

BIS

Department for Business
Innovation & Skills

Manufacturing and Materials Hot Issues October 2010



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Manufacturing and Materials – Roles and Responsibilities

Cover image: Deep water waves releasing Green Energy © British Crown copyright 2010, the Met Office

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

It is great to be able to tell you about what we are doing - especially the new programme to showcase manufacturing, engineering and design. Spending review announcements mean we do have to prioritise activity but this edition of Hot Topics shows that manufacturing is very much part of the future agenda for BIS. That is why we have included descriptions of what three teams are doing to contribute to growth - I hope you will find the descriptions of the work of the teams covering low carbon, employment relations and sub-national (i.e. local) growth interesting.

Hot Topics

BIS showcases Green Energy - UK low carbon excellence – Martin Gilligan

In the last edition of Hot Issues we highlighted plans to hold a series of exhibitions at BIS HQ, showcasing the best of British engineering, design and manufacturing.

Since then, we have held the first two exhibitions on the themes of the Engineering Supply Chain in September, and Green Manufacturing in October. Both exhibitions were launched by Business Minister Mark Prisk, who said at the launch of the first exhibition "Britain is a world leader in manufacturing but if we are to inspire future generations we must do all we can to promote excellence".

As a signal of our intent we have invited shining examples of British design, engineering and manufacture to showcase their products at the department.



Business Minister Mark Prisk and Members of the BIS Manufacturing and Materials Team inspect the **Help for Heroes** JCB Tractor

The September exhibition included exhibits from **JCB**, including a back-hoe loader, painted in **Help for Heroes** Union Jack livery, and a display highlighting UK-produced components in manufacturing; **Renishaw**, a global company specialising in measurement, motion control, spectroscopy and precision machining; **Yamazaki Mazak**, makers of machine-tooling equipment and design and factory management software, with customers in more than 30 European countries and a Worcester factory that is the most advanced of its kind in Europe; and **Craftsman Tools Ltd**, a family-owned business with nearly 60 years of machining expertise in sectors ranging from oil exploration and aerospace to automotive and power generation.



The October exhibition showcases a range of UK-manufactured low carbon products that are exported worldwide. With the global market for low carbon goods and services projected to rise to more than £4 trillion by the middle of the next decade, BIS is working with the manufacturing sector to attract new businesses to the sector and get them exporting. Exhibits include the world's first fuel-cell motorbike, supplied by **Intelligent Energy Ltd**; a charging pod for electric

vehicles provided by **Pod Point Ltd**; products from the offshore wind energy supply chain from **Tata Steel**; ceramic tableware designed and manufactured by **Dudson Ltd** with a carbon footprint 79 per cent smaller than their porcelain equivalents (the company, still a family firm after 210 years, exports to more than 100 countries); and **Flow Control (GB) Ltd** which employs just five people but exports its unique non-spill fuel



can to Sweden, Switzerland, Holland, Ireland, Germany, Canada, Australia and Korea.

Future displays will cover 'Growth – Made in the UK' and the Olympics. We are particularly interested to hear your suggestions or receive offers for future displays, particularly where these show a supply chain to recognisable products.



Deputy PM of Vietnam meeting BIS Minister Edward Davey MP

The exhibitions have helped to raise awareness of the range of manufacturing ahead of the launch of a new manufacturing framework this autumn. The framework will include plans for encouraging manufacturing growth areas, which together is

already responsible for 53 per cent of UK exports and 2.8 million jobs.

National Industrial Biotechnology Facility – Merlin Goldman (TSB)

Construction of the new 10,000 litre facility at the National Industrial Biotechnology Facility (NIBF) in the North East of England began in early 2010 and should be completed by the end of the year, with £12m funding from BIS.

The facility will have a capacity for fermentation of up to 10,000 litres, with associated upstream and downstream facilities. The facility is not-for-profit and open to any company that wants to use it. It will offer small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular the chance to trial new processes or technologies that they are not able to do in-house – due to cost or risk. The facility will help businesses use industrial biotechnology to develop and demonstrate proposals into viable products for the market.



