

# HOT ISSUES

Materials, Engineering &  
Manufacturing Policy Newsletter  
Hot Issues

Issue 14: November 2004

**Dear Reader,**

Welcome to the second anniversary of our Hot Issues Newsletter. We hope you continue to find the newsletter helpful and, as always are happy to consider any suggestions for making it user-friendlier.

Issues in this edition include the DTI 5-year programme, Materials Innovation and Growth Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> call for proposals under the DTI Technology Programme and the announcement of the 1<sup>st</sup> year package of measures under the Business Resource and Efficiency and Waste Programme.

There are several consultations that will arise shortly, including proposed amendments to the landfill Regulations 2002, union modernisation and union recognition, and best practice when working with unions seeking recognition. We will forward more details of these consultations once they have been published.

We are always grateful for any suggestions for new subjects to be covered in future issues of the newsletter. Ambert Prosper at [Ambert.Prospers@dti.gov.uk](mailto:Ambert.Prospers@dti.gov.uk) will be happy to take these on board.

Alternatively my team would be happy to meet you to discuss issues affecting your sector if you would find this useful. Your first port of call to arrange a meeting should be your relationship manager. Contact details are included in the newsletter should you need them.

**Terry Martin**  
**Assistant Director, Influence and Impact Section**  
**Materials, Engineering and Manufacturing Policy Unit.**

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## HOT ISSUES

### **Issue: The Technology Programme – supporting research, development and innovation of your business.**

#### **Main points:**

Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt MP today offered £80million investment to British business for research and development into the latest world-beating innovative technologies.

The announcement comes directly out of the DTI's recently published 5 year - programme 'Creating Wealth from Knowledge' and the DTI's new industrial policy as a champion of science, innovation and technology.

The £80million of funding will be available for companies to carry out Collaborative Research and Development in nine high-priority technology areas:

- Design, simulation and modelling
- Micro and nanotechnology
- Pervasive computing
- Waste management and minimisation
- Smart materials
- Bio-based industrial products
- Energy technologies
- Imaging technologies
- Opto-electronic and disruptive electronic technologies

The £80million funding announced today is available through two of the DTI's new business support products in the forms of grants for research and development and to promote networks in specific technology areas.

This competition forms part of larger Government funding to support business in their R&D investments. Over the period 2005-2008, a total of £320million of DTI funding is available through a Technology Strategy with an additional £50 million from Defra. Partnership work with other government departments and bodies will increase this amount further.

#### **Deadline for input: Ongoing**

#### **Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):**

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme/about.html>

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/technologystrategy/tsbintroduction.html>

Contact us: [TechnologyProgramme@dti.gov.uk](mailto:TechnologyProgramme@dti.gov.uk)

**Issue: Jacqui Smith launches joint venture for £200bn materials industry**

**Main points:**

A new partnership to improve innovation and competitiveness in the £200billion a year UK materials industry was announced by Industry Minister Jacqui Smith on 17 November.

The Materials Innovation & Growth Team, which will include representatives from the industry, the regions and government aims to secure agreement on a shared vision for the future of an industry that employs over four million people in the UK.

The team will be led by Wyn Jones OBE, Chair of British Alcan Aluminium, part of Alcan Inc., one of the world's major aluminium and packaging companies. We are currently working with Wyn to appoint a Steering Committee, which we hope, will meet before Christmas to enable us to finalise plans for a workshop to launch the individual task groups early in the New Year.

Innovation and Growth Teams have been previously established to look at the automotive, chemicals, environmental equipment and software sectors. The reports these teams have produced have been welcomed by the Government recommending key actions both HMG and the Industries involved are currently taking forward.

The IGT concept first announced in the February 2001 White Paper "Opportunity for All" represented a new approach to the formulation and delivery of policy, bringing together stakeholders Government and industry to look strategically and identify key issues that would shape the future of sector and how the UK could best respond to them.

IGT's work will be able to be followed and contributed to using the conference facilities available in the Advanced Materials Forum.

