

HOT ISSUES

dti

Materials, Engineering &
Manufacturing Policy Newsletter
Hot Issues

Issue 21: March 2006

Dear Reader

Welcome to the latest edition of our Hot issues Newsletter.

Included in this edition are the Climate Changes Programme, EU ETS and Energy issues.

Any new subject ideas for future issues of the newsletter can be sent to tony.mills@dti.gsi.gov.uk who would be happy to take these on board.



Should you wish to discuss issues affecting your sector please feel free to contact us. Your first port of call to arrange a meeting should be your relationship manager. Contact details are included in the newsletter (Last Page) should you need them.

Materials, Engineering and Manufacturing Policy

Influence and Impact Team

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Hot Issues

Climate Change Programme

The Government published a new UK Climate Change Programme on 28 March 2006. Those on the Hot Issues circulation list will have received notification on the day of publication.

The new Programme sets out the policies and priorities for action in the UK and internationally.

There are a number of primary elements for the business sector:

- Continuation of the climate change levy and associated agreements.
- Continue to make the EU Emissions Trading Scheme a central element of business sectors contribution to the national goal.
- Additional funding to allow for a significant expansion of the Carbon Trust's energy efficiency loans scheme for SMEs.
- Further measures to encourage SMEs to take up energy saving opportunities.

The Programme is expected to reduce the UK's emissions of greenhouse gases to 23-25% below base year levels, against our target under the Kyoto Protocol of a 12.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over the period 2008-2012. Full details of the programme can be access via the web link below.

Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/index.htm>

Contact: Keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Emissions Trading Scheme

The EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) is a community-wide scheme established for trading allowances to cover the emissions of greenhouse gases from permitted installations. Along with a number of other sectors, steel production is captured by the scheme, as are any combustion plants that have an aggregated thermal input of over 20MW.

The UK draft National Allocation Plan (NAP) for Phase 2 of EU ETS, 2008-2012 was [published](#) on 28 March. This sets out the details on the proposed Government policy for Phase 2 of the scheme including the range of effort for the final total allocation and detailed rules on issues such as the new entrant reserve, sector classification, treatment of CHP, and sector allocations calculated on the basis of the figures set out in the emissions projections consultation. The consultation on the NAP will run until 23 May.

The draft NAP will not, however, contain a list of installation level allocations. A provisional list of installation level allocations will be prepared following the projections consultation and data collection process (which began on 6 March). The [consultation paper](#) on carbon dioxide emissions projections for the industrial sectors covered by the EU ETS was published on 16 February. Responses are sought by 13 April.

The Government is also in the process of reviewing the benchmark allocation spreadsheet for new entrants. A [consultation](#) on the interim report was launched on 22 March and will run until 17 April. A stakeholder event to discuss these reports is being held on 7 April.

The Government will also be seeking views from industry on developing the Scheme post 2012 and a questionnaire will be published in April/May.

We welcome your input into all of these consultations.

- NAP Consultation: [http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/euets-phasetwo-
nap/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/euets-phasetwo-
nap/index.htm)
- Projections Consultation: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/consultations/index.shtml>
- Benchmarking Review Consultation: http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/benchmarks_review.shtml
- Data Collection: [http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/trading/eu/phase2/index.htm -
data](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/trading/eu/phase2/index.htm -
data)
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Current Energy Issues (Price & Supply)

The Government recognises that many parts of UK industry have experienced significant energy price increases over the past year, and that our large industrial customers are most exposed. The Government fully appreciates that energy prices are linked to the competitiveness of industry, and takes very seriously the potential loss of jobs, investment and damage to your customer relations.

Ministers and officials are determined to do what we can to mitigate the effect of these rises on affected consumers. Through the Gas Price Working Group, and the Demand Side Response Working Group, we have brought representatives of large industrial customers (CBI, CIA, EEF, and EIUG) together with OFGEM and the National Grid, to urgently examine the workings of the gas market and develop ideas for improving its operation in the light of experience this winter. The groups have also been looking at the level of demand side response that has been shown and could be expected, and the emergency arrangements that might be needed in the unlikely event of market mechanisms being unable to balance supply and demand.