Views from inside National Industrial Biotechnology Facility

The Industrial Biotechnology Innovation and Growth Team Report published in May 2009 by BIS suggested that an investment of £2.5-5m per year is needed for 3-5 years to allow industry,

particularly SMEs, access to demonstration facilities. The successful demonstration of a process, feedstock or material using industrial biotechnology is intended to lead directly to production-level activities (mainly by SMEs) elsewhere in the UK within a 2-4 year timescale. This is the second tranche of funding available through a specific competition.

In September 2009, the Technology Strategy Board invested £2.55m into 19 feasibility projects through the Developing High Value Chemicals through Industrial Biotechnology competition on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). About 10 projects used the NIBF facilities this year. The Technology Strategy Board has opened a competition at Innovate 2010: Manufacturing High Value Chemicals through Industrial Biotechnology. This has an indicative budget of £2.5m to support both feasibility and commercial scale, collaborative R&D projects.

During the expansion of the NIBF as well as during the design and operation of the competitions, BIS and the Technology Strategy Board have been working closely together and with CPI to ensure that that we co-ordinate our activities.

Please find further information on the Manufacturing High Value Chemicals through Industrial Biotechnology competition on the TSB website:

<http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/manufacturing-high-value-chemicals-through-industr1.ashx>

Measurement of Materials – Neil Harrison (NPL)

Measurement is something that most people do without thinking. Length, mass and time are examples of things measured by us all on a daily basis. The reliability of a measurement is often unconsciously assumed, especially for those everyday transactions such as buying 20 litres of petrol or a kilogram of apples. The reality is that to guarantee that a kilogram of apples is the same wherever it is purchased there is a significant infrastructure that can be traced back to the UK's national standard kilogram held at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL).



In industry, healthcare, science and the environment there are a vast array of measurements that need to be made to underpin activities such as product development, quality control and environmental regulation. One key issue for UK industry is the accurate knowledge of material characteristics and performance. Quantities such as Young's modulus, tensile strength, thermal conductivity, diffusion rate and adhesive strength are all examples of material properties where accurate measurement and standardised measurement procedures are essential to underpin product performance and lifetime. Accurate, reliable measurement that is repeatable wherever it is performed needs a firm basis. Internationally, this is achieved by agreeing standard measurement procedures via bodies such as ISO, CEN or ASTM and wherever possible providing traceability back to the SI system of units via a reference material or standard method.

Within the UK the National Measurement System (NMS) is responsible for stimulating good measurement practice and enabling business to make accurate and traceable measurements. The National Measurement Office (NMO), an executive agency of BIS based in Teddington, runs the NMS, which consists of a number of research programmes. For materials measurement, the technical research work is carried out at NPL, under the NMS Materials Programme.

NPL was established in 1900 and is a world-leading centre of excellence in developing and applying the most accurate measurement standards, science and technology. At NPL there is a materials science division consisting of around 100 expert scientists devoted to all aspects of materials measurement. The work in the division encompasses all types of materials from polymers and metals to novel nanostructured composites. Leading-edge facilities within NPL allow determination of material properties and performance from the macroscale down to the nanoscale. The ultimate beneficiaries are the vast array of industries; from aerospace and engineering to construction and packaging, that are dependent on the performance of materials and structures.

NPL works closely with industry and regulators to understand their current and future measurement challenges. This knowledge is used to inform the activities in the NMS Materials research programme where new measurement capability, standards and reference materials are developed to meet UK needs. Knowledge and new measurement capability are actively disseminated via many routes including best practise guides, presentations at industry conferences and specific NPL run measurement clubs. New and improved measurement capabilities are often a fundamental part of allowing

industry and academia to develop a deep understanding of the behaviour of materials and structures, hence facilitating the development of improved materials or methods to mitigate unwanted effects such as corrosion and wear.

Measurement research at NPL has successfully enabled many important industry innovations such as superior turbine blades, the introduction of lead free solders, improvements in structural health monitoring and even warmer, wind chill resistant wetsuits.