Further information is available from the weblink below

[www.amf.uk.com](http://www.amf.uk.com)

Contact us: [Robert.Quarshie@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Quarshie@dti.gsi.gov.uk)  
[Gerry.Miles@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Gerry.Miles@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

## Issue: Landfill Tax – Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme

### Main points:

On 22 November 2004 Environment Minister Margaret Beckett announced a £284m programme to help businesses become more efficient with their resources and make the most out of their waste.

This announcement forms part of Defra's five-year strategy, to be unveiled in full early in December 2004, which will have a local and global focus on improving the environment.

The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme, which recycles revenue generated through the Landfill Tax, will provide new support to business that specifically targets waste minimisation, the diversion of waste away from landfill, and improvements in resource efficiency.

The programme for 2005, which will be formally launched in April, will deliver the first raft of funding, worth £43m, to:

**Envirowise** to expand their service providing business with independent advice on practical ways to minimise waste and reduce environmental impact. It will also fund Waste Minimisation Clubs which will help businesses collaborate to improve resource efficiency;

**WRAP** to develop new markets for a number of 'difficult' business wastes; to develop a pilot project for the collection and recycling of waste from small businesses; and expand their scheme providing start-up funding for businesses involved in recycling;

**Defra's Market Transformation Programme** to expand this programme, which aims to improve the resource efficiency of products to include those made and used by businesses and which have the potential to reduce waste

**Carbon Trust** to expand their programmes helping business reduce carbon emissions and develop low carbon technologies;

**National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP)** to expand this business led programme which aims to bring together businesses to use waste from one business as the input for another;

**DTI Technology Fund** to support research and development aimed at waste minimisation, waste management and energy efficiency;

**Regional Development Agencies** to co-ordinate delivery of these measures and to carry out strategic resource efficiency projects in the regions.

A steering committee of business representatives will continue to monitor and advise the programme as it develops. The call for proposals on the R & D element of the BREW programme was announced under the DTI Technology Programme – Waste Management and Minimalisation – 29 November. Please refer to the DTI Technology Programme article for further details.

### Hot links to further information

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/brew/index.htm>

Contact us: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

**Issue: Environment Agency: Pollution Prevention and Control Fees and Charges 2005/06 – Consultation.**

**Main points:**

The Environment Agency (EA) is seeking views on its proposals to amend the following charging schemes, which if approved would take effect on 1 April 2005:

Waste Management Licensing (WML),  
Transfrontier Shipments (TFS)  
Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC)  
Radioactive Substances Act (1993) Regulation (RAS)  
Integrated Pollution Control (IPC)

The EA estimates that the cost to them to integrate new regulatory responsibilities will be as much as 5%. By law any regulatory costs must be recovered from the companies they regulate. The government envisages restricting the increase of three-quarters of their environmental permits to 2.5% for 2005.

However, some of the proposed charges also include very significant increases. We therefore encourage you to respond to this consultation.

A copy of the consultation document and charging proposals can be found on the following website below

For further information on the consultation please contact Wil Huntley on 01454 624078.

**Deadline for input: 12 January 2005**

**Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):**

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yourenv/consultations/897665/?version=1&lang=e>

Contact us: [David.Williams@dti.qsi.gov.uk](mailto:David.Williams@dti.qsi.gov.uk)

**Issue: Local Authority: Environmental Regulation of Industrial Plant: 2005/06 fees and charges**

**Main points:**

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 provide for the setting of fees and charges for Local Air Pollution and Control (LA-IPPC), and Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC) at levels that will recover costs of local authorities of implementing the system. This consultation relates to the LAPC fees and charges in England and the LAPPC/LA-IPPC fees and charges in England and Wales. The National Assembly for Wales will be consulting separately on LAPC fees and charges, which may have a knock on effect with regard to LAPPC and LA-IPPC.

Defra's practice is to consult affected industries and local authority associations as

part of the annual review of the local authority charges schemes. It is proposed that fees and charges for the local air pollution control (LAPC/LAPPC) and local authority integrated pollution prevention and control (LA-IPPC) regimes for 2005/6 are increased by 5% over current levels with exception of the application fee for LA-IPPC for which it is proposed to set the increase at 37%.

In brief, the proposals will result in the application fees for LAPC/LAPPC rising from £1342 to £1409 with subsistence fees rising from £837 to £879. Application fees for LA-IPPC should rise from £1889 to £2588 with the subsistence fees rising from £1087 to £1141.