One of those ideas resulted in the Environment Agency writing to PPC permit holders in December 2005 regarding the flexibility to switch fuels this winter. The EA has now extended these arrangements by a month to 30 April 2006. The EA does not intend to make arrangements by letter again next winter. Any operator who wants fuel flexibility next winter should contact their site inspector now.

EU energy market liberalization is a key priority for the UK as we become a net importer of gas. However, progress in implementing the 2003 energy liberalization package, which came into force for the industry sector in July 2004, has varied considerably. We were therefore very pleased to see the strong report from the Commission, published on 16 February, as

part of its sectoral inquiry into the EU energy market. In particular, we strongly welcome the announcement of anti-trust action, which should lead to a change in behaviour across the EU.

Due to an unfortunate accident on the Rough platform, our main storage facility has been out of action for the latter part of the winter, but our other storage sites have performed well. The present framework for the utilization of gas import and storage infrastructure is one of the factors the current Energy Review will take into account in considering security of supply, including the issues of the planning process and of strategic storage.

More detailed information on what Government has been doing is available on the DTI website (The link can be found at the end of this entry)

Website: http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/domestic_markets/security_of_supply/index.shtml

Contact: Timothy.cullen@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Energy Review – Consultation – Closing date approaching

On 23 January the Secretary of State launched the consultation document "Our Energy Challenge: securing clean affordable energy for the long term".

The consultation has a broad scope and considers all aspects of the energy system including both energy supply and demand. It sets out the energy challenges we are currently facing, and invites responses to the evidence presented and to what should be done to secure clean, affordable energy for the long term.

The deadline for contributions to the consultation is fast approaching and we would urge our stakeholders to engage in the debate.

Consultation Closes: 14 April 2006

Email: EnergyReviewconsultation@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Document published at: <http://www/dti.gov.uk/energy/review>

European Commission's High Level Group on Energy, Environment and Competitiveness

The First meeting of the European Commission's High Level Group on Energy, Environment, and Competitiveness took place in Brussels on the 28th February. This strategic high-level group is a much welcomed output of the Commission's Communication in October 2005 on EU Industrial Policy, and forms part of the EU's partnership for growth and jobs.

The UK very much supports this development. This is a good opportunity to take forward the Better Regulation agenda, and to encourage greater investment and technological development, so that competitiveness, and environmental improvements (including clean, secure energy) go hand in hand.

Over the next two years the HLG will aim to foster closer coordination between policy and legislative initiatives, and to contribute to creating a more stable and predictable regulatory framework. It will explore ways to unleash the growth potential of basic and intermediate product industries by further integrating competitiveness, energy and environmental policies. The group will examine the links between industrial, energy and environmental policies to make sure that initiatives in each area are mutually compatible. It will also look for gains in sustainable development and competitiveness.

The High Level Group will provide advice for action, in particular, in connection with the following issues:

- The functioning of energy markets, particularly the electricity and gas markets;
- Climate change, particularly the emissions trading scheme, energy-efficiency and renewables, including energy taxation and removal of harmful subsidies;
- The implementation of DG Environment's thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste and related legislation;
- Improvement of resource efficiency;
- The development and uptake of environmental and other innovative technologies;
- Concrete implementation of better regulation principles
- The HLG will fully integrate the international aspects into their reflections.

European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen said: "This initiative is a key element in the Commission's drive to develop an integrated approach for industrial policy. The interaction of energy prices, energy-efficiency and climate change is a topic of priority for many industrial sectors. This is what the Commission wants to address actively with all participants. Sustainable development and competitiveness are not a contradiction."

In addition to Günter Verheugen (European Commission Vice President responsible for Enterprise and Industry), the High Level Group also contains: Stavros Dimas (European Commissioner for Environment), Neelie Kroes (European Commissioner for Competition), Andris Piebalgs (European Commissioner for Energy), four Member State Ministers, Members of the European Parliament, industry, environmental NGOs, consumers, trade unions and regulators.

Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has been invited to participate as one of the Member State representatives. Simon Edmonds, Deputy Director General of DTI's Business Group, is the UK Lead Official.

For further information, please contact: Tim Cullen (timothy.cullen@dti.gsi.gov.uk),
Telephone: 0207 - 215 - 1096.