The Growth Agenda – Low Carbon Team



What are the main barriers to growth in your area and how is your policy trying to address them?

A significant barrier to growth is long term uncertainty. Investments in many green technologies are risky and long term in nature. At the same time, the returns on investment are often largely dependent on government policies, incentives and regulations. So, an important part of our work is to articulate how the future looks for particular sectors of the economy.

For green businesses to grow, we will also make significant investments in green infrastructure. We are working on proposals with the Treasury and the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Transport to create a green investment bank which will support private investment in green infrastructure.

Businesses must also be able to access the right skills. Therefore, we work very closely with our Skills colleagues to ensure that the skills system will provide the training that green businesses need.

If businesses are the real generators of growth, how will your policy act as an enabler?

Low carbon businesses are already significant contributors to the UK economy and the UK is a world leader in, for example, electric vehicles, offshore wind and marine energy. In due course, these sectors



will offer the potential for significant export opportunities.

How is your work helping to rebalance the economy?

Many of the sectors which are key to the development of the green economy will have a presence outside London and the South East, such as offshore wind and low carbon vehicles in the North East, and nuclear manufacturing in the North and West Midlands.

How are you working with other teams in BIS and across government?

We work closely with a number of government departments, in particular DECC and DEFRA, to ensure that green policies take into account the economic costs and benefits to business. We also work closely with other teams in BIS on the development of the growth white paper.

What will success look like in a year's time and by the end of the Parliament?

Success in the short-term would be if we were able to effectively articulate the government's plans and strategy up to 2020.

In the longer term we will look to have the right infrastructure in place, such as a reliable and comprehensive network of electric car charge networks, a growing supply chain and thriving export opportunities with the help of UKTI.

Any examples of successes in this area to highlight?

Establishing projects such as the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Centre and Wave Hub represent a success. We will now look to these projects to deliver economic benefits to the UK in the future.

Images: Business Minister Mark Prisk with a Mitsubishi ultra-low carbon car; Wind turbines (Matin Pettitt, licensed under Creative Commons 2.0)

The Growth Agenda - Employment Relations Team



How does your team contribute to balanced and sustainable growth?

We are reviewing the employment laws BIS is responsible for, to ensure they provide maximum flexibility, protect fairness and promote competition, contributing to a labour market that's responsive

to the needs of both employers and employees. We have one of the most flexible labour markets in the world, which helped minimise the impact of the recent recession by keeping more people in work.

What are the main barriers to growth in your area and how is your policy trying to address them?

One of our challenges is to address the misconception that taking on staff is difficult, time-consuming or burdensome. We are exploring how the employment law framework can make it easier and more flexible for employers and employees. So we are seeking to give people more choice and flexibility in a way that is compatible with meeting business needs. This should help more people to find and stay in jobs rather than being forced out because the working hours don't suit.

If businesses are the real generators of growth, how will your policy act as an enabler?

Research highlights the many benefits to business of flexible working and family-friendly policies, including increased employee motivation and commitment, better staff retention, lower absenteeism and a positive effect on productivity. Around 9 out of 10 requests for flexible working are accepted, demonstrating that the concept has been embraced by employers and employees alike. The proportion of mothers returning to work with the same employer following maternity leave has risen from 59 per cent in 2002 to 86 per cent in 2007. This results in savings in recruitment costs for employers, higher female labour market participation and benefits to the economy through retention of skilled workers.

What will success look like in a year's time and by the end of the Parliament?

In a year's time we will have clear ideas on where we can improve the employment law framework to benefit employers and employees and by the end of Parliament we will have actioned them.

We will have consulted on extending the right to request flexible working to all employees and on a new system of shared parental leave, to give parents more choice while ensuring that businesses have the certainty they need and can recruit and retain talent from the widest pool of people.

More broadly, success will be judged in terms of maintaining and improving the flexibility of the UK labour market and the contribution this makes to economic growth, both in the short term

as we emerge from the downturn and in the longer term helping to promote strong and sustainable growth.

