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WELCOME

# FOREWORD



**STAN HIGGINS**  
**Chief Executive, NEPIC**  
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Despite all the business polls on BREXIT – I personally participated in 5 all of which showed that 70% of people in business and in particular our industry wanted to remain in – a majority of the general public wanted out. I really do believe that this is down to a great misunderstanding of the EU, its regulations and intentions.

There has been too much bad press about the minutia of regulation – bent bananas for example – and not enough about the upside of working with our friends in Europe. It is clear to me that big picture issues such as tackling climate change, a uniform regulatory response to health and safety issues, access to trade zones, workers' rights and many more issues the EU was working towards a level playing field for business and particularly exporters.

However, 90% of businesses are SMEs and upwards of 80% of these companies across the EU do not export outside of their own region - this is the same in the UK according to trade statistics. Most businesses only have local or regional SALES. These companies are working mostly in the supply chains of others that do export. Without export income, regions and indeed a country's balance of payments will decline and there will be no supply chains to support local supply chains.

There is a strangely quiet mood around at the moment and several investments seem to have been put on hold. I do hope that this is mostly down to the summer holidays but it does seem quieter than normal in this respect,

On clearing out some stuff at home I came across a poster about the 1975 European referendum from when I was a student. It is shown here you can see that some of the arguments used did not change!

On a much brighter note the NEPIC Meet the Members event was a huge success, along with the launch of our 2016 Directory – both receiving excellent feedback. We have also published the Tees Valley Integrated Process Industry report, with the support of 46 participating companies. This game changing piece of work has also been widely supported and praised both nationally and regionally. We are now working hard to seek funding to follow up its findings and proposals. The report is available in full on our website.

As for the next few months, please help to support the Cluster by attending our International Bioresources Event on the 22nd September in Durham, where we have brought speakers from around the world to describe their leading-edge technologies. The event agenda and joining instructions are also on our new web site. Some of these new technologies will no doubt be used here in the years to come.

*Stan Higgins*

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Think Global Growth; BLH Nobel; InSITE BAVARIA; Jo Hand Recruitment; Derwent James & Optima Asset Maintenance Solutions

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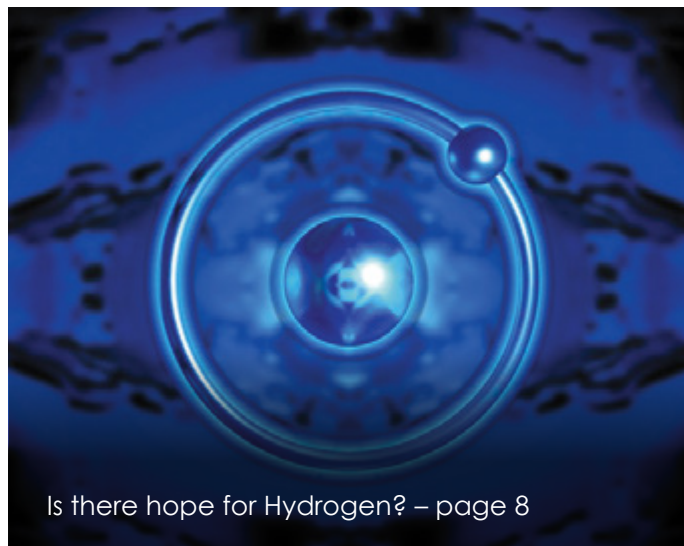
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## NEW MEMBERS

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## EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS

All NEPIC Members are entitled to submit FREE editorial for each issue of FOCALPOINT.

**Please send newsworthy content to:**

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# TEES RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANT CONCLUDES FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

**MGT Teesside Limited has announced the conclusion of financing arrangements for the Tees Renewable Energy Plant, a 299 MWe biomass fuelled combined heat and power project located on land within the Teesport Estate near Middlesbrough in North East England.**

Project developer MGT Power announced in July 2015 that it was partnering with Macquarie Capital and Macquarie Commodities and Financial Markets to deliver the project. Macquarie, together with Danish pension fund PKA, will now become the joint owners of MGT Teesside, which will own and manage the Tees REP.

The project will cost approximately £650m to construct and will be built under a turn-key engineering, procurement and construction contract by a consortium of Tecnicas Reunidas of Spain and Samsung Construction and Trading (SCT) of South Korea. The contractor is working to include local capabilities in the project and SCT owns Darlington-based Whesoe Engineering who will continue to support the project from a local perspective.

Site preparation works will begin within weeks, with main construction works starting a few months later. Commercial operations are due to start in 2020.

At least 600 jobs will be created during construction and about 100 full time jobs sustained on site once operational plus several hundred more in the supply chain – many in the local region. Biomass discharge services will be provided by PD Ports through the port of Teesport. Teesside-based energy and process industry specialist, the px group, has been engaged to support MGT Teesside during the construction phase alongside Poyry Energy, RPS and Mace.

Ben Elsworth, CEO of MGT Teesside, said “the Tees REP project has had to overcome many hurdles in development

but we have now successfully reached the next stage despite the difficult financing environment. Support from the local region and a big team effort from Macquarie and all of the different parties involved in the project were instrumental in getting there. We can't wait to get work started on site and make this project a huge success for the Teesside region”.



The Tees REP will be fuelled by wood pellets and chips from certified sustainable forestry sources in the United States and Europe (including the UK), with regular audits to ensure compliance with strict sustainability criteria mandated by the Project's CfD. When constructed, the Project will have a significantly smaller carbon footprint than fossil fuel alternatives. It will generate enough electricity to supply approximately 600,000 households as well as heat for supply on site and for nearby users. Biomass fuel will be delivered directly to the CHP plant from ships arriving at the adjacent Tees Dock.

The CHP plant will be comprised of one “circulating fluidised bed” boiler, to be supplied by Amec Foster Wheeler and incorporating the best available flue-gas emissions abatement technology. The boiler will produce steam which will be driven by a single steam turbine generating electricity that will be exported directly to the high voltage national grid system. The Tees REP is believed to be the largest new build dedicated biomass power plant in the world.

[www.mgtpower.com](http://www.mgtpower.com)

# SABIC TEESSIDE NAMED UK'S COMPANY OF THE YEAR



John Bruijnooge (right), SABIC's Site Director Teesside, receives the CIA Company of the Year Award 2016 from Steve Elliott, Chief Executive of the Chemical Industries Association.



Receiving the CIA Company of the Year and Process Safety Leadership awards are SABIC staff, from left: Kathryn Harper, Nicola Duffey, Lee Allcock, John Harrison, Graeme Murtha, John Bruijnooge, Louis Malan, Richard Hodges, Katherine Franklin, Joanna Bamlett, Amanda Garvey Kovac and Claire Wordsworth.



The Gas Cracking Project at SABIC's Olefins 6 plant at Wilton will help to safeguard thousands of Teesside jobs.

**Teesside chemical company SABIC has been named Company of the Year by the Chemical Industries Association in recognition of its demonstrated business growth and sustained contribution to the economy.**

SABIC, which has its UK base at Wilton, near Redcar, has made a range of major, sustained investments including the current Gas Cracking Project to the Olefins plant at Wilton. The plant's conversion to take US shale gas will safeguard thousands of Teesside jobs whilst securing the company's long-term future in the region.

SABIC employs 600 staff and an additional 400 contractors at its Wilton and North Tees sites, whilst thousands more Teesside jobs are reliant on the company within the wider supply chain, bringing some £400 million into the economy from payroll, utilities, goods and services.

Awarded to the most outstanding CIA member demonstrating business growth and a sustained contribution to the national economy, the Company of the Year award went to SABIC for the second time in five years after judges praised the company's support of the wider industry and demonstrated commitment to the UK in recent years.

Along with its investment in Teesside industry, SABIC was praised for its commitment to the Chemistry Growth Partnership and the decarbonisation agenda, whilst the business has also demonstrated its commitment to its workforce, having previously received awards for Top Employer 2016 and Better Health at Work.

The largest national celebration of the achievements of the UK's chemical and pharmaceutical businesses, the CIA Awards event also saw SABIC receive the Special Responsible Care Award for Process Safety Leadership, presented for demonstrating excellence in process

safety leadership and performance as well as leadership by senior management and engagement of staff at all levels.

Judges praised SABIC's management team for demonstrating excellent process safety leadership and a commitment to engaging the whole workforce, as well as innovative techniques for recording the condition of an ageing plant.

Judges were particularly impressed by the variety of techniques used to ensure a good process safety culture remains top of the agenda, including training based around layers of protection, hazard tables and a visible process safety dashboard.

John Bruijnooge, Site Director Teesside, said: "It was a great honour to receive the top award on behalf of all the employees at SABIC on Teesside. I was delighted that we won not one but two awards at such a prestigious event. All our employees have contributed to this accolade and I am very proud of their continued commitment.

"After a period of restructuring, we are now strengthening our UK operations with significant investment that will improve the competitiveness of the site for the future.

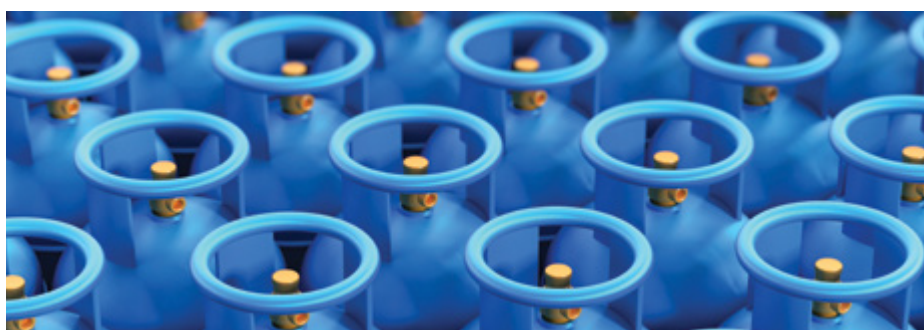
"SABIC continues to demonstrate its commitment to the UK and its workforce, whilst working closely with our stakeholders and the community in which we operate."

SABIC was previously awarded CIA Company of the Year in 2011.

[www.sabic.com](http://www.sabic.com)

# GREEN HYDROGEN PROPOSED TO HEAT ALL HOMES

**Ambitious plans to convert significant parts of the UK gas grid to be 100% hydrogen were launched by a project team led by Northern Gas Networks at an event in Westminster during the summer.**



More than 200 MPs, government representatives, sustainable energy experts and academics from across the UK attended the launch of the H21 Leeds City Gate report, which calls for the gas grid to be converted to hydrogen, starting with the Leeds city region and then for conversion to take place across the country incrementally.

The report finds that converting the UK gas grid to hydrogen will be a major step towards meeting the UK's carbon reduction targets. Currently, over 30% of all UK carbon emissions come from domestic heating and cooking.

A UK-wide conversion to hydrogen gas will reduce heat emissions by a minimum of 73% as well as supporting decarbonisation of transport and localised electrical generation.

Instead of burning methane and releasing carbon into the atmosphere, the process would remove the carbon and store it in appropriate geological storage locations under the North Sea. The remaining hydrogen, which emits no carbon dioxide when burnt, would then be used for domestic energy.

The report indicates that calculated

demand would be serviced by hydrogen production and storage facilities including production capacity provided by four Steam Methane Reformers located on Teesside, fitted with 90% carbon dioxide capture.

Dan Sadler, H21 Project Manager at Northern Gas Networks, said:

"A nationwide conversion to a hydrogen gas grid is technically possible, economically viable and will be a significant contributor to meeting the UK's decarbonisation targets.


"This is a major opportunity for our country to become a world leader in hydrogen technology and decarbonisation and would create thousands of new jobs across the UK."

The report was jointly launched by the North of England's gas distributor, Northern Gas Networks, Kiwa Gastec, Amec Foster Wheeler and Wales & West Utilities.

**Visit [www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk](http://www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk) to view the H21 film and report.**



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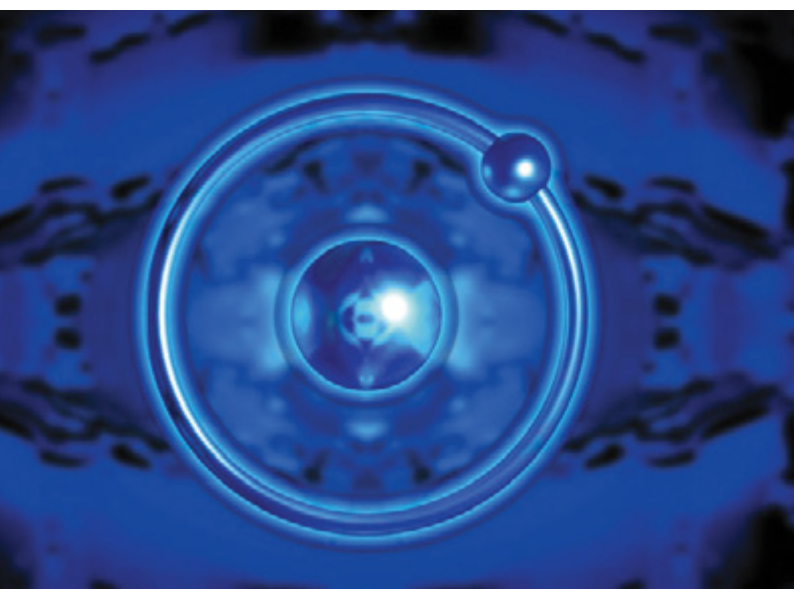
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# IS THERE HOPE FOR HYDROGEN?

**It's been there all along, surrounding us since the beginning - an energy source which boasts cleaner end results for motive power, an economical match to fossil fuels, and most importantly, doesn't directly produce CO<sub>2</sub>. It's the most proliferate atom in living things, makes up the water we drink, and is a common by-product of natural fermentative processes. So what's the catch?**



The Hydrogen Economy has been a long proposed hypothetical future, where Hydrogen gas replaces fossil fuels as the primary source of energy. Its gaseous state would allow it to be used much like coal or petroleum without the need to be transported as power through an electricity grid. Acting much like a battery, Hydrogen gas stores energy which is released upon exposure to oxygen.