A copy of the consultation document can be found using the website below

**Deadline for input: 7 January 2005**

**Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/localauth-plantfees/index.htm>

Contact us: [David.Williams@dti.qsi.gov.uk](mailto:David.Williams@dti.qsi.gov.uk)

#### **Issue: Emissions Trading Scheme**

##### **Main points:**

On 1 January 2005 the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS), one of the policies being introduced across Europe to tackle emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, is due to begin. Along with a number of other sectors, steel production is captured by the scheme. Also covered are installations in any sectors that have combustion plants of a thermal input of over 20MW, including aggregated plants on a single site.

On 27 October the UK published an update to its National Allocation Plan, announced in May, which set out provisional allocation levels for the first phase of EU emissions trading (which runs from 2005-7). The allocations have now been reviewed in the light of ongoing work on the projections and the new climate change agreement targets agreed with industry. The Government has subsequently proposed to the Commission an amendment to the National Allocation Plan increasing the total number of UK allowances for the period 2005-7 by 19.8 million allowances to 756.1 million allowances. The allocation is now 5.2% below final projections of business as usual in the UK.

Further details on the national plan can be found on the SEPN and Defra sites below. These sites also include information on a number of other recent announcements covering new entrants, closure and auctioning, emissions trading registry, ETS Regulations, UK ETS opt-out and subsistence charging. A timeline leading to the deadline for issuing allowances on 28 February can also be accessed from these websites. Key for industry here will be the publication of the revised sector allocations, installation allocations and new entrant reserve on 5 January.

**Deadline for input: Ongoing**

**Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):**

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/euets.shtml>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/trading/eu/index.htm>

Contact us: [keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

**Issue: Domestic and European Climate Change Policy**

**Main points:**

On 15 September Defra announced the terms of reference for the review of the Government's Climate Change Programme, which was undertaken in 2000.

The purpose of the review is to evaluate and measure the impacts of key elements of the programme, to update greenhouse gas emissions projections, assess how far UK has gone to reach its Kyoto target, and assess if the UK remains on course to meet its 2010 and 2050 domestic goals for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. A key element to all of these workstreams is the costs and benefits to the UK and UK business of any revised programme of action.

A consultation exercise will be launched in the autumn and an updated programme will be published in the first half of next year. We will ensure that you receive details of both of the documents, and indeed any other key announcements as soon as they are published. The Defra Press Release, announcing the review, can be accessed via the link below.

Separately, the European Commission launched a stakeholder consultation on future climate change policy on 14 September. The consultation gives an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the debate on the future of climate change, which will be used in the development of the EU's future climate change policy. Details of the Commission announcement can be accessed from the link below.

**Deadline for input: Ongoing**

**Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2004/040915b.htm>

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1099&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Contact us: [keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

**Issue: Climate Change Agreements: Extension of Eligibility Criteria**

**Main Points:**

Budget 2004 announced the extension of the Climate Change Agreement (CCAs) scheme. Subject to European Commission state aid approval, the eligibility criteria are to be extended to cover other energy-intensive sectors of industry not included within

the existing arrangements (those already eligible for CCAs under the current arrangements will continue to benefit and will be unaffected by these changes).

The additional qualifying criteria for CCAs are based on one of the definitions of energy intensity set out in the EU Energy Products Directive, which came into force on 1 January 2004. Qualifying processes must:

- Meet or exceed a 12% threshold of energy intensity, or
- Fall between a 3% and 12% threshold of energy intensity, provided they meet or exceed either:
  - An import penetration ratio of 50% or
  - An export to production ratio of 30%

In both instances, energy intensity is defined as energy costs being at least 3% of production value. These tests will be applied once only, at the beginning of negotiations, and at sector level.

As a first step, those sectors who believe they may meet the eligibility criteria should contact FES to agree a process definition. Please contact either James Craig on 0870 190 6083 or John Huddleston on 0870 190 6153. Applications should then be submitted electronically, including all supporting data, to [levy.agreements@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:levy.agreements@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Further details are available from the Defra website below.