The Growth Agenda - Sub-national Growth team



How does your team contribute to balanced and sustainable growth?

Our work is mainly focused on growth in the regions. We used to support growth initiatives through sponsoring the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and acting as BIS's main contact with local authorities. So our focus has always been on making sure that growth is spread across England.

At the moment, we're working on the complementary tasks of abolishing the RDAs and supporting the creation of the local enterprise partnerships. These are groups of businesses and local authorities which come together to form plans for driving growth in their area. We're working towards publishing a white paper – probably in October, after the spending review – that will cover the abolition of RDAs and creation of local enterprise partnerships. It will also cover the Regional Growth Fund as well as incentives for local authorities to support growth and reforms to the planning system.

What are the main barriers to growth in your area and how is your policy trying to address them?

The programme won't be completed overnight, and it won't be simple. A major issue will be the transition period between closing the RDAs and getting the local enterprise partnerships up and running. Some will develop from existing relationships, but others will be completely new, and take some time to come up to speed.

How is your work helping to rebalance the economy?

By abolishing the RDAs and supporting the creation of the partnerships, we're empowering local areas to decide for themselves how best to stimulate growth. It's about letting communities set *their* vision for their area – and giving them the tools to deliver.

If businesses are the real generators of growth, how will your policy act as an enabler?

The point is it will give them a real say in what is being done in their area to promote growth. We are looking to businesses to take the

lead in local enterprise partnerships and work with the public sector to create the conditions for growth.

What will success look like in a year's time and by the end of the Parliament?

In a year's time we should be well on the way to winding up the RDAs. And we want to see at least some of the partnership network established and beginning to operate.

By the end of Parliament we would expect the RDAs to have been wound down. And we would hope to see local enterprise partnerships making a positive impact on the areas they cover.

Green Vehicle Congress (GVC) 2011, March 2011 – Ian Lockhart (UKTI)



UKTI is looking to support Cenex on the next edition of this year's highly successful Green Vehicle Congress (GVC). Although discussion on this is at an early stage and both dates and venue have yet to be confirmed it is hoped to enhance what was done at GVC 2010 by covering a wider range of topics on cleaner, energy efficient road transport.

Once again UKTI plan to invite a significant number of key overseas companies to this event in order that they might hear more about what the UK is doing in this important area and have the opportunity to meet with UK organisations.

This enhanced event will be part of a wider "Sustainable Future" initiative being organised by UKTI in early 2011 including activities on sustainable urban environment around EcoBuild 2011 at Earls Court on 2-4 March.

Image: David Willets MP SoS for Universities and Science with Hydrogen Fuelled Car at the University of Birmingham – May 2010

UKTI Sustainable Manufacturing Conference – December 14th – Janet Tingle (UKTI)



The Advanced Engineering Sector of UK Trade & Investment is working with a number of industry, academia and other

partners to identify and promote UK capability in sustainable manufacturing to global markets.

As part of this initiative UKTI, in collaboration with its partners, is hosting a Sustainable Manufacturing Conference in London on December 14th 2010, details will be available on the UKTI web site in October. Key note speakers from industry and academia will be addressing the conference and delegates will have the opportunity to meet UKTI commercial officers from China and India and learn about new opportunities in these markets.

To register an interest in this event email:

sustainablemanufacturing@glasgows.co.uk ; or to receive regular alerts about all of UKTI's advanced engineering events register on the UKTI portal www.ukti.gov.uk and specify advanced engineering under your sector of interest.

Events in China and India with a sustainable manufacturing focus are planned for early in 2011 and will be covered at the Conference on 14 December.

UKTI @ LCV 2010 – Ian Lockhart (UKTI)

Cenex, the UK's centre of excellence for low-carbon and fuel cell technology organised the first of what has now become an annual LCV (low-carbon vehicle) event in 2008. That and the event in 2009 was largely focussed on informing companies from the UK on what was happening here and giving them the opportunity to network and see, through the exhibition what is being done in this increasingly important area.