Today, Hydrogen is used mainly for ammonia in the production of agricultural fertiliser, but it's the other side of the story in the use of fuel which generates the most interest, especially in the North East.

And the Northern energy sector is certainly vibrant, with the Tees Valley alone generating 50% of the UK's total Hydrogen. Here in the North, we're well-positioned as a hub for the evolving energy sector in being a natural point of contact between the UK and Europe, as well as utilising our industrious and academic environment as a means to produce this valuable commodity.

The H21 Leeds City Gate is an excellent example of the Northern Powerhouse at work, with the aim to substitute Hydrogen gas for natural gas in the Leeds gas network. See

page 7 for further details.

Between 2014 and 2015, investment in Hydrogen rose from £3.6bn to £16.5bn making it one of the most alluring alternative energies around today. But the full transition to an environmentally cleaner source of energy to end-users, particularly in transportation, would require a large investment and even larger leap of faith from interested parties, as the panacea like illusion of Hydrogen isn't without its problems.

A notable driver of this sector is the long-term decarbonisation target set by the EU, which requires the UK to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% before 2050, as well as source 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. Hydrogen combustion has a zero carbon footprint, but as of 2016, 96% of global Hydrogen production is still from fossil fuels, and the process of Hydrocracking, the separation of Hydrogen from its molecule of choice, still leaves behind a vestige of Carbon which would be produced normally in the burning of oil and gas.

Water electrolysis, which seems the most logical and economical method of Hydrogen production - the separation of water into its constituents - is actually the least carbon-neutral method available, and one of the most expensive - about 1.5 times the cost of hydrogen from natural gas.

Although the technical challenges are real, investment in alternative and greener energy sources such as Hydrogen are important in a changing energy system. As the UK faces declining domestic production from the North Sea, and closures of aging nuclear and coal powered plants, local solutions are a welcome source of innovation and focus, driving investment to the region, and aiding the technological advancement in essential services.

*Martine Coates is the Marketing Executive of Scarab4, the UK's only Marketing and PR agency to specialise in the Energy, Water & Waste; Process, Manufacturing & Engineering; Housing, Regeneration & Development; and Environmental sectors. Scarab4 is headquartered in Northumberland and works with clients across the UK and on an international level.*

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# TEESSIDE COULD DECARBONISE SOFT DRINK BOTTLE SUPPLY CHAIN

- **First-of-a-kind carbon capture plant could decarbonise soft drink bottle supply chain**
- **Demonstration centre to provide a base for bringing carbon capture and utilisation tech to market**
- **Oxburgh report highlights job creation potential of Teesside CCS hub**



A contract that puts Teesside at the forefront of innovative carbon capture and usage technology has been awarded today by Teesside Collective, the leading cluster of energy-intensive industries working together to establish Europe's first clean industrial zone.

The move comes as the Government formulates its policy on decarbonisation in the light of the cancellation in November of funding for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in the power sector. A policy review was published today by Lord Oxburgh, who visited Teesside to hear about the Collective's plans as part of his review.

Lord Oxburgh's report states: "Thousands of jobs would be created around CCS 'hubs', giving a huge boost to the economic regeneration of some of Britain's oldest industrial centres such as Teesside and Grangemouth."

Welcoming the publication of Lord Oxburgh's report, Neil Kenley, Director of Business Investment at Tees Valley Combined Authority, said:

"Teesside Collective is determined to move first and fast in the race to decarbonise vital industrial processes, which is why we're pushing ahead with the award of this contract to design trial plant in the Tees Valley.

"The assertion in Lord Oxburgh's report that CCS on energy intensive industries represents some of the cheapest available carbon abatement in the UK economy underscores the need for it to be front and centre in the Government's emerging CCS policy. Working together to develop national CCS infrastructure is in the interests of the British industrial base, the tax payer and the planet."

A consortium of Pale Blue Dot Energy, Costain and the UK Centre for Carbon Dioxide Utilisation at the University of Sheffield has been commissioned:

- To design a CO<sub>2</sub> capture unit at Lotte Chemical at Wilton and develop a business case to sell the CO<sub>2</sub>. Lotte makes PPT needed by major soft drink brands for the manufacture of 15 billion recyclable drinks bottles every year. Lotte produces about 55,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, and a capture plant would capture 90 per cent of that.
- To design a demonstration centre on Teesside which can be used by companies wanting to scale up 'near to market' carbon utilisation technologies – mostly for heavy industrial processes such as the manufacturing of aggregates, fertilisers and other chemicals – and produce a corresponding business case.

Pale Blue Dot will be leading project management and working on business and commercial models. Costain will be engineering the carbon capture unit at Lotte and the UK Centre for Carbon Dioxide Utilisation at the University of Sheffield will be designing the demonstration centre and commercial and operating models.

The Government is providing funding for Teesside Collective to continue to scope out the possibilities offered by industrial CCS in the North East and to develop options for a financing mechanism. A first phase of work outlining a technically viable, end-to-end plan for a CCS network in Teesside was published last year in its Blueprint for Industrial Carbon Capture and Storage in the UK.

Steve Murphy, Director at Pale Blue Dot Energy, said:

“  
*Working with Teesside Collective again will allow us to continue to build the body of evidence needed to demonstrate that CCS technologies are commercially viable.*

”

Dr Grant Wilson and Professor Peter Styring from the University of Sheffield said: "The impact of the proposed carbon capture and utilisation demonstration centre cannot be underestimated, helping more heavy industrial companies decarbonise their facilities and explore innovative uses for carbon and income streams. Utilisation of CO<sub>2</sub> is gaining momentum globally and this will put the UK at the forefront of that effort."

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

# CLEAN COAL MUST BE AT THE HEART OF THE UK'S INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

In 2014, headlines topped UK papers highlighting the trillions of tonnes of coal that remain below the North Sea as part of the Durham Coalfield and - despite energy companies having previously ignored 'inaccessible' sources - how it could now be reached through technology already used in oil and gas extraction.



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At a similar time, questions were being raised in Wales regarding the estimated trillion tonnes of coal found off the Welsh coast, so we ask ..... **is coal back on the agenda?**

What makes this an interesting question for the UK is that modern technology is now available that can enable UK industry to use this coal as a clean carbon source. It is a huge opportunity to stimulate the UK economy whilst at the same time reducing the country's carbon dioxide emissions. To the by-stander this sounds like fantasy land but, in fact, modern technology is ready to make this a reality. A reality that could be achieved today,

not tomorrow, if industry was incentivised to do so.

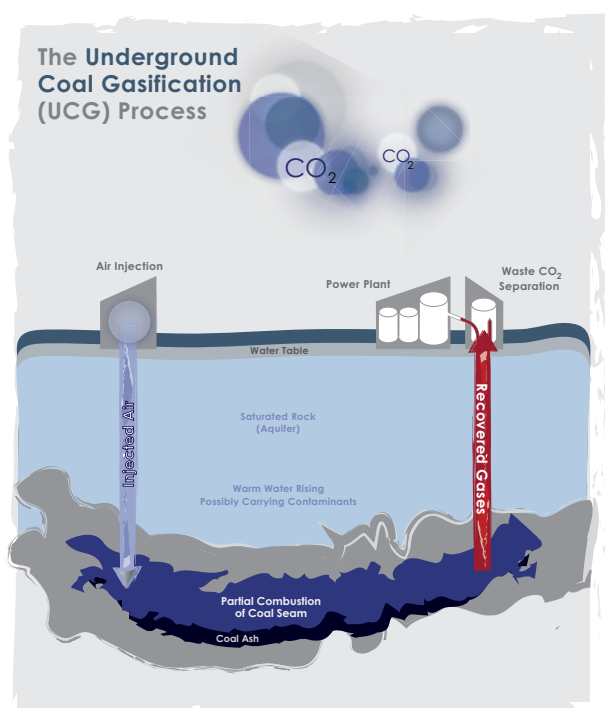
In the UK alone, coal reserves would potentially provide thousands of years of energy reserves, with the Durham coalfield alone being home to an estimated 11 trillion tonnes of coal. It is not proposed to access these by traditional mining but by very deep underground drilling technologies developed in the oil & gas industry. Using these modern extraction technologies these deeper coal reserves could be accessed - technologies that can either push out existing gas from coal fields or convert the coal underground into gas either enzymatically or through controlled gasification.

Underground coal gasification (UCG) is now a well understood industrial process, whereby the product reaches the surface as gases without the requirement of manpower underground. The key advantage to this process being that the technology can be operated in deep seams, undersea seams and some fractured seams that would be unprofitable or technically impossible to extract by traditional mining. In the North East of England these technologies are already underpinned by underground, offshore and sub-sea industry experience.

**Yes but when we use the gas we will release carbon dioxide?** Actually this is not correct. Implementing any form of UCG on its own is not a clean carbon solution. However, UCG can contribute to a more sustainable future for both energy and chemicals and the climate when combined with the capture of carbon dioxide and usage systems (CCS).

Teesside's industry is already studying how to capture the carbon dioxide from its industrial processes and exploring ways in which most of the captured carbon dioxide can be incorporated into products. Polymers for example are a good way of capturing carbon because polymer recycling is increasing at a pace and, therefore, this carbon can remain captured indefinitely. Technologies already exist for the recycling of polymers but any that cannot be reused, such as milk bottles and the dirtiest of plastic waste, can now be permanently captured and locked into blocks and bricks for use as building materials.

There are also many emerging technologies for carbon dioxide usage. Around the world today, carbon dioxide captured from industrial processes is pumped into old oil fields to enhance oil recovery - as well as being locked into construction materials. Furthermore, biotechnology is being used to convert carbon dioxide into fats, oils and fuels and



## NEPIC NEWS

## BIORESOURCES SPECIAL

being converted chemically into polycarbonates for use in plastics and batteries. The liquefied gas can even be used as a heat transfer medium. As these technologies develop and spread they will increase the likelihood that Teesside will implement a carbon capture system as they will provide income that will make a capture system commercially viable.

Ultimately though the clean coal opportunity may still be the best way forward in terms of a commercial driver for carbon emission reduction. Following CO<sub>2</sub> capture from a gas stream, it can be compressed to its supercritical form as a high density low viscosity liquid - useful for subsurface injection. One way

of storing carbon dioxide is in deep underground sea water aquifers. Examples of these lie off the North Sea coast of the UK.

Sea water is the Earth's largest sink of carbon dioxide and these underground sea water aquifers are very large and nominally free of carbon dioxide; therefore they are a possible sink for large quantities of carbon dioxide. However, in our clean coal scenario, this is not the main opportunity. If the UGC processes are implemented to extract industrially useful gases, the coalfields themselves become the main permeant storage opportunity. So let me now tell you about the "goaf".

Goaf is what remains in the exploited mine seams from UGC operations and

predominately comprises of exploited minerals. Storage of any unwanted carbon dioxide in the goaf would have several advantages. First, goaf is up to 2,000 times more permeable than deep saline aquifers. Secondly, remaining ash in the UGC is likely to react with some of the injected CO<sub>2</sub> to form solid carbonate minerals that permanently remove it from the atmosphere. Finally, a sealing layer of rock strata that develops above goaf panels offers a tight seal for CO<sub>2</sub> storage. Deep UGC can produce cavities that are impermeable - and after all, the chemical industry has used depleted mine voids for underground hydrogen storage (a much more permeable gas than CO<sub>2</sub>) for at least 50 years.

So implementing a "Clean Coal" strategy for UK manufacturing via UGC opens up an unprecedented era; a potential new industrial revolution for UK. Making this country's manufacturing industry self-sufficient in its key raw materials and establishing many lost supply chains will thereby greatly improve the UK's balance of payments. The prospect of accessing trillions of tonnes of otherwise un-mineable coal, combined with carbon capture usage and storage, is an attractive low-carbon solution to our energy and chemical industry raw material needs and, what is more, on a vast scale. It should be at the heart of any industrial strategy for the UK.



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# Q&A

## MEET CRODA'S GLOBAL RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY MANAGER DAVID FREEMAN

**David is Global Research & Technology manager for Croda's Lubricants business – responsible for technical developments in both base stock and additive technology – and also has responsibility for Croda Europe's Synthesis Team.**



He started his career in 1998 within the Paints Division of ICI before moving on to Uniqema and Croda. His roles have focussed on new product development, customer technical service and the generation of new claims substantiation data.

David received a first degree in chemistry from the University of Edinburgh and a PhD in synthetic organic chemistry from the University of Nottingham and is a member

of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers.

Prior to David's conference speech at the NEPIC International Bioresources Conference, where he will share his views on adding value to speciality chemicals with bio-based resources, we caught up with him for a chat.

### **Q: Who are Croda and what is the scale of the business?**

Established in 1925, we are the name behind high performance ingredients and technologies in some of the world's biggest and most successful brands: creating, making and selling speciality chemicals that are relied on by industries and consumers everywhere.

We have approximately 4,200 employees, across manufacturing sites and offices in 36 countries and are headquartered in East Yorkshire. Our fundamental focus is on sustainable innovation: delivering effects that are key to the success of our customers' applications and products.

### **Q: What type of products do Croda produce and would we actually use of any them in our everyday lives?**

Our expertise covers a range of technologies and processes, which enable us to work with our customers to create new and innovative products that provide differentiation within the markets we serve: Personal Care, Health Care, Crop Care, Polymer Additives, Lubricants, Coatings & Polymers, GeoTechnologies, Home Care and Industrial Specialities.

