the issues raised in this edition or if you would like to give us your feedback on how we may improve the publication for our next edition. Please **contact us**.

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Marie-Anne Mackenzie (Mrs M)	Head of Manufacturing & Materials
Noreen Moriarty (Miss NF)	Personal Assistant

Relationship Management

Name	Role
Brian Greenwood	Team Leader and Relationship Management, Corus, Siemens and liaison with EEF
Sandy Grom	Engineering, non ferrous metals and composites including Rio Tinto Alcan, EAMA
Kenton Thompson	Materials and Nanotechnology Team - Technology Coordination
Simon Greaves	Ferrous Metals and Metals Processing including Sheffield Forgemasters and Metals Forum

Name	Role
Rachel Race	Policy Advisor – Steel Industry
Ivan Youd	Nanotechnologies and Materials, Bombardier transportation and Hitachi (Trains)

Manufacturing Strategy

Name	Role
Keith Avis	Manufacturing Strategy Team Leader
Stuart Barthropp	Manufacturing Policy
Martin Gilligan	Manufacturing Strategy Implementation
John Mackay	Manufacturing Advisory Service and Regional aspects of Manufacturing Strategy implementation
Karen Willcocks	Managing Manufacturing Insight and Manufacturing Futures project
Russell Kerr	Manufacturing Strategy/Communications

UK Trade & Investment (UKTI)

Name	Role
Donald McNeill (Mr D)	Head of Advanced Engineering
Janet Tingle (Miss JA)	Head of Engineering within the Advanced Engineering Team.
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