Images taken at the Low Carbon Vehicle (LCV), 2010 international session in the plenary conference, including the UKTI stand

As in the past Cenex worked with BIS, OLEV, the Technology Strategy Board and others to deliver this year's event at the Millbrook Proving Ground in Bedfordshire on 15-16 September, but

this year they also teamed up with UK Trade & Investment to help turn this from a national to a truly international event.

The event once again proved to be a great success featuring a conference and technical seminar programme running in parallel over the 2 days of the event; a low and ultra low carbon vehicle technology exhibition showing innovative R&D from leading UK automotive technology companies and a vehicle ride and drive where visitors can have hands-on experience of the latest low and ultra low carbon vehicles within the safety of the Proving Grounds.

Although relatively small, 126 companies exhibited at the event whilst 116 vehicles were on show with 90 available for the ride and drive. Over the two days of the event more than 1,800 people visited LCV 2010, including around 75 international visitors largely invited by UKTI.

Comments from some of the delegates included:

"This was an excellent event to meet and explore emerging technologies. The ability to have a meeting to discuss the technology and then to go and drive the vehicles to see in the real world the technology in action was fantastic A great format with plenty of variety. The ride and drive was excellent. The presentations throughout the day were both informative and had a great mix of speakers and experiences on the topics being discussed."

"A very enjoyable and informative event which I think was a credit to all involved and UK industry in general. Very much hoping that you organise one next year."

"An excellent day out, quality products explained confidently. All the stands were manned with professional people able to explain their products. It was good to meet people and exchange details of this expanding market."

"Great event and good to be able to meet with potential overseas customers."

Latest BIS News

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise



The Awards are made each year by HM The Queen and recognise businesses that are outstanding in their field. They are delivered under a Royal Warrant by BIS. Winning a Queen's Award is a huge boost to businesses. The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are the UK's most prestigious business awards.

A Typical Winner – Brompton Bicycle

West London-based Brompton Bicycle won two Queen's Awards this year – for International Trade and Innovation. The secret of success lies in the uniqueness of the product, says Managing Director Will Butler-Adams.

There are around 1,200 parts in a Brompton bike, and 70 per cent of those are unique – designed and made by the company. That number of parts and the fact that the bike can be folded and unfolded several times a day means that the manufacturing tolerances (limits of variation) are unusually fine. All the metal presses are made in the UK to the company's specification, and all the tools are themselves unique.

You can't make bikes without skilled people on the production line, and Brompton invests heavily in training its apprentice brazers (brazing is soldering metal with a high melting point). It takes two years to train a brazer, and every finished part bears the brazer's name, for quality control.

Benefits of the Awards

Brompton exports 70 per cent of the bikes it makes, to 35 countries, and Will is grateful for the chance to put the Queen's Award sticker on the bikes. The public relations value is obvious, but the real benefit is being able to use it as part of their marketing for five years. "It's very highly regarded in our Asian markets, particularly Japan. Our Asian distributors were over the moon – it really differentiates us from our competitors" will says.

Queen's Awards 2011 – deadline is 29 October

There are three categories: Innovation, International Trade and Sustainable Development. There is also an award for individuals, the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion.

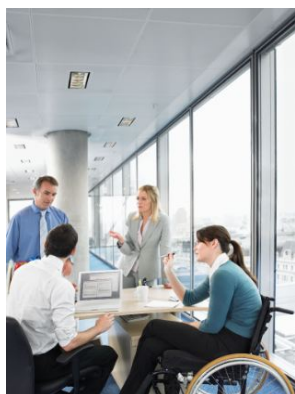
The winners / recipients in each category of The Queen's Awards are announced on 21 April every year - to coincide with HM The Queen's birthday. Your award will be presented by the Lord Lieutenant of your county, at your business premises. HM The Queen also usually invites representatives from each winning business and The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion (QAEP) recipients to a reception at Buckingham Palace.

Information on the **Queen's Awards for Enterprise may be located via the Business Links website**. Interested organisations may apply on-line. Please pass the word to your colleagues ensuring that all applications are made by the closing date of **29 October 2010**.