The ingredients we make are relied upon by these industries and consumers everywhere in day to day applications. Some examples include:

- Our Personal Care business supplies ingredients for hair care (conditioners, shampoo etc.), skin care (e.g. anti-aging), sun care and cosmetics applications;
- Our Crop Care business supplies adjuvants to support the use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides by farmers;
- Our Lubricants business supplies Friction Modifiers to improve fuel economy in modern automotive engines.

For the benefit of the non-chemist, can you explain what is meant by green chemistry? How does Croda as a company go about measuring and ensuring delivery of your green agenda?

Green chemistry is encompassed in the 12 Principles of Green chemistry developed by Paul Anastas and John Warner. These principles represent best practice in chemical developments – low energy, efficient processes ideally based on renewable raw materials – and the Principles make good business sense too.

At Croda, we have always had a focus on delivering renewably-based ingredients to meet our customers' needs. Our first product in 1925 was lanolin, today we are the world's largest supplier of this sustainable ingredient that's used in



personal care and health care applications, as well as many others. However, since we strive for continuous improvement, for almost ten years now we have measured the output of our new product development programmes against the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry. Although we take this a step further to understand the percentage renewable content within our new products, as well as improving our understanding of their sustainability benefit in use. There is more work for us to do on the latter area, but this is likely to become increasingly important in the future as much greater attention turns to meeting low carbon targets (amongst others).

In terms of specific numbers, in 2015, 66.1% of the raw materials we used were from renewable sources, 11.4 was the average score of our new products against the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry, with 65.8% meeting all 12 Principles and 82.3% delivering a sustainable benefit in use.

The Material Area of Product Stewardship within our sustainability programme also ensures that we are delivering against our commitments by making health, safety and environmental protection an integral part of the whole product lifecycle of our products. This spans every stage of our operations; from the sourcing of raw materials in an increasingly fragile environment, to environmentally sensitive manufacturing processes and the safe, efficient delivery, use and disposal of the products that contain our ingredients. Product Stewardship is part of the International Council of Chemical Associations' Responsible Care® Initiative, which we fully support.

**Q: In respect of Croda's sustainability agenda, how can we as individuals help to achieve improved sustainability and help mitigate climate change?**

All of our employees around the world can and do contribute to our sustainability programme, directly and indirectly on a daily basis. Whether it is one of our scientists developing greener chemistry, a procurement manager securing a sustainable supply of a raw material or an operator ensuring plant safety at one of our manufacturing sites, we are all working towards delivering our commitment to:

- use renewable raw materials and environmentally sensitive and safe processes;
- produce innovative, high quality products with sustainable benefits; and
- support our people and the communities in which we operate.

By focusing on areas such as:

- reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy efficiency and increasing energy usage from non-fossil fuel sources;
- reducing our waste to landfill; and
- reducing our impact on the world's depleting water resources.



**Q: What are you most looking forward to when presenting at the NEPIC International Bioresources Conference and what are Croda seeking to glean from the event?**

Personally, I'm looking forward to building new contacts and exploring the possibility of new collaborations. The programme of talks looks excellent and I'm sure they'll stimulate a lot of conversation around what else our industry can do.

**Q: In your considered view, how do we attract further investment in the low carbon economy and overall green chemistry agenda?**

I think this revolves around three areas. Firstly, ensuring that businesses continue to focus on customers' unmet needs and deliver the solutions in the right way.

Secondly, I think it's important to ensure that stakeholders across the value chain are truly aware of the scale of the global challenge we face with increasing levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and the impact this is predicted to have on climate change. The output from COP21 seems to be moving in a positive direction, but a great deal more will be required in the future, both in terms of broad education and the targets themselves.

And thirdly, I think more can be done to communicate existing local, national and international capabilities better, so that there is broader awareness of the areas of expertise in our industry, which will ultimately have a positive impact on carbon reduction.

**Q: For collaboration, business growth and attracting investment into the UK and North East England in particular, what do you believe NEPIC's role is in progressing such opportunities?**

Linking back to the previous question, I see NEPIC's role as acting as a facilitator in building connections across potential partnering organisations to ultimately accelerate sustainable innovation; acting as a lobbying voice with government (and possibly NGOs) on the capabilities within the North East; and supporting the education of local businesses and other stakeholders.

[www.croda.com](http://www.croda.com)

## COFFEE BREAK CATCH UP WITH CARL HOLMES OF RAIN FOR RENT

Rain for Rent International is a leading provider of temporary liquid handling solutions - renting equipment including newly-designed storage tanks, filtration units and spill containment.

The company, who are involved in project ranging from site dewatering to refinery and industrial plant shutdowns, joined NEPIC in March 2015. We sat down with Business Development Manager, Carl Holmes, at the Meet the Members conference to talk business and clustering.

### **What is unique about your business offering?**

We look to provide a turnkey solution for liquid storage and filtration solutions.

### **Who are your target audience?**

Petrochemicals and oil & gas, pipeline, construction, manufacturing sectors and also environmental contractors.

### **Who would you appeal to within the membership for potential collaboration?**

We would appeal to anyone that can offer complementary services to our range of tanks filtration and spill containers. When we meet a customer we look to offer the whole solution, rather than bits of it and the only way we can do that is by working with the supply chain.

### **If you had to describe NEPIC in one line, what would you say?**

NEPIC is fantastic. They have been an essential part for Rain for Rent to grow our business in the North East and they continue to help us do so.

### **Of our benefits, which is the most important to you and why?**

For me, it is the level of activity in the NEPIC team and the willingness for them to make introductions to the right level of people within the operators, it's also the number of events hosted. Each month Cluster Connect is a great way to network, Meet the Members is a must, and specialist events like the Ageing of Plant for COMAH regulations, which took place recently, are hugely valuable.

### **What value do you get from being part of the NEPIC network?**

NEPIC is invaluable. It has really helped us to get in to places which are pretty hard to reach and that's been through the help of the whole team – so thank you very much. Rain for Rent love you and think you're great!

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

### BREAKFAST MEETING

# CLUSTER CONNECT

Developing Strong Cluster Connections



📍 PD PORTS, MIDDLESBROUGH

📅 Thursday 6 October 2016 ⌚ 8:00am - 10:00am

📍 RTC NORTH, SUNDERLAND

📅 Thursday 3 November 2016 ⌚ 8:00am - 10:00am

Visit [www.nepic.co.uk](http://www.nepic.co.uk) to secure your place on-line  
or email [ebba.mcguigan@nepic.co.uk](mailto:ebba.mcguigan@nepic.co.uk)



# NEW GROWTH PROGRAMMES LAUNCHED FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

**At NEPIC, we understand the importance of SMEs and the vital role you play in the long-term success of the region's chemical industry. That is why the success of your business remains at the fore front of our interest.**

Following on from the huge feat of NEPIC's BASME project, which generated £50 million in new sales and 1,000 new jobs, we are thrilled to announce two new business acceleration programmes for 2016 – SME Growth and innovate Tees Valley.

The newly launched SME Growth Programme is now available to assist SMEs across Durham, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland and provide business growth support to those wishing to become established suppliers within the region's chemical processing industry.

The programme, which is a direct spin-off from NEPIC's highly successful business acceleration for SMEs project, will utilise the cluster's extensive knowledge and network to mentor companies into new business and also assist with energy management for growth. SME Growth will run for three years and is a fully funded programme for eligible companies.

innovate TEES VALLEY has been established, along with partners Teesside University, MPI and Digital City, to help Teesside's vibrant small business community achieve ambition and growth through service and product innovation – and to help to take forward ideas, whilst overcoming growth barriers to seek out success both here and overseas.

Innovation remains a long-standing debate within the SME sector, however, one thing is definite – innovation is a crucial element within the SME



ecosystem that is here to stay. Every SME needs to create an innovative environment in order to foster growth and success – through innovate TEES VALLEY's combined know-how and cross sectorial experience, we will help businesses to make this happen and take companies to the next level.

Part financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the NEPIC SME Growth and innovate TEES VALLEY programmes will support eligible SMEs throughout 2016 – 2018 inclusive.

For further information about these programmes and how they can benefit your business, visit [www.nepic.co.uk/smes](http://www.nepic.co.uk/smes) or contact a member of the team via 01642 442560.



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund

## THINK GLOBAL GROWTH

**Developing a global presence is difficult; maximising the effectiveness of your global operation is even more challenging. The world of globalisation is complex and ever-changing – it's a world where you just don't know what you don't know.**



Think Global Growth (TGG) is dedicated to helping clients improve their international capabilities across a range of disciplines. Recognising that the key drivers for international growth are either revenue generation or cost reduction we are able to both significantly impact on the

operational efficiencies of an international operation and help drive revenues in new global markets.

TGG was founded by four international veterans who have 'been there' and 'done that' and our goal is to help your business achieve its global potential. Whether you are looking to enter new markets, improve your supply chain efficiency or maximise your global cash position we have the in-house expertise to help you.

Our consultants have decades of experience of building businesses across the boundaries of culture, language, geography and technology and bring a practical

approach which ensure maximum progress within a cost-effective budget. We like to work with clients in a risk share model, realising that our clients' global success will be our success.

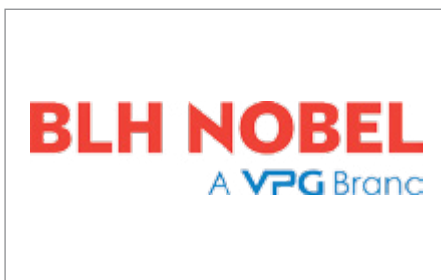
So, whether you are looking to develop a sustainable global strategy, enter new exciting markets, improve your supply chain efficiency or ensure you have a digital strategy which actually brings results we can help. Think Global Growth is here to be with you on your path to global success.

[www.thinkglobalgrowth.com](http://www.thinkglobalgrowth.com)

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## BLH NOBEL

**BLH Nobel, (part of Vishay Precision Group "VPG"), design and manufacture innovative solutions for process weighing and force measurement systems. The KIS beam family of load cells developed by BLH Nobel has become an industry standard for quality with high performance.**



BLH Nobel has a product line of uniquely engineered load cells that are designed to maximize accuracy and minimize the effects of mixing, agitation and temperature changes in critical process weighing applications. With signal conditioners and process control systems designed to comply with stringent requirements

of the chemical, pharmaceutical, steel and food industries, offering a wide variety of communication protocols.

**Process Weighing:** BLH Nobel's solutions for weighing and batching in the process industry perform with high accuracy over a wide temperature range and despite vibration and other harsh conditions. Our systems are currently in use in varied applications in the process industry, including reactors, vessels, ingredient storage bins, batching processes and many others.

**Force Measurement:** For over 40 years, BLH Nobel has supplied tension and force measurement systems for

machinery in the paper, steel, and converting industries.

**Custom Solutions:** Your particular requirements for process weighing solutions are as unique as your business. If standard load cells, web and strip tension products and software aren't a perfect fit for your needs, we can provide custom-made products to suit the specific requirements of your industry, application, or plant.

[www.blhnobel.com](http://www.blhnobel.com)



## NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME TO THE CLUSTER

## INSITE BAVARIA

**InSITE BAVARIA is a business unit of TUM International GmbH, a subsidiary of the Technical University Munich, one of the most excellent universities in Europe. TUM International GmbH offers services strengthening the cooperation between academia and business worldwide. InSITE BAVARIA's activities as Competence Center for Site Development address all industrial sectors.**



InSITE BAVARIA cooperates with economic development agencies all over the world. Its aim is the development of industrial sites with unique profile, stable networks, services and support infrastructures. InSITE BAVARIA gives them a fundament for successful and sustainable operation and makes

them attractive for concrete settlement decisions. InSITE BAVARIA provides strategical consultancy and coordinates a network of experts from the fields of urban development, industrial plant and facilities management. In cooperation with public institutions InSITE BAVARIA also advises international companies and investors in their location decisions in Germany.

Based on knowledge and experience from long-term activity in cluster and network management, InSITE BAVARIA follows an innovative methodological approach for the site development process. Step by step, a location profile, urban and functional structures will be developed according to the needs of the intended focus industries.

The Competence Center will act as an interface between industrial park operators, enterprises, planning experts and public institutions of economic development. Their representatives will be involved at all stages of the site development. Concrete business cases will be developed as outcome of this process, which can be offered for investment through InSITE BAVARIA's extensive, global network of companies, cluster organizations and business promoting institutions.

[www.insite-bavaria.de](http://www.insite-bavaria.de)

## JO HAND RECRUITMENT &amp; CONSULTANCY

**At Jo Hand Recruitment & Consultancy we have absolute confidence in what we do. We pride ourselves on our recruitment advise and ability to find the best candidates for our clients.**

The Team has over 50 years combined experience within the recruitment industry and we can help source temporary and permanent staff in the following sectors:



- **Management**
- **Engineering**
- **Customer Service**
- **Industrial**
- **Finance & Administration**
- **Hospitality, Catering & Cleaning**
- **Additional services include:**
- **Payroll**
- **Proof of Right to Work**
- **Salary Surveys**

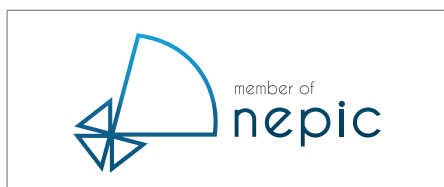
We pride ourselves on placing the right person in the right job, building relationships with employers and matching them with the best candidates. We have successfully placed thousands of candidates into employment over the years, as a Team.

We insist on quality and excellent in everything we do to ensure our clients and candidates receive the best service. Our clients trust us to provide quality recruitment services with a personal touch and we always aim to exceed expectations.

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

## DERWENT JAMES

**Derwent James is the exclusive UK representative for Dopak chemical sampling systems so can help and advise on the safe manual sampling of hazardous chemical liquids and gases.**



### **Chemical sampling valves and systems from Dopak (ISO 9001)**

DOPAK sampling systems are used in the worldwide process industry by plant operators when taking samples of hazardous chemical liquids and gases. Using Dopak samplers can reduce chemical spills and emissions and make taking hazardous samples safer for plant operators.