**Deadline for input: Ongoing**

**Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):**

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ccl/extension.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ccl/extension.htm)

Contacts: [terry.martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:terry.martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Issue: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) and the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROHS) Directive**

#### **Main Points:**

The Government issued, on the 29th July, the third and final consultation on its proposals to implement the requirements of the WEEE and RoHS Directives. The consultation includes draft implementing regulations and non-statutory guidance.

For the WEEE Directive the consultation sets out the proposed obligations that will be placed on producers and retailers of electrical and electronic equipment. Producers will have a responsibility to fund the collection, treatment (including recovery and recycling) of WEEE. Retailers will also have an obligation to take-back WEEE.

The consultation includes proposals for the establishment of a National Clearing House (NCH) to assist in the registration of producers and the allocation to producers of WEEE based on market share. Producers have proposed that the NCH should co-ordinate the "physical" allocation of WEEE, i.e. allocating WEEE to producers from collection facilities around the UK. It is also envisaged that the NCH would act as a focal point for producer registration, data reporting for their market presence, for allocation purposes and compliance reporting.

It is expected that registration of producers will take place during the first half of 2005.

For RoHS, the consultation details the draft implementing regulations which will transpose the Directive's requirements to ban the placing on the market of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) containing more than agreed levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium and the flame retardants PBBs and PBDEs. The Consultation also details the exemptions that exist for EEE under both Directives and gives guidance on how producers can set about establishing whether a product would be caught by the scope of the Directives.

The main obligations of the WEEE Directive will come into force on the 13th August 2005. The substance restrictions, under the RoHS Directive will come into force on the 1st July 2006

**Deadline for input: Ongoing**

**Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):**

Website: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/index.htm>.

Contacts: Contact: [gordon.tarrant@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.tarrant@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

## **OTHER ISSUES**

**The following are some of the other ongoing issues.**

### **Consultation on the Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment – EC Proposals relating to the Aarhus Convention**

Defra is seeking views on the partial Regulatory Impact Assessment of three European Community proposals. The proposals relate to the Aarhus convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.

The main purpose of the consultation is to inform the Government negotiating position on the EC proposals. This applies particularly to the proposed Directive on access to justice in environmental matters, which could impact directly on the UK. Detailed negotiations on the Directive are expected to begin by the end of 2004.

The consultation papers can be accessed via the weblink below. Responses should be sent to Defra at [aarhus.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:aarhus.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk) by **3 December 2004**

**Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/aarhus/index.htm>

Contact us at: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Physical Agents (Noise) Directive**

The Noise Directive came into force on 15 February 2003 upon publication of the text in the Official Journal of the European Communities. We now have

until 15 February 2006 to transpose the Directive into UK Regulations, which will replace the Noise at Work Regulations 1989. Essentially the Directive reduces the noise exposure levels at which employers must take action, and introduces a limit value above which employees must not be exposed.

The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) published the formal Consultation Document on the Proposals for new Control of Noise at Work Regulations implementing the Physical Agents (Noise) Directive (2003/10/EC)(C196) on 5 April 2004 covering both draft Regulations and Guidance. The consultation period ended on 25 June 2004, and HSE is now considering the comments received and will be submitting recommendations to the HSC and Ministers early next year

Contacts: [tarla.patel@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tarla.patel@hse.gsi.gov.uk) <mailto:tarla.patel@hse.gsi.gov.uk>  
Consultation Document: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd196.htm>  
Further information about the Directive can be found on the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise>

## **EU Chemicals Legislation – REACH**

REACH ( Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals ) is a new proposal for regulation of substances, adopted by the European Commission in October 2003 and now the subject of negotiations expected to last into 2006. It has the same scope as existing regulations and will therefore apply to certain minerals and ores, eg, metals, cement. The aims of the regulation are to improve the protection of human health and the environment while maintaining the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry. One of the features of REACH is that it aims to shift responsibility from public authorities to industry for carrying out risk assessment and the management of risks from substances and to provide safety information on substances and their uses.

The Government carried out a consultation on REACH during March-June this year. A copy of the consultation document and a summary of the responses received are available on Defra's website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/reach> Discussions on REACH have been ongoing during the Dutch Presidency and will continue throughout 2005.