Details of previous winners may be located on the Business Links website (<http://www.queensawardsmagazine.com/awardwinners/search>).

The Queen's Awards Helpline
020 7215 6880

Equality Act 2010 now in force



October 1st was an historic day for equality when the majority of the Equality Act 2010 came into force. The new Act brings together nine separate pieces of equality legislation into one law and extends protection to certain groups so they are treated more fairly.

The legislation covers several characteristics, of which people may fall into multiple categories - age, race, religion and belief, sex (gender) and sexual orientation. Some people also have the protected characteristics of disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity.

Under the Act people are not allowed to discriminate, harass or victimise another person because they belong to a group that the Act protects, are thought to belong to one of those groups or are associated with someone who does.

BIS partner organisations - news round up

In this edition of Hot Issues we highlight news stories from our BIS partner organisations ranging from stress relief, electric cars, International co-operation, Climate Change to a Business Scheme aimed at young biotech entrepreneurs.



Helping managers relieve stress Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)

ACAS has released a new guide to help employers prevent and manage stress in the workplace.

ACAS's Dame Carol Black said: "It is in employers' interests to manage stress at work proactively and not just assume all staff are coping, particularly in a tough economic environment where many employees are under pressure to do more with less."

The guide, **Work-related stress: what the law says** (available from the CIPD website), which was written by John Hamilton, head of safety, health and wellbeing at Leeds Metropolitan University, highlights employers' legal obligations and recent cases where employers have faced significant compensation payouts for failing to identify and prevent stress adequately. In addition it provides advice on how employers can tackle stress through good people management.



Investment sparks electric car start-up Yorkshire Forward (YF)

Faradion, a Sheffield-based start-up that will develop high-capacity batteries for electric vehicles, is one of the first businesses to benefit from Finance Yorkshire's investment.

"Without cheaper batteries, there will always be a danger that electric vehicles will not be an option for mass production," said Faradion chair Andrew Dixey.

At present electric vehicles are dependent on batteries that in some cases cost as much as the whole of a conventional petrol car, and which have uncertain lifetimes. Faradion plans to use a number of technologies which can potentially halve the costs of storing electrical energy

Regional development agency Yorkshire Forward contributes funds to Finance Yorkshire, which provides seedcorn investments to small and medium-sized companies.

EPSRC

UK and India work together on science Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

Pioneering research and skills

The EPSRC is to play a major role in two joint UK-India projects, announced by Science Minister David Willetts on his recent trip to India. Researchers from both nations will collaborate on technological, economic and societal solutions to improving the lives of rural populations; and the development of environmentally friendly fuel cells.

This was in addition to an investment of £1.2 million by EPSRC, through the Research Councils UK Energy Programme, to five joint research projects between UK and Indian researchers aimed at improving the safety of civil nuclear power generation.



Making your building ready for climate change?

Technology Strategy Board (TSB)

The TSB has commissioned a report on the challenges the urban environment will need to withstand as the climate changes and we reduce the energy we use. **Design for Future Climate** asks how we can adapt our buildings and explores whether these challenges offer commercial opportunities.



Business scheme gives boost to young biotech entrepreneurs Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

A review of the Biotechnology Young Entrepreneurs Scheme now in its 15th year has found it gives young researchers the edge in future career prospects and an awareness of commercial opportunities. The report, an independent review carried out on behalf of BBSRC, shows that having participated in the Biotechnology YES competition early career scientists are well prepared to move into industry where their improved entrepreneurial skills are highly valuable. Universities and Science Minister David Willetts said the initiative "offers important

entrepreneurial skills to our next generation of talented scientists and technicians so they can exploit the results of their research and help the economy to grow".

New DVD aims to tackle young people's employment rights awareness



Starting out – Your employment rights and responsibilities, is a new teaching resource aimed at Key Stage 4 (14 to 16 years) students.

This lively digital video, available as a DVD, explores basic employment rights, discrimination issues, information sources, work experience, health and safety and workplace bullying. It features a number of work-related scenarios, performed by professional actors, along with a set of supporting lesson plans and worksheets.