UK Business to get £80 Million to Support Technology Innovation

The money, announced by the Secretary of State during his budget address to Parliament, is the latest round of the Government's £370 million Technology Programme that aims to create wealth for the UK economy through innovation.

The Secretary of State said " I am delighted to announce the latest £80 million competition for collaborative R&D under the Technology Programme. This will help to fund new collaborative research in vital areas underpinning our Technology Strategy, such as low carbon energy technologies and innovative manufacturing processes.

"The Government is committed to investing in the UK's future, enabling it to meet the challenges and rise to the opportunities, enabling it to meet the challenges and rise to the opportunities of the global economy by creating a world-class environment for scientific research and development.

"With the right long term decisions Britain can lead the way in some of the fastest growing and highest value added sectors."

The funding should support collaborative research and development in seven key technology areas identified by the Technology Strategy Board as critical to the UK's growth.

The competition will open next month, 26 April. On the same day, the DTI will publish medium term strategies in areas that the Department wants to engage business in developing further.

For further information and details about registration for the launch and regional events see: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme/>

Other Issues

Waste and Resources – Knowledge Transfer Network

A major new programme was launched on 2nd March to help business improve its management of resources.

The Resource Efficiency Knowledge Transfer Network, an initiative backed by an initial three years' worth of funding from the Department of Trade and Industry's technology programme will be chaired by Peter Jones, Biffa Waste Services director. The Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) will encourage the sharing of knowledge between companies and academics in order to cut the amount of waste produced. Launching the KTN at the House of Commons, Mr Jones said it would effectively become a "knowledge warehouse" for businesses all over the globe.

For more information visit Website:

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

Pollution - Consultation on the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 - Review of the Regulatory Approach to some 'part B' Activities

Defra have published a consultation on the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 - review of the regulatory approach to some 'Part B' activities.

This consultation relates to Part B' activities; i.e. emissions to air by installations regulated in England and Wales by local authorities. Defra are seeking to determine how regulation of these activities could be improved. This is part of the better regulation agenda.

This is the first stage of consultation, and the purpose is to invite views on the criteria to be used in assessing the scope for alternative regulatory approaches.

A subsequent consultation will apply the finalised criteria to all the listed sectors, to determine what regulatory or legislative changes may be required. This will be accompanied by a Regulatory Impact Assessment.

The consultation closes on 19 May 2006.

For more information visit Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/ppcact-partb/index.htm>

Waste and pollution - Consultation on options for creating a streamlined environmental permitting and compliance system.

The proposals set out in the consultation paper aim to streamline and simplify the mechanics of the permitting and compliance systems for waste and PPC without undermining environmental protection or human health. They suggest a new system consisting of fewer, simpler rules and clearer guidance. This unified approach would allow industry, regulators and the public to focus more on environmental outcomes and less on how they are achieved.

The consultation closes on 15 May 2006.

For more information visit Website:

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

Consultation on the Review of England's Waste Strategy

Defra has issued a consultation on its review of waste strategy for England. The overall objective of a revised waste strategy will be to further reduce the impacts of waste management on the environment, while developing the economic benefit of using waste as a resource and meeting European obligations. To achieve this the revised waste strategy will offer a clearer longer-term vision for waste and resource management as part of the Government's drive for Sustainable Development, consolidate current policies and set out new proposals agreed after consultation.

This is an on line consultation, which you can access via the link below.

The consultation closes on 9 May 2006.

For more information visit Website:

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

Waste - Consultation on the source segregation requirement in Paragraph 7A of Schedule 3 to the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994

The Government is reviewing the source segregation requirement for aerobic and anaerobically digested waste compost, liquor or digestate, spread to agricultural land under a paragraph 7A exemption from waste management licensing.

This consultation document therefore provides details about why the changes in the 2005 Regulations were made; it asks for comments and views on whether the source segregation requirement is the most appropriate way to regulate outputs from the aerobic and anaerobic treatment of wastes,

The consultation closes on 2 May 2006.

For more information visit Website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wmlicence-sourcesegregate/index.htm>

Consultation on Water Resources Management Regulations

Views are sought on regulations required to implement the statutory provisions for water companies to produce water resources management plans.