Neil Finney of Derwent James has been the UK Dopak representative since 1997 so can offer extensive knowledge and experience when specifying new

chemical sampling systems, Neil can be contacted directly via our website.

In addition to being the exclusive UK representative for Dopak sampling systems, Derwent James Ltd also have partnerships with other process equipment manufacturers including;

### **Chemical Hoses, hose couplings & expansion joints (ISO 9001)**

Fully tested chemical hose assemblies, hose couplings, dry break couplings, dispensing nozzles and rubber expansion joints. All products used in the safe transfer of chemical liquids.

### **Pressure regulating valves and precision engineering (ISO 9001)**

High integrity pressure and flow valves for accurately controlling gases and liquids to 690 bar pressure. Additionally a precision engineering service is

offered to include fabrication, fine honing, hard surface coating, electron beam welding, brazing, plating, heat treatment and filter manufacture – sintered metals and ceramics.

### **Lockout tagout, trapped key interlocks & portable valve drivers (ISO 9001)**

Specialist providers of lockout tagout systems, trapped key interlocks and valve operating equipment, helping businesses implement safe isolation and safe working practices keeping workers safe when working on potentially dangerous machinery.

Some of what we do may be of interest to you in the future so in the first instance drop us a line via our website or you can stay connected with us; look for us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

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

## OPTIMA ASSET MAINTENANCE SOLUTIONS

**Optima Asset Maintenance Solutions is a maintenance engineering consultancy specialising in Functional Criticality Analysis, Maintenance & Spares strategy optimisation and asset management optimisation.**



We help organizations rapidly and efficiently discover unidentified risk, in support of ISO 55000 standards and help develop and implement mitigations through RCM strategies, life-cycle optimisation, resource scheduling and workload optimisation.

Our novel but practical solutions have helped asset owners tackle issues such as work order backlog/prioritisation management, inventory optimisation and asset data management that have resulted in the realisation of significant cost savings and equipment availability improvements.

Our expertise in computer aided maintenance management enables us to assist our clients with the development and implementation of systems, policies and procedures. This enables our clients to manage and maintain their assets in a manner that best meets their business goals and objectives. Optima's services include;

- Life Cycle Planning
- Asset Management Assessment
- Maintenance Strategy Design & Optimisation to deliver:
  - Improved effectiveness of the maintenance program;
  - Improved availability and reliability of the assets;
  - Reduced reactive work; and
  - Improved cost performance.

- Cost Improvement Initiatives & Budget Development
- Inventory & Spares Analysis
- Resource Planning & O&M Resource Optimisation
- Economic Life Analysis for Assets
- Reliability Engineering & Modelling
- Operations Readiness Planning & Implementation
- Process Optimisation and Continuous Improvement Programs

Delivering quality, value-adding results is our core goal; we deliver consistently and strive to exceed our goals. Talk to us today about how we can add value to your operations.

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

# ACADEMY OF JOINT INTEGRITY ALERTS SMALL TEESSIDE BUSINESSES TO COMAH REGULATIONS

**The Academy of Joint Integrity is alerting smaller businesses involved in industry that they may not be adhering to health and safety standards following changes to the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations, which came into effect a year ago.**



“

*The increase in demand for our training services has been a direct result of these changes, as owners of these newly classified businesses need to get up to speed with the latest competency standards in preventing accidents in hazardous environments.*

”

The amendments mean that a large number of smaller companies operating in industries including pharmaceutical, chemical and fuel storage must now adhere to the COMAH regulations.

The Academy of Joint Integrity, which is part of global sealing solutions specialist Flexitallic, has seen demand for its accredited training programmes increase by more than 25 per cent, following changes to COMAH regulations.

COMAH aims to prevent the effects of major accidents involving dangerous substances such as Chlorine, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, explosives and Arsenic Pentoxide, which can cause serious damage and harm.

The most common areas contributing to the loss of containment are fuel/

chemical storage, vessels, pipework and flexible hoses.

The Academy provides accredited, bespoke practical training to graduates, engineers and technicians covering all areas of Flange Assembly/ Sealing Technology and Joint integrity, underpinning Loss of Containment Initiatives.

On-site Integrity audits also provide clients with aging assets invaluable technical evaluation of how to address corroded flanges and pipework from a gasket/flange assembly perspective.

Gary Milne, Academy Technical Director said: “The changes to COMAH regulations have had consequences for a large number of small businesses, which were previously unaffected by the rules.

“The increase in demand for our training services has been a direct result of these changes, as owners of these newly classified businesses need to get up to speed with the latest competency standards in preventing accidents in hazardous environments.”

Through its alliance with fellow NOF Energy member, TTE Technical Training Group, the Academy provides training at Teesside, whilst also having facilities in Humberside, West Yorkshire and Aberdeen. Its unique mobile rigs are popular with end users who prefer to have training delivered on site.

Lunch and Learn events at clients' premises also provide an insight into the Academy offerings. These sessions are available free of charge and permit the end users to experience the unique mobile Flange Assembly Demonstration Unit (FADU), displaying the elastic interaction of the components within the Flanged Connection.

To book a free Site Integrity Audit / Lunch and Learn or Training certification route to competence options, please contact Gary Milne on 07770 233001 or [gmilne@flexitallic.eu](mailto:gmilne@flexitallic.eu)

**[www.flexitallic.eu](http://www.flexitallic.eu)**



# SIGNIFICANT UPTURN AT WILTON INTERNATIONAL

**The number of enquiries from potential investors about land and buildings at Wilton International site continues to rise.**



2016 has seen a significant upturn in enquiries to Sembcorp Utilities UK, which owns much of the land available for development on the 2,000 acre site near Redcar.

The enquiries have come not only from larger firms looking at locations across Europe for large scale industrial investment, but also from smaller firms looking to utilise the office and compound space available.

The Wilton Supplier Village – a section of the site specially set aside for contractor firms serving the process industries – is proving particularly popular with a number of firms having moved into buildings and compound space that were previously resident elsewhere on Teesside. Others have moved to the village from other parts of the site.

"Things are definitely looking up," said Jane Goult, Commercial Marketing Manager at Sembcorp.

“  
*We're seeing a definite increase in the number of enquiries coming our way some of which will hopefully come to fruition.*  
”

The revamping of the site's website has helped alongside the launch of a marketing campaign based on the energy, space and opportunities available.

Green energy is at the heart of the site's offering with coal fired power generation having been phased out and a number of more sustainable facilities have been developed by operator Sembcorp.

The ability of Teesside to deliver is demonstrated by the construction of a £250 million energy from waste development operated by Merseyside Energy Recovery. Full operation is now just months away and the move will bring around 50 permanent and 20 permanent contractor jobs to the site, including dozens from the now defunct SSI steelworks.

Meanwhile other developments in the pipeline include a polyhalite processing plant linked to the £2 billion Sirius Minerals York Potash Project which could bring with it several hundred permanent jobs.

In total the site has around 700 acres of prime development land available to investors, around 300 acres of which is greenfield land much of which comes with deemed planning consent and is designated suitable for light industrial operations.

The site would be ideal for a Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) power facility and to that end, Sembcorp has joined the Teesside Consortium group in taking the potential of the area for CCS to Government.

[www.wiltoninternational.com](http://www.wiltoninternational.com)



# GSK ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT NEW INVESTMENT IN UK MANUFACTURING NETWORK

**GSK has announced £275 million of new investments at three of its manufacturing sites in the UK to boost production and support delivery of its latest innovative respiratory and large molecule biological medicines. The vast majority of these products will be for export to global markets.**



GSK has a significant manufacturing presence in the UK, with nine sites employing approximately 6,000 people. The company views the UK as an attractive location for investment in advanced manufacturing due to a number of factors including the skilled workforce, technological and scientific capabilities & infrastructure and a competitive corporate tax system. This includes the Patent Box, which encourages investment in R&D and related manufacturing in the UK by delivering a lower rate of corporation tax on profits generated from UK-owned intellectual property.

Andrew Witty, CEO, GSK said,

'This announcement reflects further investment to support our pharmaceutical pipeline and meet growing demand for our innovative portfolio of newly launched products. It is testament to our skilled UK workforce and the country's leading position in life sciences that we are making these investments in advanced manufacturing here. From their manufacture in the UK, many of these medicines will be sent to patients around the world.'

The investment announced is split across three UK sites:

- Barnard Castle in County Durham is one of GSK's biggest secondary manufacturing sites, employing 1,100 people. The site supplies nearly half a million packs of products per day to 140 global markets. The investment announced today of £92 million will fund the construction of an aseptic sterile facility supporting the manufacture of existing and new biopharmaceutical assets in our pipeline.
- Montrose in Angus in Scotland manufactures active ingredients for respiratory, HIV and vaccine products and employs over 450 staff. This investment of approximately £110 million will provide a new, state-of-the-art facility for the manufacture of respiratory active ingredients.
- Ware in Hertfordshire, employs 1200 staff, manufacturing innovative respiratory products. Today's investment of £74 million will support further expansion of the company's new Ellipta respiratory inhaler through additional manufacturing capacity at the site.

In addition to jobs associated with the construction of the new facilities, the announcement will support current employment at these three sites and is expected to lead to the creation of new employment opportunities.

“

*It is testament to our skilled UK workforce and the country's leading position in life sciences that we are making these investments in advanced manufacturing here*

”

# GREAT START TO 2016 FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST

**It has been a busy start to 2016 for energy and process industry specialist, the px group - the Stockton based organisation which specialises in managing high hazard facilities.**



In March, the group secured a long term operations and maintenance (O&M) contract at the St. Fergus Gas Terminal, about 30 miles north of Aberdeen and has recently won a string of safety awards across other sites it operates around the UK.

Day-to-day operations of the St Fergus terminal as well as the SIRGES and FUKA pipelines will be managed by px Group on behalf of the operating subsidiary of North Sea Midstream Partners (NSMP), building on a long standing relationship at NSMP's Teesside Gas Processing Plant.

As a result 73 members of Total E&P UK staff and contractors, who either work at the St Fergus terminal or are Aberdeen based mid-stream specialists, have transferred to the px Group, with those who are Aberdeen based now located alongside NSMP staff in a new office in the Altens area of Aberdeen.

In June, px achieved a string of top safety awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) in recognition of the group's ongoing commitment to maintaining an excellent health and safety record.

Awards included a gold medal – recognising five consecutive annual gold awards – for the gas fired, 188 MW Fellside Combined Heat and Power Station, which provides steam and power to the Sellafield site in Cumbria and electricity to the National Grid.

Four further gold awards for: The Port Talbot Biomass Power Plant, which burns woodchip to generate sufficient electricity for up to 10,000 homes; the gas fired

Stallingborough Combined Heat and Power Plant, near Immingham, which generates 6MW of electricity and provides steam to the adjacent titanium pigment plant; the Bramhall Fuel Terminal, near Stockport, which stores and supplies up to 900 million litres of petrol, diesel, oil, gas and kerosene and the company's office headquarters at Stockton on Tees.

A first time entry by the Inver Energy Fuel Terminal at Cardiff Dock secured a silver award – bypassing the merit and bronze categories. It stores and supplies 300 million litres of petrol, diesel, heavy fuel, kerosene and various additives. If this standard is maintained over successive years, it too can become eligible for a gold award.



Dave Henderson – px Group Development Director – presenting Cleveland Fire Service heavy maintenance technician apprentice, James Bircham, with the Middlesbrough College Intermediate Apprentice of the Year award.

Finally, the Teesside Gas Processing Plant was the winner of the oil and gas sector award presented annually for the most outstanding performance in health and safety by a company or organisation within a particular industry or sector. Entrants must be able to demonstrate a robust and high quality safety management system together with a minimum of four years' consistently excellent or continuously improving health and safety performance.

[www.pxlimited.com](http://www.pxlimited.com)

# PAUL BOOTH RETIRES FROM SABIC

**Paul Booth has retired from SABIC after almost 50 years of service in the chemical industry. Paul has been a leading figure in the UK chemical industry, holding several influential business roles across the region and the UK process sector for SABIC, Huntsman and ICI.**

Having started his career as an Apprentice at ICI on Teesside in 1967, Paul has had an extensive career holding a number of senior executive roles across Teesside and Europe, including Site Director, Acting VP Europe and latterly as Sr. Director, Government Relations & Public Affairs for SABIC in Europe.

In 2013, he received an OBE in recognition for his services to the industry.

Although he is retiring from SABIC, Paul is continuing his role as Chairman of Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU). He will also continue his role on the Board of Governors for Teesside University and on the boards of the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund (NPIF) and Transport for the North.

Paul was previously honorary president for the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) in the UK, a former member of the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) Council and the European Chemical Industry Council, and a former board member for Plastics Europe North. He was also chairman of the North East Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC), deputy chair of the National Skills Academy, chairman of Redcar and Cleveland College and a board member of Teesside-based technical training group, TTE.

After receiving the OBE three years ago, Paul said: "I thank SABIC for giving me the opportunity to represent not only the company but the industry as a whole on a national and European platform on the many critical issues our sector is facing.

“

*This industry has given me so much, so I have always been keen to try to put back more than I take out. I think it is important to do all I can for the industry, not for reward or recognition, but because it is the right thing to do.*

”



Born in Teesside and having spent his illustrious career predominantly in the North East of England, Paul has been staunchly committed in developing the local area, industry and nurturing local talent.

A child of 1950s industrial Teesside, North Ormesby-born Paul's early fascination with Meccano sets inspired him to take up a four-year mechanical engineering

apprenticeship with ICI before studying for a mechanical engineering degree in Manchester.

Returning to Teesside, he was employed as a development engineer on ICI's Aromatics facility at North Tees and worked his way through the ranks, managing engineering operations at the Wilton and Billingham sites.