In the meantime, detailed scrutiny of the REACH Regulation is continuing under the Dutch Presidency. This scrutiny is currently focusing on the registration provisions of the Regulation.

Contact us at: [Keith.avis@dti.gov.uk](mailto:Keith.avis@dti.gov.uk)  
[Robin.Ashman@dti.gov.uk](mailto:Robin.Ashman@dti.gov.uk)

## **EU Batteries Directive**

A Government consultation seeking stakeholder views on the proposal by the European Commission for a new Directive on batteries and accumulators closed on 5 August 2004. Some 50 responses were received from a range of stakeholders

including, local authorities, battery manufacturers and retailers. A summary of the responses has now been published on the DTI's batteries webpage at:

[www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/ep/batteries.htm](http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/ep/batteries.htm)

The proposal is currently being negotiated in the Council Working Group on the Environment. The Dutch Presidency is keen to reach political agreement on the proposal in December.

Contact: [paul.creary@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paul.creary@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: [www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/ep/batteries.htm](http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/ep/batteries.htm)

## **EU Environmental Liability Directive**

The Directive was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 30 April 2004 and has now come into force. Member States have until 30 April 2007 to transpose the Directive into national law. Transposition in the UK will involve two or three formal public consultations, the first of which is likely to begin around January 2005.

Websites: Environmental Council minutes:

<http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/loadbook.asp?BID=89&LANG=1>

DG Environment site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/liability/>

## **European Commission proposals for an eco-design for Energy-using Products (EuP) framework Directive**

The European Commission adopted a proposal for a framework Directive on the eco-design of energy-using products, such as electrical and electronic devices or heating equipment, on 1 August 2003. The proposal does not introduce directly binding requirements for specific products, but does define conditions and criteria for setting requirements regarding environmentally relevant product characteristics (such as energy consumption).

The EuP proposals were presented to a meeting of the EC Energy Council Working Group in September 2003 and were discussed by Ministers at the full meeting of the Energy Council on 15 December 2003. Political agreement on a text was agreed at a meeting of the Energy Council at the end of June.

At the same time however, MEPs in the Environment Committee of the European Parliament had been considering their Report on the Commission's text and came up with just under 350 amendments to the original text. A plenary discussion of the Directive took place in May, where the list of amendments was reduced but it was too late for a final text to be agreed with the Energy Council and adopted before the then-current European Parliament was dissolved. The new Parliament is not expected to undertake a second reading of the proposals until early next year, which means that final agreement on these proposals is now unlikely before March 2005 at the earliest.

Contact: [Steven.Andrews@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.Andrews@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/eco\\_design/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/eco_design/index.htm)

## **EU Integrated Product Policy**

As reported in previous issues, the European Commission adopted a Communication on Integrated Product Policy (IPP) on 18 June 2003 that outlined its strategy for reducing the environmental impact caused by products. IPP represents a new approach and puts emphasis on three dimensions:

- Life-cycle thinking - when pollution reduction measures are identified, consideration is given to the whole of a product's life-cycle from cradle to grave;
- Flexible - as to the type of policy measure to be used, working with the market where possible;
- Full stakeholder involvement

The Environment Council reached its formal conclusions on the Commission Communication in October 2003 and the European Parliament produced a Draft Report on 1 March 2004, which is now under consideration.

The Commission has now also established a formal Network with Member States and is holding regular meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to monitor and promote the implementation of the Commission's Communication on IPP. It is also a forum for the Commission to report to Member States and stakeholders on its IPP related activities and for the Member States and stakeholders to report back to the Commission.

The first meeting was held on the 24th of February 2004 and the second on 20th September 2004.

Contact: [Steven.Andrews@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.Andrews@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ipp/ippcommunication.htm>

## **INDUSTRY SUPPORT**

### **National Metals Technology Centre (NAMTEC)**

The National Metals Technology Centre (NAMTEC) was launched in October 2002 following DTI sponsored research, which found overwhelming support for a metals centre of excellence. Funded by the DTI, Yorkshire Forward and Objective 1, NAMTEC aims to increase the global competitiveness of the UK's metals sector by stimulating high technology innovation and research and development.