Since 1999 water companies have produced water resources plans on a voluntary basis. The Water Act 2003 makes it statutory for water companies to produce these plans. The proposed water resources management plan regulations will specify details about some of the processes involved. They will enable stakeholders to be better informed and contribute to the water resources planning process as well as improve the consistency and transparency of water resources planning.

The consultation closes on 25 April 2006.

For more information visit Website:

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

Environmental Goods and Services Sector sees Good Growth Opportunities

In 2004, DTI estimated the environmental goods and services (EGS) sector to be worth in the region of £25 billion per annum in turnover, with around 17,000 companies employing 400,000. With new regulations and standards coming into force this year - particularly on air quality, water standards and waste management requirements - the demand for environmental technologies and solutions is bound to grow. Best estimates suggest the sector will grow by more than 4% in real terms this year, with waste management expected to grow by 6%, contaminated land remediation and waste water treatment by 5%.

Olympic Opportunities

Elliot Morley, Minister for Climate Change and Environment, has described the 2012 London Olympic games as one of the key future opportunities to drive markets for innovative products and services and to bring forward more sustainable solutions.

The Olympics offer a huge opportunity to companies in the environmental industry. The bid set aside £2.4 billion for direct investment in the games.

The environmental element of London's Olympic bid was crucial and arguably one of the factors that led to the success of the bid. The Olympic park has also adopted 12 sustainability principles, covering materials, waste, land, air and water, energy and housing, among others.

The Government's Sustainable Procurement Task Force is currently working to ensure that sustainable procurement and development is integrated throughout the entire games process, from remediation of land, through design and development of Olympic facilities to planning the long-term legacy of the Games and setting an example to the world. This offers up huge potential markets for the EGS sector to supply into.

The London Development Agency (LDA) is developing procurement principles incorporating messages about sustainable development, supplier diversity, small business access, innovation, and the regeneration of East London. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) will be drawing up a procurement strategy and will consult key stakeholders.

The LDA has also outlined opportunities for the environmental industry arising from the games, including showcasing new environmental technologies and practices, as well as equipping people with the skills necessary to install these new technologies.

The 2012 Business Summit on 24 January received positive feedback. Sessions were held on procurement and construction, skills and employment and maximising economic gain. It was seen as a good start to dialogue with business.

A Regional Summit is being held in Leeds in July, followed by a summer "regional road show" to promote to local people and businesses how to become part of, and benefit from, the Games.

The Environmental Industries Unit, a Joint DTI/Defra unit, is responsible for helping to support the environmental industry.

www.dti.gov.uk/sectors_environment.html London 2012 Olympics - www.lda.gov.uk

EU Battery Directive

The European Parliament completed its Second Reading on 13 December 2005 and voted to maintain a number of key provisions in the Council's Common Position, including collection targets for portable batteries and the limited scope of the partial ban on nickel-cadmium, both of which were of key importance to the UK. This is a good outcome for the UK and is likely to lead to early agreement at conciliation, expected to begin April/May.

- **Website:** www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/ep/batteries.htm
- **Contact:** paul.creary@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Review of the Assisted Areas. Stage 1

The Government has announced that it is carrying out a review of the Assisted Areas in response to new European Commission guidelines on regional aid. The current Assisted Areas were designated in 2000. The consultation document seeks views on the designation of future Assisted Areas from 2007 to 2013.

Closing Date 19 April 2006

For further details and a copy of the Consultation document:

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-1593.html>

Industry Support

Manufacturing Forum

The role of the Manufacturing Forum is to ensure the effective implementation and evolution of the Government's [Manufacturing Strategy](#), published in 2002 and reviewed in 2004. The Forum brings together Government, industry, trade unions, Regional Development Agencies, academia, and other stakeholders to support manufacturing.

At its first meeting in December 2004, the Forum agreed to focus specifically on three priority areas: skills, public procurement, and image of manufacturing. It has instigated new research into all three of these areas. In its most recent meeting on 2 March 2006, the Forum added investment to its key priorities.

Skills

The Forum has focused on how the UK should best address significant skills gaps and develop a transparent and high quality system for raising skills levels in UK manufacturing to world-class levels. It has:

- Provided input into the DfES White Paper on Workplace Skills (published March 2005).
- Worked closely with SEMTA to explore the most effective delivery of its Sector Skills Agreement and started a dialogue with other sector Skills Councils associated with manufacturing.
- Developed a proposal for a National Manufacturing Skills and helped facilitate the formation of its project delivery team and policy steering group.