After taking on what he describes as a number of "difficult and challenging" roles in the early 1990s as ICI began to change on the back of recession, Paul moved into production management on the Olefins 6 Cracker at Wilton before honing his strategic abilities in the company's corporate procurement department.

In 1999, after Huntsman bought ICI's petrochemical division, he became the American company's European Vice President of manufacturing and technology, later becoming president of SABIC UK Petrochemicals when the Saudi Arabian giant bought the existing Teesside facilities in 2006.

Mark Williams, SABIC's Vice President, Europe said: "Paul is a great ambassador for both our company and industry as a whole, something that was formally recognised by HRH Queen Elizabeth when he was awarded an OBE in the 2013 New Year's Honours List. We know that Paul will continue to work to secure the future of the manufacturing industry in the region.

"We thank Paul for his immense contribution to the company over the years and wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement."

[www.sabic.com](http://www.sabic.com)



# INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH FOR PD PORTS' NEW £35 MILLION QUAY AT BREAKBULK

**PD Ports is formally declaring its 550m deep water quay at Teesport open for business following a £35 million redevelopment.**



“  
*The reconstruction of Number One Quay gives us a tremendous platform to grow our business while increasing its lifespan for another 70 to 80 years,*  
”

Mark Pearson,  
PD Ports' Project Director

The award-winning ports and logistics company now owns and operates some of the deepest general cargo berths in the UK offering global customers an enviable freight advantage.

A topping off ceremony was conducted by Lord Heseltine earlier this year but Number One Quay is being officially unveiled at Breakbulk Europe this week.

The investment has created the capability to accommodate two fully laden 235m long panamax vessels simultaneously in water 14.5m deep. One of its many advantages is the ability to take bigger vessels – both for import and export – therefore driving down freight costs for customers.

The quay design also has the capacity to further deepen the berth pockets in the future as customer

requirements dictate and crucially, rail links to the quay edge and substantial warehousing on site have been maintained.

Roy Merryweather, PD Ports' General Manager Business Development, said: "The new quay is vital to attracting new business to the port and North-East region, providing a platform to enable Teesport to compete on a national level."

Number One Quay, which was originally constructed in the early 1960s, had reached its capacity in terms of the size of fully laden ships which could be handled as well as the demands of modern cranes and handling equipment.

The 18-month project involved the demolition of some 24,000 tonnes of the existing concrete quay deck with a similar amount of new concrete used in the reconstruction. Where possible the original concrete was crushed and re-used in the new structure. In addition around 10,000m of 1.3m diameter heavy duty steel tubes were used for the supporting piles.

Dredging of the berth pockets was carried out by one of the largest backhoe dredgers in the world, the Manu Pekka, operated by Boskalis Westminster with up to 260,000m<sup>3</sup> of material being removed for disposal at sea.

Another advantage of the new quay is it opens up opportunities in new sectors, enabling the mobilisation and demobilisation of a lot more deep sea bulk cargoes from all over the world.

As well as the increased depth, the new quay deck is designed with a much higher loading capacity to take the loads from modern handling equipment including the existing Mobile Harbour Cranes. Whereas before it could only take 2.5 tonnes per square metre, now it can take 10 tonnes per square metre making the quay suitable for the mobilisation of wind farm installation vessels.

"The reconstruction of Number One Quay gives us a tremendous platform to grow our business while increasing its lifespan for another 70 to 80 years," said Mark Pearson, PD Ports' Project Director.

"We are pleased to have secured funding through the Regional Growth Fund to help deliver this project for which our application was supported by Tees Valley Unlimited.

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



# WOOD GROUP BEDS IN AT CATS

Six months ago, Wood Group were appointed as operating partner for CATS Management Limited (CML), a wholly owned subsidiary of Antin Infrastructure Partners, to provide operating services for the Central Area Transmission System (also known as CATS) in the North Sea.

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*It's a fantastic achievement which was delivered on time, under budget and more importantly to the right quality.*

”

Since then the company has reached a number of milestones, as Alan Pollock, CATS manager for Wood Group explains.

“Under the \$250m contract, we are responsible for day-to-day operation of the CATS system, which transports gas through a 404km pipeline from the Central North Sea to the CATS terminal at Seal Sands, Teesside where it is then processed on behalf of major North Sea gas producers. Stability, continuity and minimal change have been our watchwords since day one of transitioning operatorship from BP and our focus continues to be the delivery of safe, reliable operations. In January 2016 the team marked 13 years without a lost time incident; an outstanding record that reflects the standard of excellence we are committed to maintaining”.

“In May we completed our new accommodation project, to increase the number of people we can have working on the terminal. It's a fantastic achievement which was delivered on time, under budget and more importantly to the right quality”, says Alan.

To help ensure the long-term sustainability of the chemical-processing sector



in North East England, the team is committed to maintaining a local focus.

“We want to ensure our operations benefit the local community and where possible we aim to use local skills and services to support the operation. Similarly we're building local partnerships with business and have joined NEPIC to help embed these and to give CATS and Wood Group another platform in the North East; as we focus on growth and development in the local area.

Wood Group already has a presence in the North East through our Industrial Services team who currently provide fabric maintenance capabilities to the following NEPIC members: Huntsman Tioxide, Huntsman Polyurethanes, Wilton Engineering, Lucite International, SNF, Fine Organics and Interterminals.

[www.woodgroup.com](http://www.woodgroup.com)

## NORTH EAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY CHAMPION CROWNED

**Sharon Lashley of Enviro UK Consultants Ltd has won the North East Energy Efficiency Champion of the Year 2016 at the Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Awards in Newcastle.**



This award recognises Sharon's contribution to the community, business and energy sector here in the North East and in particular her work with community groups in accessing renewable energy, energy efficiency measures and more importantly bringing about improvements and savings to their energy bills.

The Energy Efficiency measures introduced by the Government following the Energy Act 2013, included

the Energy Company Obligations (ECO) Scheme, the Green Deal Finance Initiative, and the Renewable Heat

Incentive (RHI). These measures together help homeowners reduce their energy bills, tackle fuel poverty and reduce Carbon emissions.

The aim of the Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Awards is to provide public recognition for the excellent work the Energy Efficiency sector is doing in implementing these schemes. And to help encourage best practice within the Energy Industry as it works to improve UK housing stock.

Sharon commented: "I am delighted to win this award as it not only recognises the work we do on a daily basis helping communities, businesses and individuals with their energy efficiency needs, but it also makes me feel proud to be part of a thriving sector in the North East. There are some fantastic projects happening in our region and I'm proud to be contributing to this great work".

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

## Planning for old age and obsolescence Taking a structured approach...

At Frazer-Nash we know that the process industry is facing obsolescence issues that can threaten the safe and uninterrupted operation of control systems and other critical infrastructure.

Key problems of ageing assets include failure or obsolescence of essential components, leading to costly extended downtime, with further expensive outlay needed to ensure new equipment and systems are compatible with legacy systems.

A structured approach to plant asset management can help ensure continued safe and reliable operation. It can enable forward planning for the replacement of process-critical systems that meet – and even exceed – current functionality requirements.

Frazer-Nash provides a structured approach that can help you manage your ageing infrastructure.

If you want to know more about Frazer-Nash and how we can add value to your operations, call Martin Concannon on 01925 404062 or email [m.concannon@fnc.co.uk](mailto:m.concannon@fnc.co.uk).

**SYSTEMS AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**

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





# AUTOMATED READING SYSTEM SET TO CUT BUSINESS BILLS

**A new system for reading and monitoring utility meters has been launched to help businesses and organisations to cut bills.**

By helping to identify and act upon opportunities to reduce usage of water, gas and electricity, the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) system, developed by Northumbrian Water Group, will help businesses to make significant savings.

AMR utilises market-leading technology provided by specialists Zeco Energy to give organisations better control over their utility spending. Using wireless technology, the small, compact data logger installed at the utility meter allows remote communication with NWG's secure online portal.

Organisations involved in trialling the system included Redcar & Cleveland Council and North Tyneside Council, who want to reduce water usage in order to make savings on bills. AMR equipment was installed at key locations throughout the authority's estate to help understand out of hours water usage, with one particularly rewarding discovery.

At Redcar, the system identified a single faulty battery – with a replacement value of less than £2 – in a water cistern at Rye Hill School, that was causing water usage outside of school hours by allowing the system to flush continuously. By simply replacing the battery, which

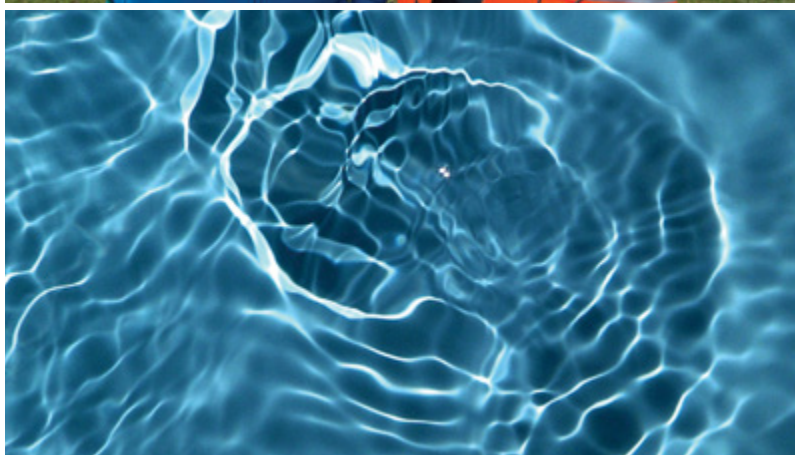
controlled the timing of flushes, the annual saving is expected to run into thousands of pounds.

Elizabeth Kemp, from Redcar and Cleveland Council, said: "We found the whole process really easy and NWG Pipeline Solutions took care of everything from start to finish. The installation of the equipment was not a problem at all and it didn't cause any disruption to site. Their training was straightforward and easy to understand and the web portal is easy to use and resulted in considerable savings for the council."

Andy Sinclair, business development manager at Northumbrian Water Group Pipeline Solutions, said: "Automated Meter Reading has been developed to support businesses to reduce a major expenditure through a simple process of monitoring utility usage.

"AMR is adaptable to all utilities and is a great way of delving into an organisation's usage and finding ways of cutting usage and, therefore, cutting costs. Sometimes this involves something really innovative, or it can simply be identifying a fault that has caused unnecessary usage.

"We recognise that utility costs, not just water bills, are a big part of business



expenditure for any organisation, so the ability to get a good return on a modest investment is something that most business managers can appreciate."

Jon Kent, chief executive officer of Zeco said:

Working with Northumbrian Water Group, we are able to help businesses, local authorities and other organisations to identify

issues and find solutions that will help them to bring long-term savings on their utility bills

"The pilots at Redcar and North Tyneside councils have shown that it is often a hidden problem with a simple resolution that can make a big difference to how much utilities can cost."

**[www.nwg-solutions.co.uk/amr](http://www.nwg-solutions.co.uk/amr)**

# TOMLINSON HALL STRENGTHENS NATIONAL LINKS WITH NEW PARTNERSHIP

**Billingham-based pump distributor and manufacturer Tomlinson Hall & Co Ltd has entered into a new partnership to further expand its UK market reach.**



Colin Simpson, business development director of Tomlinson Hall

The North East firm has announced that Hampshire-headquartered Crest Pumping Services will act as a sub-distributor for the DEPA and ELRO pump ranges manufactured by US-based multinational CRANE ChemPharma & Energy Flow Solutions – for which Tomlinson Hall is an approved global distributor.

Tomlinson Hall chose Crest Pumping Services as a sub-distributor for DEPA and ELRO because of the company's strong presence in southern England and its links to the chemical processing industry.

CRANE's ELRO peristaltic pumps are available in mobile and stationary versions, while DEPA's range of air operated diaphragm pumps includes metallic, non-metallic, sanitary, high pressure and powder pumps.

DEPA diaphragm pumps are the only diaphragm pumps within the UK to achieve ATEX Zone 0 certification, allowing for pumping in explosive or dangerous environments.

Colin Simpson, business development director of Tomlinson Hall, said: "We're delighted to announce this new partnership with Crest Pumping Services, which has a wealth of expertise in the process sector. We have enjoyed working with the Crest team for many years and by forging closer links, we can help to expand the presence of the DEPA and ELRO brands in southern England.

“

*This is a fantastic opportunity for both companies and we are looking forward to providing pump solutions from DEPA and ELRO to even more customers via this partnership.*

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James Dashwood, managing director of Crest Pumping Services and Crest Pumps, said: "Crest has worked closely with Tomlinson Hall over many years, supplying each other's products to their

local markets, and this new agreement cements the relationship.

"We view our ability to offer DEPA and ELRO to our customers as an important step in our development and as a specialist in corrosion resistant pumps, it is particularly exciting to now have DEPA's non-metallic air operated diaphragm pumps in our product portfolio.

"Tomlinson Hall and CRANE have the same philosophy as ourselves when it comes to offering outstanding customer service and technical support, and we are delighted to now be a formal distributor for Tomlinson Hall."

Tomlinson Hall works with high profile clients in the UK and overseas markets, including in Europe, the Middle East, North America, South America and Asia. It has seen significant sales success over the last year for a range of global pump manufacturers.

Tomlinson Hall was named Distributor of the Year in the Pump Industry Awards in 2009/10, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2016. It also won the Small Business of the Year award in 2015's North East Business Awards, and scooped the SME of the Year title in the NEPIC Annual Awards 2015.

[www.tomlinson-hall.co.uk](http://www.tomlinson-hall.co.uk)



MEMBER NEWS  
INDUSTRYSABIC GIVE ENGINEERING STUDENTS  
GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

**Engineering undergraduates from Teesside University were given a glimpse into their potential future with one of the world's leading petrochemical businesses during a three-day workshop at SABIC.**

Fourteen students from the university's School of Science and Engineering took part in SABIC's first Engineering Summer School, featuring a range of practical and theoretical exercises that aimed to boost their confidence and employability for their future careers within the industry.