Commissioned by Employment Relations Directorate, the video aims to tackle the low levels of awareness of employment rights among young people. The tone is pitched at children at the age when they receive their National Insurance numbers, undertake work experience and often start part-time work.

It will be of particular interest to Personal Social Health and Economic (**PSHE**), Careers Advice and Citizenship teachers. An earlier prototype was successfully trialled in the Birmingham Local Education Authority

Additional information is available on **YOUTUBE**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzzkgirlNmU&feature=player_embedded

More information and how to order the DVD please contact Anne Simpson - Employment Guidance and Enforcement - on 01642 364241 or **e-mail** anne.simpson@bis.gsi.gov.uk .

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:

The Future of Narrative Reporting: a Consultation

Open date: 02 Aug 2010

Closing date: 19 Oct 2010

Consultation paper seeking views on issues relating to corporate narrative reporting.

This consultation is part of implementing the Coalition Agreement commitment to "reinstate an Operating and Financial Review to ensure that directors' social and environmental duties have to be covered in company reporting and investigate further ways of improving corporate accountability and transparency".

The objective of the consultation is to look at ways to drive quality of company reporting to the level of the best and thereby enable stronger and more effective shareholder engagement.

Phasing out the Default Retirement Age

Open date: 29 Jul 2010

Closing date: 21 Oct 2010

The Coalition's Programme for Government commits the Government to phasing out the Default Retirement Age (DRA). This consultation document sets out the background to the DRA, and explains how the Government is proposing to remove it.

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations, which came into force on 1 October 2006, provide for a default retirement age of 65 that employers can rely on if they wish. The regulations make earlier retirement ages unlawful unless employers can objectively justify them. The regulations also introduced a new statutory right for individuals to request postponement of retirement beyond the age of 65 - requests which the employer must consider.

Implementing the revised EU Electronic Communications Framework – Overall approach and consultation on specific issues

Open date: 13 Sep 2010

Closing date: 03 Dec 2010

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has launched its proposals for implementing the revised EU Electronic Communications Framework. This document sets out our preferred approach to implementation and asks questions on a limited number of specific issues. We are consulting on: appeals; facilities sharing; security and resilience; dissuasive sanctions; equivalence for disabled end-users; personal data breaches and enforcement; and "cookies".

There are several ways to respond to the consultation. You can respond online using our **survey monkey** questionnaire. Alternatively you can respond to the consultation using the form within the **consultation document (PDF, 376 Kb)**. You can also use survey monkey to answer our **impact assessment questions**

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

Publications – A selection of our Most Recent



Great expectations: doing business in emerging markets

URN: 10/1142

Publication date: 20 Sep 2010

Explores the changing outlook for businesses already operating in emerging markets, or planning to expand into these markets, both in terms of which markets are presenting the best

opportunities and the primary rationale for operating in these countries. Available as a Printed copy via our publications order line

- Tel: 0845 015 0010



Future story: UK technology

URN: 10/1097

Publication date: 16 Sep 2010

Outlines why the UK is a great place for technology companies to do business.



The impact of the EU RTD framework programme on the UK

URN: 10/1158

Publication date: 15 Sep 2010

Study undertaken by Technopolis Ltd for BIS.

Investigates the impacts and leverage effects of the European programme for research and technological development (RTD), mainly the sixth and seventh

framework programmes (FP6 and FP7) on the UK. Aims to assist with the development of UK priorities for the next framework programme (FP8) by providing evidence of how the framework programmes have helped with areas of UK strength and with new areas of expertise.

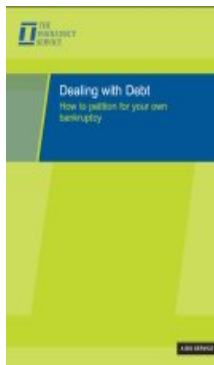


Dealing with debt: how to make someone bankrupt.

URN: 10/1147

Publication date: 14 Sep 2010

Answers common questions about how to make someone bankrupt, and explains what happens after the bankruptcy order is made.