For further information contact:

NAMTEC  
Q Block, Swinden Technology Centre  
Moorgate Road  
Rotherham, S60 3AR  
Telephone: (01709) 724990  
Email: [info@namtec.co.uk](mailto:info@namtec.co.uk)

[www.namtec.co.uk](http://www.namtec.co.uk)

## MATERIALS, ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING POLICY UNIT CONTACT LIST

<p><b>Simon Edmonds</b> Director 0207 215 1535 <a href="mailto:simon.edmonds@dti.gsi.gov.uk">simon.edmonds@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Noreen Moriarty</b> PA 0207 215 1178 <a href="mailto:Noreen.Moriarty@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Noreen.Moriarty@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Gerry Miles</b> Deputy Director Metals, Materials, Minerals 0207 215 1474 <a href="mailto:gerry.miles@dti.gsi.gov.uk">gerry.miles@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Keith Hodgkinson</b> Deputy Director Engineering, Energy/Environment 0207 215 1094 <a href="mailto:Keith.Hodgkinson@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Keith.Hodgkinson@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Narinder Kaur</b> 0207 215 1091 <a href="mailto:Narinder.kaur@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Narinder.kaur@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Terry Martin</b> Influence and Impact Team (IIT) Assistant Director 0207 215 1102 <a href="mailto:Terry.martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Terry.martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>David Rose</b> Knowledge Management and Relationship Manager, Minerals Assistant Director 0207 215 1095 <a href="mailto:David.rose@dti.gsi.gov.uk">David.rose@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Jan Weston</b> Relationship Director 0207 215 1052 <a href="mailto:Jan.Weston@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Jan.Weston@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Robert Quarshie</b> Chief Analytical Advisor 0207 215 1563 <a href="mailto:Robert.Quarshie@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Robert.Quarshie@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Nick Morgan</b> Relationship Manager Engineering 0207 215 1105 <a href="mailto:nick.morgan@dti.gsi.gov.uk">nick.morgan@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Zoë Dayan</b> Relationship Director, Metals 0207 215 1049 <a href="mailto:zoe.dayan@dti.gsi.gov.uk">zoe.dayan@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Keith Avis</b> Assistant Director, Metals Policy 0207 215 1455 <a href="mailto:keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk">keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Alice Reeves</b> Senior Policy Advisor 020 7215 1096 <a href="mailto:Alice.Reeves@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Alice.Reeves@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Ambert Prosper</b> Senior Policy Advisor 0207 215 4121 <a href="mailto:ambert.prosper@dti.gsi.gov.uk">ambert.prosper@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Phil Bennett</b> International Trade Issues 0207 215 1456 <a href="mailto:Phil.Bennett@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Phil.Bennett@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Sagitta Fernando</b> 0207 215 1088 <a href="mailto:Sagitta.Fernando@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Sagitta.Fernando@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Denton Robinson</b> Information Manager 0207 215 1467 <a href="mailto:Denton.robinson@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Denton.robinson@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Martin Berry</b> Deputy Director Manufacturing Policy Team &amp; MAS 0207 215 2927 <a href="mailto:Martin.Berry@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Martin.Berry@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Stuart Barthropp</b> Senior Policy Advisor, Manufacturing Forum 020 7215 1898 <a href="mailto:Stuart.Barthropp@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Stuart.Barthropp@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Dave Courtney</b> Executive Co-ordinator -Manufacturing Advisory Service 020 7215 1490 <a href="mailto:Dave.Courtney@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Dave.Courtney@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Simon Greaves</b> Relationship Manager – Metals and Metals Products <a href="mailto:simon.greaves@dti.gsi.gov.uk">simon.greaves@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01132 338241</p>	<p><b>Ray Ward</b> Policy Advisor- Manufacturing Strategy 0207 215 1560 <a href="mailto:Ray.Ward@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Ray.Ward@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>David Williams</b> Senior Policy Advisor 020 7215 1357 <a href="mailto:David.Williams@dti.gsi.gov.uk">David.Williams@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Annie Norgrove</b> Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) strategy manager 0207 215 1098 <a href="mailto:annie.norgrove@dti.gsi.gov.uk">annie.norgrove@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>