SABIC, whose UK headquarters are based at Wilton, host 40 apprentices and a number of industry placement students alongside a strong graduate development programme.

Recently named UK Company of the Year by the Chemical Industries Association, SABIC employs 600 staff and an additional 400 contractors at its Wilton and North Tees sites, whilst thousands more Teesside jobs are reliant on the business within the wider supply chain, bringing some £400 million into the economy from payroll, utilities, goods and services.

However, the company is careful to nurture its future leaders as it looks forward with confidence, buoyed by the ongoing conversion of its iconic Olefins 6 Cracker to take ethane, a move that will safeguard thousands of Teesside jobs whilst securing the company's long-term future in the region.

Kevin Thrower, SABIC's Learning and Development Manager, who organised and delivered the Summer School, said: "It is part of our Corporate and Social Responsibility plan to promote opportunities for young people within SABIC, especially as some of these students will form part of SABIC's talent supply chain in the near future.

"It's important that young students who could add value to the UK process industry have a real understanding of how their individual traits and abilities to work in teams to solve everyday problems are equally as important as their technical capability.

"The enthusiasm, willingness to learn, openness to new ideas and techniques was eye-opening. Young people have a lot to offer, and it is our job in industry to give them an opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities. The eagerness shown was credit to themselves, their departments within Teesside University and to Teesside itself."

During the course, the undergraduates heard first hand from SABIC employees about careers in mechanical and technical engineering, whilst interacting with SABIC's leadership team.



Teesside University Engineering undergraduates at the SABIC Summer School at Wilton. Front row, from left: Tori Roberts, Shubham Sharma, Beth Stoves, Craig Lockhart and Ariane Lim.

Back row, from left: Chris Matthews, Jay Grainge, Taimoor Khan, Ahmed Ameen, Josh Enderwick, Abdalla Ali, Kristi Potter, Archie Nhlango and Jing Jing (Crystal) Liu.

Major industrial energy and utilities provider Sembcorp also provided a coach tour of the Wilton International Site – home to SABIC's Olefins 6 and LDPE plants – to give the students an insight into the companies, industries and activities taking place on the site, showcasing how companies depend on each other within the manufacturing chain.

Praising the SABIC Summer School, Professor Nadhani said: "The value of this event to individual students is immense, and a tremendous amount of hard work and effort were spent on these three days.

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*On behalf of the students who have attended and myself, I would like to express our gratitude to SABIC, especially those staff members who have given their time so freely for the benefit of our undergraduates. "The relationship that Teesside University and SABIC enjoys helps us both to grow and benefit from this collaboration.*

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[www.sabic.com](http://www.sabic.com)

# MPI INVESTMENT SUPPORTS INDUSTRIAL R&D

**The Materials Processing Institute has invested in high-specification microscope technology, to support the industrial sectors' research and development.**



Institute researchers Andy Richardson and Sarah Martin utilise the new technology.

The Sigma 300 is a high-quality, scanning electron microscope, capable of producing high resolution magnified images of up to 1.3 million times magnification. The microscope also utilises Oxford Instruments analytical detectors and incorporates a bespoke designed hot tensile tester, enabling tensile and compression tests to be performed at elevated temperatures of up to 850°C, to allow in-situ analysis of high temperature deformation processes. The new equipment is the latest in a £3million programme of investments, funded through Tees Valley Unlimited and Tees Valley Combined

Authority, through the Local Growth Fund (Growth Deal).

The microscopic equipment, the Sigma 300 VP, has multiple applications, from producing crisp images of metallic structures, to studying organic matter such as bacteria, cells and organisms. Combined with state-of-the-art analytical equipment, the technology provides detailed analysis of materials samples to support failure investigation and defect analysis, particle and inclusion analysis and mapping, chemical and element mapping, corrosion analysis, material analysis and characterisation.

The new equipment can be utilised by a range of sectors including steel and other metal manufacturing, ceramics and glass production, oil and gas, and for forensic, biological or geological investigation.

The Teesside-based Materials Processing Institute is an open-access technology centre providing a range of research and development, and consultancy services. The Institute provides support to businesses in the development of new technologies and products. The new SEM microscope will enable the Institute to increase its offer, supporting more businesses and with a broader range of services.

Chris McDonald, CEO of the Materials Processing Institute, said: "We provide important research and development facilities to support industry. Sustained investment is ensuring our laboratories continue to support businesses with an even broader range of research and analysis capabilities.

"The installation of the Sigma 300 microscope in our newly enhanced laboratories, further extends the services we are able to offer, to benefit industrial innovators and business development in the UK."

[www.mpiuk.com](http://www.mpiuk.com)

# CORDELL SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVE SECOND GOLD AWARD AT THE SABIC EUROPEAN EHSS AWARD CELEBRATION

**Cordell are delighted to announce continued success at a recent high profile Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) award ceremony which took place in the Netherlands.**

The prestigious SABIC European SHE Award event attracts participation from all the SABIC contractors throughout Europe and is a highly sought accolade by the contractor fraternity. The Cordell team based at SABIC, Wilton and North Tees have consistently improved year on year, with last year achieving the ultimate Gold award for their outstanding contribution towards superior safety improvements.

As one of the SABIC European contractors, Cordell were once again invited to participate in developing and presenting safety improvement plans at the beginning of 2015. After agreeing to participate, the proposed safety improvements were then implemented with Key Performance Indicators set to monitor performance with cumulative score points earned. In addition, scores were also calculated from quarterly Safety Performance Data against Man-Hours expended.

The SABIC SHE department based in their European Headquarters in Sittard, Netherlands then travelled around Europe to visit participating contractors to authenticate data whilst also allocating points.

This year, the European Contractor EHSS award celebration was held on the 19th May at Kerkrade, Limburg. This was attended by contractors across the UK and Europe including Cordell representatives Managing Director, Rob McBride and SABIC Site Manager, Phil Grainger.

The awards were presented by Michael Mueller (VP Manufacturing Europe), shown here presenting the Gold trophy to Phil Grainger and Martin van Stokhem, Organiser and Host of the proceedings, also shown with presenting the certification to Rob McBride.

SABIC's Maintenance & Projects Senior Manager, Jon P. Hetherington issued a statement congratulating the Teesside Contractors on another outstanding achievement for Teesside; receiving 9 gold and 1 silver awards.

Jon stated, "I think that we all know that this can only be achieved through collective hard work, mutual support and a common approach to SHE in everything we do. So, thank you again for this. It shows we are not too far off the right track."

Cordell Managing Director, Rob McBride and SABIC Manager,



Phil Grainger echoed their congratulations to the Cordell team at SABIC for their continued excellent SHE performance, acknowledging the hard work and efforts of all involved in repeating last year's success, without the full support of the team this would not have been possible.

Phil continued, "I would like to extend my personal thanks to my teams at both Wilton and North Tees who ultimately earned this Gold award through exceptional safety standards whilst providing a first class service to SABIC. The challenge is on for 2016; again the bar has been raised. We are committed to the continuation of the successful collaboration with the SABIC team and looking forward to defending our position as Gold award winners at next year's event."

[www.cordellgroup.com](http://www.cordellgroup.com)

“

*I would like to extend my personal thanks to my teams at both Wilton and North Tees who ultimately earned this Gold award through exceptional safety standards whilst providing a first class service to SABIC*

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# RECRUITER REFLECTS ON THE CHANGING FACE OF INDUSTRIAL TEESSIDE

**Techconsult UK, based at the Wilton Centre near Redcar, has specialised in finding candidates for roles within the process and petrochemical, oil and gas, renewable and subsea sectors for the past 10 years.**



The company, founded in Norway in 1999, recognised an opportunity to capitalise on opportunities within Teesside's industrial heartland in 2006 and enlisted recruitment specialist Steve Guest, who has a strong track-record in recruitment for the technical and engineering sector, to drive forward the operation.

Over the past decade Steve has established Techconsult UK as the go to recruiter for niche resourcing sector, focusing on science and technical businesses in mid to senior level appointments and, in the long-term, is looking to replicate the success of its Teesside operations in other key growth areas of the UK.

With a first-hand insight into all aspects of science,

industry and engineering, Steve says that, despite the significant challenges of the past 12 months, Teesside still has plenty to offer as a hub for many traditional and burgeoning industries and is a great place to invest and work.

"There's no denying that the closure of the SSI steel works in Redcar was a huge blow to Teesside and the wider area that will be felt for many years to come, but there is so much we can be proud of and, as a business that has a first-hand insight into trends within science and industry, there are many burgeoning opportunities within sectors including biotechnology, chemicals and civil engineering.

"International players such

as Sembcorp, SABIC and Huntsman continue to see Teesside as a place to invest and there are many homegrown success stories too; the Materials Processing Institute is widely recognised as a world-leader in materials and steel innovation and we have been working closely with them to support plans to diversify and further expand into national and international markets.

"There are also some very novel businesses forming here in Teesside developing innovative technologies which should be celebrated. Speciality graphene materials manufacturer Applied Graphene Materials, innovative cosmetics start-up TeeGene Biotech and Calysta are all developing ground-breaking products right here within the Wilton Centre.

"As a business that reflects the wider industry landscape there's no doubt that we have had to continually adapt our own business model over the years in response to market demands. In recent years we've had to respond to the slowdown in the oil and gas sector, previously a core part of our business offer, however we are now seeing demand for our services in growth areas like civil engineering which have seen confidence returning, with significant housing,

industrial and highways schemes underway across Teesside and the wider region.

"While Teesside's strengths are clear, not only in these areas of science and industry, but also in sectors like renewable energy, digital and advanced manufacturing, it's vitally important that we get the right talent into these growth areas and for academia to help bridge the skills gap by tuning into the needs of employers. As a recruiter we often have to look beyond the region to find the candidates with the right skills and experience to meet the needs of employers here, particularly in niche sectors. The Government spotlight needs to focus on investment in skills to support key growth sectors, so that people from the region are able to capitalise on the opportunities that exist here and so that we can retain talent from within.

"Teesside continues to be a hotbed for industry, but traditional industries it was once best known for are making way to a more diverse business landscape. It's important that we recognise and celebrate the region's strengths and not let the challenges we've faced in recent times blight progress."

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



# NEW CHAPTER FOR NORTH EAST'S SERVICE NETWORK

**Service Network, the voice of the region's service, creative and technical sectors since 1995, is relaunching under new management by leading business support organisation RTC North to provide a strengthened focus and significant business benefits for its members.**

The business-to-business organisation will offer monthly networking meetings with presentations from leading figures, informal breakfast and early evening events, sector seminars, debates and specialist training opportunities for members.

New events have been organised, featuring guest speakers including Neil Warwick, head of EU and Competition at Square One Law, on future trading prospects, potential and problems post-Brexit for regional businesses, and John Seager, chief executive of Siglion, which is carrying out a £100m regeneration and development of major Sunderland sites.

Both events will include free networking lunches, and both will take place at RTC in Sunderland. There is also a chance for Service Network members to be the first to hear about 'Hubspace', a fantastic new place to work, network or hot desk, before its launch later in autumn.

An informal get-together has also been arranged in Newcastle for September, to help create new business connections, generate sales leads and introduce members old and new.

RTC North has been a regional focus for innovation since it was established in 1989. It is already home to co-located industry clusters NEPIC, Health Network North, the North East Automotive Alliance (NEAA) and Design Network North.

The groups have all thrived, with NEAA becoming the largest automotive cluster group in the UK within 12 months of its launch. Service Network will benefit hugely from the expertise and resources at RTC North, which in turn will boost the value of membership.

Jamie Ollivere, on behalf of Service Network, said: "Many of the region's most talented, ambitious firms and individuals will benefit from Service Network's opportunities to move their business forward, collaborate and exchange ideas.

The launch of the 2016/17 programme, with a presentation from John Seager of Siglion, will take place at 11.30am, Wednesday 21 September at RTC. For this event only, it will be free to members and non-members alike.

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



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*The new management is a major milestone, and we are actively helping members create a culture in which they can thrive. We are focussed on delivering high value, business to business services that make a real difference to enterprises large and small.*

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# AGEING PLANT AND PLANT INSPECTION

The HSE introduced Ageing Plant guidance back in 2010 as a guide to the HSE Inspectors on what to look for within duty holder's integrity management systems. It also provided a guide to the level of acceptability for what should be in place within these systems.



Now six years on the Ageing Plant topic is still very much at the forefront of the HSE's specialist mechanical inspection group priorities.

Plant inspection forms a large part of the Ageing Plant topic, this includes both statutory (PSSR) and non-statutory equipment (tanks, piping etc). The key to managing the expectations of the HSE is to ensure you have adequate information to demonstrate you; the duty holder is in control of Ageing Plant.

Firstly, you have to know what equipment you have, ensure your asset list is up to date and is regularly updated when equipment is either redundant or new equipment installed. Secondly determine the equipment that falls in to the scope of inspection and

ensure that this decision is clearly recorded.

Once the list of equipment for inspection has been gathered you need to determine (with the assistance of a competent person as required) what parts to inspect and who will do the inspection. This stage is critical and as a duty holder the HSE expect you to act as an "intelligent customer" when selecting third party expertise. The HSE have published a guidance document (freely available to download) on this topic called Mechanical Integrity: Use of third party expertise on high hazard sites.

As the duty holder you need to ensure that your chosen inspection partner will provide you with the level of expertise required

to determine an adequate inspection regime and put this in to a written scheme of examination. You also need to ensure that the inspection reports will provide adequate information to make a demonstration to the HSE or internal scrutiny on how the third party determined the equipment was suitable for continued use. If you as the duty holder are making the decision on the suitability of the equipment, it is still equally important that you have an adequately detailed inspection report to refer to when making the decision.