Dealing with debt: how to petition for your own bankruptcy

URN: 10/1146

Publication date: 14 Sep 2010

Answers to frequently asked questions about being in debt and making yourself bankrupt. It explains some of the terms used in bankruptcy, and gives information on how and where to apply for your own bankruptcy.



Grow with corporate and executive training from the UK

URN: 10/1123

Publication date: 2 Sep 2010

Overview of the UK's expertise in providing corporate and executive training, and UK Trade & Investment's role in promoting this. Includes case studies. A Spanish version is also available - see URN 10/1124.



The economics of standardization: an update

URN: 10/1135

Publication date: 2 Sep 2010

Update to the report on the economics of standardization (URN 00/1694). Focuses on new issues that have emerged in the last ten years, particularly in growth and productivity, trade, innovation, and models of standards and the economy. Presents a model of the effects of standards, examines the rationale for Government policy on standardisation, and discusses examples of good practice in standardisation policy.

Future Manufacturing and Materials Events

Date	Event
Nov-2010 – Date to be Confirmed	BIS - Manufacturing framework Launch Event
18-Nov-10	Chemical Industries Association Annual Dinner
18-Nov-10	The Manufacturer Directors Conference
23-Nov-10	Life Sciences: Driving Economic Growth and Health Benefit
29-Nov-10	CBI Manufacturing Dinner
07-16 Jan -11	Tullett Prebon London International Boat Show
TBC	EEF Future Manufacturing Awards

UKTI - Autosport International, NEC, Birmingham, 13-14 January 2011 - Ian Lockhart (UKTI)

UK Trade & Investment will once again be working with the MIA and Haymarket Exhibitions to organise an International Business Exchange during the trade days of next year's Autosport International. Overseas buyers visiting the event will be offered the opportunity to have meetings arranged at the show which are tailored to their requirements. An on-line facility will be available for UK companies interested in meeting such visitors where they can view their details and pre-book meetings.

UKTI will also be supporting the MIA's European Cleaner Racing Conference at the NEC on the 12th of January.

Further information on these initiatives will be available in the near future. In the mean time anyone interested to hear more about them can contact Alicia Warden at the MIA (Tel: 02476 692600 or e-mail: alicia.warden@the-mia.com).

SIAT (Symposium of International Automotive Technologies), Pune, India, 19-22 January 2011 - Ian Lockhart (UKTI)

A UK Group to SIAT is being organised on behalf of UKTI by the SMMT. This biannual event is the key technical event in the Indian automotive sector. In addition to the symposium there is an

exposition for which eligible companies can apply for UKTI support. In addition to the group at SIAT UKTI is also proposing a programme of meetings and other activities with key Indian companies in Pune and perhaps other centres after the event.

For further information on this event please contact Les Parfitt at the SMMT (Tel: 020 7344 9233 or e-mail: lparfitt@smmmt.co.uk)

Contact US

We trust that you enjoyed this new edition. If you have not yet subscribed to a regular distributed copy of our publication or we can assist you with any of the issues raised in this edition please **contact us**. Your feedback on this publication is always welcome.

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<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/business-sectors/manufacturing-and-materials/hot-issues>

Manufacturing and Materials (MM) – Roles and Responsibilities

Name	Job Title
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 -

Name	Role
	Technology Coordination
Ivan Youd	Nanotechnologies and Materials, Bombardier transportation and Hitachi (Trains)

Manufacturing Strategy

Name	Role
Brian Greenwood	Manufacturing Strategy Team Leader
Stuart Barthropp	Manufacturing Policy
Emma Sangster	Manufacturing Policy / Strategy
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.
Ben Taylor (Mr B)	Marketing Executive
Roisin McClory (Mr R)	Marketing Account Manager: Oil & Gas and Advanced Engineering (UKTI MG Marketing Services)
Faye Smith	Sector Specialist – Materials

This edition produced and Edited by the MM Central Team: Chris Griffin, Cliff Salole and Judith Williams – October 2010

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URN 10/415/C

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