Public Procurement

The Forum has focused on:

- reviewing the Government's procurement agenda to examine how it can deliver benefits for UK manufacturing.
- Commissioning a research project into the use of social clauses in procurement contracts – these are typically clauses that aim to achieve wider benefits such as skills and training, and environmental standards. The research report, which will be completed at the end of April 2006, will make an assessment of how and where social clauses might help UK manufacturing, and gather a range of examples drawn from real life.

Image of Manufacturing

The Forum has focused on:

- Jointly funding a research project carried out by the Institute for manufacturing to achieve a better definition of High Value Manufacturing. The project has developed a

profile of manufacturing showing that it is much more than simply production - the turning of raw materials into a finished product

- Investigating how a coordinated national communications strategy could help industry, unions and government to address the widespread poor perception of manufacturing, promote positive and realistic messages about modern manufacturing, to ensure that perceptions are in line with the facts. Specific proposals are under development for the creation of an independent National Manufacturing Media Centre.
- Putting plans underway to create a manufacturing campaign as part of [Enterprise Week 2006](#) in November. The Forum will be supporting this important opportunity to effectively engage young people in modern manufacturing

- **Website:** <http://www.dti.gov.uk/manufacturingforum/index.htm>
- **Contact:** stuart.barthropp@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Materials Innovation and Growth Team

LAUNCH OF FINAL REPORT

A Strategy for Materials, the final report of the Materials Innovation and Growth Team (MatIGT) was launched by Alun Michael, Minister of State for Industry and the Regions, on the 8th March 2006.

Former DTI Minister Jacqui Smith launched the Materials Innovation & Growth Team on 26th January 2005 in London. Its key objective was to define a Materials Strategy for the UK that would enable the UK to optimise the benefits new materials developments would offer. Representatives from the materials producing and using industries, the regions and government came together to secure agreement on a shared vision for the future. Wyn Jones OBE, Chair of British Alcan Aluminium, part of Alcan Inc, led the team.

This economically important sector has a turnover of around £200bn and contributes 15% of GDP to the economy, employs 1.5m people directly and supports a further four million jobs. The report has identified a number of issues that the materials sector in the UK must focus on if it is to continue to benefit from being a world leader in materials science. These include globalisation; energy and climate change; sustainable production and consumption; and innovation in developing countries.

To take the strategy forward a new body – Materials UK – will be established to work with existing organisations within the broader materials sector and to unite the materials community under a common vision.

An electronic version of the report and its supporting documentation can be found on the DTI website at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/materialsig.htm> and also on they new Materials UK website at <http://www.MatUK.co.uk>

For further information on the work of the Materials IGT. Please contact:
Nick Morgan at DTI – 020 7215 1105 - Nick.Morgan@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)

MAS continues to successfully provide Britain's manufacturers with the straightforward advice and practical support they need to make real improvements to their productivity and competitiveness.

At the Engineering Employers Federation biennial dinner on 3 February, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Alan Johnson, announced that the service has now generated cumulative added value of £213 million for those manufacturing firms receiving its in-depth support.

MAS has now handled 76,400 enquiries, carried out almost 13,800 free on-site manufacturing reviews, and completed more than 4,100 in-depth assignments.

Work is now taking place on a number of fronts to consider how the service could develop further to provide an even better service for manufacturers. Key work streams include:

- A series of policy workshops, held in January 2006, to look at how MAS should respond to the challenges facing manufacturing in the next twenty years.
- A comparative study trip to the US in February 2006 to analyse the work of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). The original UK model of MAS was closely based on the MEP programme.
- A national economic evaluation of MAS, to be completed by summer 2006, which is expected to provide robust evidence on the effectiveness and value for money of the service and provide pointers for its future development.

Findings and lessons learnt from these work streams will be considered later this year by the MAS Development Board, which brings together representatives from business users, business representative organisations and stakeholders from national and regional government to advise on the future development of the service.

For further information about the services offered by MAS, go to the MAS national website www.mas.dti.gov.uk or get in touch with your local MAS Regional Centre direct by calling the MAS helpline number 0845 658 9600.

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