At a higher level there should be key performance indicators (KPIs) in place to have an overview of the inspection regime and ensure that inspections are completed on time and that no equipment goes beyond

the next due date for inspection. These KPIs should be regularly reviewed and shared with senior management to ensure they have an overview of the integrity management on site.

Selecting the right inspection partner to undertake plant inspection can have a significant impact on your business. If you select one that provides little detail regarding the way in which they have written the schemes of examination or provide little detail on the inspection they undertake, this could make it difficult to demonstrate to the HSE that you are in control of your integrity management. This also typically results in short inspection frequencies because of a lack of information on the condition of the equipment inspected. If you select one that provides greater detail and transparency on the way in which they carry out their work then this can assist two fold; firstly by providing a greater level of detail for demonstration to the HSE and secondly provides greater confidence in the equipment condition which can result in extension of inspection frequencies.

[www.ax-ea.co.uk](http://www.ax-ea.co.uk)

# POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR NORTH EAST CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

**A new analytics service from Protel Associates shows a positive outlook for capital expenditure across the process sectors in the North-East.**



Protel Analytics is a new online service which provides a range of aggregated data charts based on fully researched capex projects, both planned and under construction. Available data covers the whole of the UK across the main process manufacturing sectors including food & drink, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, onshore gas and process intensive energy generation.

Data for the North-East of England shows that the total value of projects under implementation has been rising steadily from Q2 2015 to date, with a significant level of new projects, currently in the pre-approval planning phases, scheduled to commence throughout 2017.

In terms of the number of individual projects scheduled

for implementation, comparisons between process sectors for the North-East show chemical, energy and pharmaceutical at similar levels of activity. However, when this capex activity is represented in terms of its total value, the picture is somewhat different, with the energy sector head and shoulders above the others. This is due to a relatively small number of high value projects within the sector such as those for Sita Tees Valley, Lynemouth Power, Seneca Global Energy and Real Ventures, which together account for nearly £400 million of capex value.

Despite its traditional focus on chemical and pharmaceutical production, the North-East is seeing capex projects across all process sectors with food and drink companies such as Quorn Foods, Nestle

and Camerons Brewery all investing in new equipment and systems to expand production capacity. However, food and drink projects are tending to be of smaller value - all those scheduled for 2016 capex approval in the North-East are below £10 million and 70% are below £5 million. This compares with the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors in the region which, for the same period, show 35% of projects with a value in excess of £10 million and 20% greater than £25 million.

Protel Associates has been identifying and tracking early stage engineering capex projects across the process sectors since 1996 and is currently monitoring around 2,000 active schemes with requirements for new process equipment, systems and associated services. Alongside its successful Project Bulletin service, Protel Data Analytics provides senior sales managers with a powerful tool to identify trends in sector and region activity, giving early stage guidance to set effective sales strategies.

**[www.protelprojects.com](http://www.protelprojects.com)**



# MARKETING FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COMPANIES IN THE NORTH EAST

**A North East based marketing and PR agency has teamed up with a leading funding provider to offer companies in the energy, water and waste; process, manufacturing and engineering sectors the opportunity to receive marketing funding towards delivering activities that will drive growth and add significant value for businesses.**



Scarab4 – situated in Northumberland – is now a registered provider of NBSL funding, meaning that its clients, both new and existing, can apply to receive financial support towards their marketing and PR activities.

To support business growth within the region, NBSL's North East Business Support Fund -(NEBSF) which is part financed by the European

Regional Development Fund (ERDF) - allows businesses based in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and County Durham the opportunity to access up to £2,800 worth of funding.

And as registered providers for NEBSF, Scarab4 – a full service agency - deliver a wealth of services, all under one roof, which can be utilized as part of the funding. This includes

marketing activities ranging from design, branding and creative right through to digital, PR and market research and strategy.

Speaking about the funding, Scarab4's Katherine Rowell said: "We understand that engaging in marketing and PR for companies that have never invested in such activities can be quite a daunting task. However, it is certainly an area that companies should not shy away from. With opportunities available - such as this funding - it can make the process of engaging in marketing and PR a lot easier for those companies that may be a little weary of the measurable impact that such activity can actually have, which can be significant.

"We have carved an excellent reputation in the industry for delivering strategic marketing activities that create awareness, sustain interest and ultimately drive bottom line profit. We are extremely proud that we are able to consistently deliver a significant return on investment for our clients. And funding opportunities

like this provide the opportunity for local companies to experience growth and exposure with the help of a subsidised investment."

As a sector specific agency – only working with clients in the energy, water and waste; process, manufacturing and engineering; housing, regeneration and development and environment sectors – the company prides itself on being experts in these fields, which they firmly believe saves their clients time and money. And with a team of specialists who have worked in these industry sectors for over a decade, the company very much applies its sector knowledge and expertise remaining true to its sector specific roots.

For more information about funding options available for business, contact Katherine Rowell at Scarab4 on 0844 800 2686.

**[www.scarab4.com](http://www.scarab4.com)**



# MAINTENANCE MEETS THE CHALLENGE

**Meeting the needs of efficient, safe operation requires that evaporative cooling equipment is properly maintained and its basic design must provide for this need.**



There must be good access for inspection, allowance for cleaning procedures, good drain-down and the avoidance of dead-legs, where restricted water movement and, hence, the deposition and build-up of contaminants, might occur. Tower packing and drift eliminators must be arranged so that routine maintenance can be undertaken and they must be sufficiently robust to ensure that operational effectiveness is not reduced by periodic inspection and cleaning.

This is not to say that every component in a cooling tower should receive the same level of condition monitoring. Essential elements such as drift eliminators, electro mechanical equipment, fill and water circuits need more frequent attention, than for example, structural members or protective

finishes. What is essential is that the plant operator, guided by the cooling tower manufacturer, develops a cost-effective maintenance programme that will prevent unscheduled downtime, expensive repairs and failure to meet necessary standards of safety.

The exact frequency of some elements of a maintenance programme will vary according to a tower's operating parameters and local conditions, but generally a schedule similar to that shown in the table will be required.

The effectiveness of water treatment programmes must be monitored and the means established to carry out corrective actions. Once or twice a year, depending on local conditions and the occasion of shutdown periods, cooling towers and associated circuits

should be cleaned and disinfected. The occasion of major maintenance work can be an appropriate time to consider replacing components with more recently available designs.

By doing so, improved efficiency, greater safety or energy savings may be achieved. Water droplet eliminators are an example of a component where modern, cellular, multi-pass configurations are able to cut drift to near imperceptible levels and, at the same time, reduce resistance to air flow and save power. This design gives a compact yet robust eliminator, well able to withstand regular removal and replacement at future maintenance intervals.

As with replacement components, care must be taken to ensure that their design is compatible with the design parameters of the cooling tower. Not only might an individual component fail to perform correctly if misapplied, but the overall performance of the tower may be reduced by the incorrect replacement. However, given that plant managers call on the support of cooling tower manufacturers who have the necessary expertise and breadth of experience, the high standards of maintenance and refurbishment work required to meet both safety and operational needs will be achieved.

[www.spx.com](http://www.spx.com)

# INVESTMENT IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDES COST AND EFFICIENCY SAVINGS FOR CLIENTS IN CHEMICAL SECTOR

**On-going investment in both technology and translation memory tools by Eclipse Translations Limited is resulting in significantly reduced translation time and costs for clients.**



At Eclipse, we help exporters of chemical goods to achieve:

## **Regulatory compliance:**

Hazardous chemicals need to have an MSDS in the official language(s) of each country/market where it is being transported, produced or sold. If hazardous chemicals are shipped within the EU, all hazard and precautionary statements need to follow the EC regulations on Classification (CLP) of substances and mixtures. Our team of carefully vetted translators have proven experience in translating chemical safety information and chemical products labelling and translate only into their native language. We work closely with clients to ensure the SDS meets the requirements for compliance in their target markets.

## **Efficiencies**

SDS and label documentation needs to be attached to an order before it can be shipped. A fast turnaround of translations is often a prerequisite. Eclipse Translations has provided thousands of SDS translations for clients in over 30 languages. All our translators' work is further edited and proofread before being handed to clients who check it with their own in-country contacts as an additional safeguard on accuracy.

[www.eclipse-translation.co.uk](http://www.eclipse-translation.co.uk)

Nowhere greater are the benefits being seen than in the chemical industry sector where, for one client, we recently delivered a production time saving of 11 days on a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) translation project due to our ability to cover pre- and post-processing of documentation.

Thanks to the investment in both technology and processes, Eclipse continue to win contracts based on our ability to assist clients in important overseas markets.

This certainly applies to SDS documents which contain details on the composition, safety, handling,

storage, disposal and transport of a material, and other regulatory information. They are the main tool for ensuring that suppliers communicate enough information along the supply chain to allow safe use of their substances and mixtures.

In the UK, SDS are routinely used in performing risk assessments for chemicals or other products used in a working environment, in compliance with COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulations.

# STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING CHALLENGES WITH WATER VARIABILITY AND AVAILABILITY

**Meeting the needs of efficient, safe operation requires that evaporative cooling equipment is properly maintained and its basic design must provide for this need.**



One of the biggest challenges for regional businesses and the global economy is water scarcity. It will be harder and harder in the near future to supply the right quality and quantity of water to satisfy consumer demand and to ensure that industrial operations can run their processes without problems.

The main factors contributing to water quality and scarcity issues are global climate change, increased water demand in various regions of the world and the depletion of natural water sources. Local environmental legislation has also created conditions

that limit water availability.

Many companies rely on brackish water or blends of different water sources to address water supply issues. While this strategy solves the problem of availability, it does not deal with water quality concerns and, in fact, may increase these concerns.

Solenis recognised the significance of water use and treatment challenges as early as the late 1970s and started to develop a monitoring system focused on key performance parameters. This was a major advance, as most systems of the day — and

many still in use today — monitor key operation parameters, which doesn't supply adequate information needed to effectively improve water quality.

The monitoring of key performance parameters is a step into a new era of cooling water monitoring and treatment because the scaling, biofouling and corrosion tendency is measured in real time and available on line.

Today, all of the knowledge and experience Solenis has developed in water treatment and system monitoring has been rolled

up into our OnGuard™ platform, a portfolio of technologies designed to provide 24/7 monitoring and control of process or water treatment programs based on actual system performance data. OnGuard technology, when used in combination with the new generation of Performax™ cooling water products from Solenis, represents a state-of-the-art approach to overcoming the challenges of water variability and availability now and in the future.

With the OnGuard 3H analyser installed, Solenis customers have reduced their water and energy consumption by more than 20 percent and have made their water re-use projects more controllable with fewer quality issues.

Not only does OnGuard technology provide huge performance benefits, but within the UK it also provides the demonstrable evidence of legionella compliance and provides real time data on all of these key compliance factors.

[www.solenis.com](http://www.solenis.com)



# EVOLUTION JOINS FORCES WITH LEADING UK ACCOUNTANCY FIRM

**North East chartered accountants and business advisers Evolution has joined forces with one of the UK's leading independent accountancy firms.**



From left, Dave Burns, Director Evolution; John Baldwin, Director Baldwins and Martin Barber, Director Evolution.

The move means Evolution, which has offices in Newcastle and Wynyard, has become part of the £40 million turnover Baldwins Accountancy Group which now has over 550 staff.

This move is part of Baldwins' national strategic expansion plans for 2016, and follows a deal that saw another North East accountancy firm Rowlands Accountants join forces with Baldwins Accountancy Group earlier this year.

Martin Barber, Managing Partner at Evolution, said: "Since Evolution was created six years ago from a management buyout we have grown consistently and doubled our workforce, and becoming part of the Baldwins Group will allow us to bring our fresh, dynamic approach to an even wider audience.

"This is very much the next chapter in the development of our business. Our clients will get access to an even broader range of business advisers and we will be able to connect them to even more potential customers and suppliers across the UK. Our people will also have a broader range of career options to look forward to.

"We have recently moved into new headquarters in Wynyard and have opened our office in Newcastle. Our growth demonstrates that our approach to advising clients is one they find attractive and that, as entrepreneurs ourselves, we know how to build a successful business."

John Baldwin, Director at Baldwins said: "Rowlands has given us an exceptional start in the North East

and now we have the confidence to further invest in the region with Evolution, continuing to build on the excellent brand of both firms.

"We're thrilled to be joining forces with Evolution in the North East, this gives us greater opportunity to utilise our specialist services across the region. We now have around 200 staff in seven offices across the region from Alnwick in the North to Wynyard in the South.

"By having such a varied geographical spread, we are developing an invaluable network that will enable businesses in and around surrounding areas to connect with other entrepreneurs further afield in the region.

“

*We are looking to invest further in the area in the coming months which underlines our faith in the strong business community and local economy.*

”

[www.evolutionllp.com](http://www.evolutionllp.com)



# CHEMOXY ENCOURAGE WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

The role of women in engineering is being celebrated across Hartlepool and East Durham. Women in Engineering Day is held each year (June 23) with a host of events taking place across the UK to try to encourage more females to get involved in the sector.



Dozens of students found out how they could be a part of the industry as Hartlepool College of Further Education hosted girls from English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College, Dyke House Sports and Technology College, and St Hild's Church of England School.

Lecturer in engineering, Helen Gott, gave an introduction before the event's main organiser Paula Tinkler, Commercial Director for Middlesbrough-based firm Chemoxy, explained her work.

The students visited Hartlepool Power Station and Caterpillar in Peterlee, before students did practical tests.

Mick Casey, Head of the Engineering School at Hartlepool College, added:

"In recent years the number of female students in engineering has increased, but there is still work to be done to try and reduce the so-called gender imbalance.

“

*We're constantly trying to address that by encouraging more girls to come into a thriving sector. We have excellent relationships with the schools, and by inviting them into the College they can get a real feel for the options which are available to them both with ourselves and the companies we work with.*

”

Paula said she was inspired to go into engineering by a similar event when she was younger, and hopes the girls who attended this week's activity will follow in her footsteps.

She said: "It is fantastic that once again Hartlepool College has supported this event, and it is great to see the girls from the schools not only coming along but taking a real genuine interest in what is going on. If it plants a seed in their mind that there are opportunities available to them then that can only be a positive."

[www.chemoxy.com](http://www.chemoxy.com)

# TTE EXPAND FACILITIES FOLLOWING WATER TREATMENT PLANT DONATION

**The TTE Technical Training Group is expanding its training facilities with the addition of a recycled Water Treatment Plant donated by Northumbrian Water Ltd.**



The plant is located in the Northumberland countryside, north of Alston, and treats water from nearby springs to supply local houses with drinking water. Having reached the end of its operational life, rather than scrapping the 8 metre x 5 metre treatment plant, Northumbrian Water Ltd offered the facility to TTE.

In keeping with TTE's commitment to providing a variety of skills development opportunities for young people, a group of young people have been charged with dismantling the plant and returning it to the training centre in Middlesbrough.

A team of four learners and two trainers have been dispatched to Northumberland for a week-long project to strip out the plant's parts and equipment while photographing each element to enable it to be rebuilt at TTE.

Once recommissioned, the plant will

be connected to a water supply to enable TTE learners to undertake a range of training exercises including operation, maintenance, sample testing and instrumentation measurements.

TTE, which holds charitable status, operates an extensive, training facility

that includes workshops featuring industry-standard equipment such as a three-phase separator, which replicates the process of removing hydrocarbons from the sea bed, and a fully-operational process plant and control room.

Northumbrian Water is committed to training young people and has been working with TTE for more than eight years. Currently it has a group of electrical and mechanical apprentices training at TTE's centre in Middlesbrough with another group working at Northumbrian Water sites across the UK.

Steve Grant, Managing Director of TTE, said: "We are very grateful to Northumbrian Water for the donation of the plant, which will enhance the variety of training scenarios available at TTE. It also presents quite a unique opportunity for a group of trainees to take part in a residential work placement, which will provide them

with experiences and new skills that they will no doubt apply throughout their careers."

Chris Adnett, Engineering Training Coordinator at TTE, said: "This was a great opportunity for the learners to, literally, operate out in the field. It enables them to transfer the skills they have learnt in the training centre to a live project as the decommissioning process was carried out to industry-standard specifications, including stringent health and safety protocols."

Adam Bell, Project Acceptance Engineer at Northumbrian Water Ltd, said: "Working with partners, such as TTE, to develop the skills of the workforce of the future is something that we believe is very important, not only for our business, but for the industry as a whole."

**“**  
*This donation of our old plant will help to meet the needs of these young people, by giving them experience of handling real kit, so it makes far more sense to use it in this way than to simply scrap it.*  
**”**

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

# REDCAR COLLEGE JOINS £29m SCHEME TO HELP CUT YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Redcar & Cleveland College has signed up to a scheme to help tackle youth unemployment and get more young people into work.**



Hartlepool Borough Council secured European Funding to launch the £29m Youth Employment Initiative, which aims to provide training opportunities for 15-29 year-old NEETS (people not in education, employment or training) to give them a better chance of finding a job.

More than 30 Teesside organisations are now backing the scheme, which will run until July 2018. The aim is to help 6,500 young people across Teesside move into education, employment, self-employment or training.

As part of the scheme, the Tees Valley Pathways programme has been launched to provide one-to-one support for NEETs to help them develop skills that will enable them to plot a suitable career path. A separate programme, Tees Valley Routeways, will offer employment and training opportunities at companies in key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, construction and logistics.

Redcar & Cleveland College will work with individuals to identify their skills needs and personal strengths so they can move onto training courses that will provide a route to higher education, self-employment or employment.

The key aim of the scheme is to reduce youth unemployment, which remains stubbornly high in the North East of England. The number of 16-24 year-olds out of work in the region jumped 5.6% in the last year, according to the latest Government statistics – one of the biggest rises in the country.

Graeme Wood, project and development manager at Redcar & Cleveland College, said: "Youth unemployment levels are a source of major concern in Teesside and the wider North East. Many young people are struggling to find a career where they can develop their talents.

"The Youth Employment initiative is a positive step forward and as a college we're delighted to be involved

in helping to bridge the skills gap currently faced by so many young people."

"Our training courses offer a route into a variety of exciting careers, particularly in key growth sectors such as advanced manufacturing, digital, logistics, low carbon and health and social care. We also offer great training opportunities to acquire further skills that will ultimately help these NEETs to get a job.

“

*We're working with a diverse range of employers so that we can match their skills needs to the attributes of these young people – and tailor our training offer to suit. There's a lot of talent among the NEET community and as a region we need to utilise that better.*

”

[www.cleveland.ac.uk](http://www.cleveland.ac.uk)



# TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY COMMITTED TO 'JOINED-UP' RESPONSE TO LORD HESELTINE REPORT

**Teesside University is set to play a major role in a co-ordinated area response to Lord Heseltine's Tees Valley: Opportunity Unlimited report, which was published earlier this month.**



Professor Jane Turner, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Enterprise and Business Engagement)

The report offers a number of recommendations to "secure a strong and sustainable economic future for the Tees Valley" – spanning industrial and urban regeneration; growth opportunities and wider regeneration; education, employment and skills; energy economy; housing; transport infrastructure; and leisure, environment and tourism – and how best to utilise the site of the former SSI plant following its closure.

The question now being asked is 'what happens next?' Professor Jane Turner, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Enterprise and Business Engagement), has already taken her place on the Shadow Board of the South Tees Development Corporation alongside local authority leaders and local business people. The Board will set the vision of the South Tees Development area, focusing

on economic growth and inward investment, and establish the first Mayoral Development Corporation outside of London.

Professor Turner said: "The value of Lord Heseltine's report is that it has brought to the attention of the rest of the UK and beyond what those of us who live here already know – that there is some outstanding innovation going on in the Tees Valley, not least here at Teesside University. We now need to re-focus, diversify and respond to the vast opportunities to make the Tees Valley a destination of choice.

"We want to play a leading role in the strategic response to ensure delivery of the education and skills piece. We want to have a serious conversation with schools, FE colleges and the business community about what this region is going to look like in 20 years' time and therefore what skills are required. We need to make sure that we as a university are delivering the higher skills required in growing areas such as ICT and digital – including through DigitalCity, advanced manufacturing, biotech and health and also through the new degree apprenticeships – and that we are working closely with our feeder education institutions to ensure they are supported in their missions.

"Currently 60% of our students come from the Tees Valley so we are perfectly placed to respond. However, it's important that education and skills is not just put in a box around what courses we offer. As a university our expertise in business engagement, enterprise and research and innovation will directly support

the specific areas and growth sectors highlighted by Lord Heselfine. And because we are working with partners nationally and internationally we can continue to bring that world-leading business insight and contacts back into the area.

"I'm excited about the next stage of the conversation, which naturally also includes responding to last week's EU referendum outcome, and will include exploring opportunities for the University to develop more commercial partnerships, providing dedicated support for large corporates and SMEs, and diversifying business and enterprise income."

The University was at the heart of consultations around the development of the report and examples of its impact were cited throughout:

- The University's overall "strong reputation" – the report said that Teesside is "ranked the best in Britain for student retention in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015". The University is in the UK Top 30, and first in the North East for teaching excellence in the same guide in 2016. Teesside was also described as "one of the UK's leading Higher Education institutions for working with business". It has been awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize 2014-18 for "world-class level work in the field of enterprise and business engagement".
- A number of local initiatives which aim to improve links with the five main Further Education colleges – the report highlighted how Teesside runs the Higher Education Business Partnership, a collaboration between the University and these five Further Education colleges: "The University and the colleges have been working together for over 20 years in a strategic partnership which is aimed at meeting the needs of the Tees Valley economy and the aspirations of local communities and individuals".
- Employability skills – the report described how "employability skills are also essential to students and Teesside University is already doing some fantastic work to look



at employability, working with local employers to offer learners work placements and experience opportunities".

- The Creative Fuse project, which is jointly funded by the AHRC and involves the other four universities in the North East – the report said that "Creative Fuse brings the universities together with the 12 Local Authorities in the North East as well as businesses, artists and cultural organisations to look at how the creative, digital and IT sector can ensure it has enough of a skilled workforce for the future".
- Animation and computer gaming expertise – the report noted

that Teesside was one of the first universities to enter this field 20 years ago and now hosts the annual international Animex conference. The University is also listed in the world's Top 15 schools for animation (Animation Career Review) and produces over 450 graduates annually from its School of Computing.

- The proposed National Horizon Centres – the report said that "the Centre aims to help develop the industries which will transform the local economy – biologics, digital and engineering".

[www.tees.ac.uk](http://www.tees.ac.uk)

# APPOINTMENTS

## Horizonworks gears up for future growth with senior appointments

Full service strategic marketing company Horizonworks has made two senior appointments to support a major growth drive.



Managing Director Samantha Davidson, with new recruits Emma Parker and Catherine Mair

Catherine Mair has joined the Newcastle-based firm as client marketing manager, while Emma Parker has been appointed as business and finance manager: the pair will be instrumental in strengthening Horizonworks' client delivery and future business development.

Horizonworks has seen a period of rapid growth over the last six months, securing a number of new clients across sectors such as automotive, professional services, manufacturing and healthcare.

Since March this year, the company has won the contract to deliver design and creative work for network organisation the North East Automotive Alliance, and has been

appointed to supply full-service marketing services for both Durham-based Reptec, which provides resin-based solutions for the repair and protection of building fabric, and Washington-headquartered Franks Portlock, a leading asbestos management consultancy.

Catherine, who is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, will be responsible for supporting clients in the delivery of their marketing and PR strategies, including the delivery of integrated marketing campaigns.

A biology graduate with both agency and in-house marketing experience, Catherine spent several years working in research and development positions for organisations including Newcastle University and Cantab Pharmaceuticals.

Emma, from Wylam, Northumberland, is an Institute of Financial Services qualified banking professional with over 15 years' experience working with SMEs in the North East region, primarily in business and corporate banking with HSBC. She later moved in-house to manage a number of projects for a regional SME.

Emma has a vast depth of expertise in relationship management, financial analysis and strategy, and she will be joining the senior management team to support Horizonworks' continued expansion and to help the company reach its growth objectives. Her

Samantha Davidson, managing director of Horizonworks, said: "We're delighted to welcome Catherine and Emma to the Horizonworks team – both will play a major role in the growth of the company in 2016 and beyond.

"Catherine brings a vast amount of full service marketing expertise to the business and her background in life sciences and R&D will be a major asset to Horizonworks.

"Emma, meanwhile, will play a major part in both the day to day running of Horizonworks and in enabling the company to maximise its growth potential. Her background in commercial finance is a real asset to the business and her skills and experience will prove highly valuable as we move forward."

Catherine and Emma's appointments are part of an on-going recruitment drive at Horizonworks, which is boosting its 12-strong team across a number of departments.

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



# APPOINTMENTS

## Thriving Local Recruitment Company goes from Strength to Strength

Specialist science and technology recruitment organisation, CY Partners, have recently welcomed the newest member of their team; experienced scientific consultant, Aimi Lutton.



Now with 10 specialist recruiters at the Tyne-Tees office, CY Partners is even better placed to deliver recruitment solutions to NEPIC's members and the wider scientific community.

Dan Younger, director at CY Partners, comments: "Aimi is a great addition to the team, she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise and will help the already successful team develop, win new business and support our growth.

“

*We've got the confidence to invest in our team despite the recent reports of a downturn in the economy and the jobs market following Brexit.*

”

"Despite the uncertainty following Brexit, CY Partners has actually experienced a 35% increase in permanent appointments compared to the 3 months leading up to the vote. It is the right time to invest in bringing someone of Aimi's capability, networks and experience on board," Dan explains.

Aimi comments, "The opportunity to join CY Partners was very exciting for me as the company has a clear vision for how it is going to develop in the future, as well a positive, enabling staff culture. I'm already really enjoying my new role."

In addition to a new staff member addition, CY Partners has invested heavily in a brand new fully functional recruitment database to support delivery of first class customer service and recruitment solutions.

The system uses intelligent and innovative technology, which enables CY Partners consultants to fully manage the recruitment process and a platform for providing clients the latest statistics regarding employment trends.

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL BIORESOURCES CONFERENCE 2016 .....

📅 22 September 2016 | 📍 Radisson Blu DH1 5TA

PUBLIC  
EVENT

CLUSTER CONNECT .....

📅 06 October 2016 | 📍 PD Ports TS2 1AH

MEMBERS  
ONLY  
EVENT

SHAREBOX 'BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES' WORKSHOP:  
NEXT GENERATION INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS .....

📅 19 October 2016 | 📍 The Wilton Centre TS10 4RF

FREE  
TO ATTEND  
LIMITED PLACES  
BOOKING  
REQUIRED

CLUSTER CONNECT .....

📅 03 November 2016 | 📍 RTC North SR5 3XB

MEMBERS  
ONLY  
EVENT

CLUSTER CONNECT .....

📅 01 December 2016 | 📍 Venue TBC

MEMBERS  
ONLY  
EVENT

INDUSTRY PARLIAMENTARY DINNER .....

📅 06 December 2016 | 📍 London SW1P 3AE

MEMBERS  
ONLY  
EVENT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING .....

📅 14 December 2016 | 📍 The Wilton Centre TS10 4RF

MEMBERS  
ONLY  
EVENT

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER 2017 .....

📅 20 January 2017 | 📍 Hardwick Hall TS21 2EH

MEMBERS  
ONLY  
EVENT

MEET THE MEMBERS CONFERENCE & EXPO 2017 .....

📅 21 June 2017 | 📍 Wynyard Hall TS22 2NF

PUBLIC  
EVENT



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