

ISSUE 54, WINTER 2016

# FOCALPOINT

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Industry Celebrates  
the Region's Best  
& Brightest at the  
9th Annual NEPIC  
Awards Dinner



NEPIC NEWS | LATEST MEMBERSHIP STORIES | SKILLS & TRAINING | INDUSTRY NEWS

# WE'VE JUST LAUNCHED A BRAND NEW LOOK & WEBSITE!



We're excited to welcome you to our **new brand and website**. The team have developed a site that utilises the latest design trends and has the ability to offer future benefits to the Cluster and our members alike. We are ecstatic with the results so far and we think you will be too. Phase two will be launched in the coming weeks but in the meantime, **happy browsing!**

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

## WELCOME

# FOREWORD



**IAN SWALES**  
**Director & Chair, NEPIC**  
iancswales@gmail.com

## Special Foreword from new Chairman, Ian Swales

I am delighted to be taking over as Chair of NEPIC at what is undoubtedly a challenging time for the process industries. We are seeing many members having excellent success and the North East is now the fastest growing regional economy in the UK.

However, we are also seeing real pressure through exchange rates, energy costs and intense competition. The loss of the SSI steel works in Redcar and the resulting effect on other members is a grim reminder of these realities.

I worked in the chemical industry for over twenty years in various sectors ranging from petrochemicals and plastics to fine chemicals and personal care. My recent five years as MP for Redcar gave me a real insight into how governments interact with industry.

I worked closely with Business Secretary Vince Cable and was pleased to see the launch of the Chemicals Growth Partnership and various initiatives such as CPI's new National Biologics Manufacturing Centre now taking shape near Darlington station.

I very much believe that our cluster has a great opportunity to build on the historical success of the region, attract further new investment and enhance the prospects for all members.

To achieve this I think our decision makers in companies, development agencies, government and other bodies need to sometimes take a longer term view. This really is a case where the whole can be greater than the sum of the parts and everybody can benefit by more than they put in.

That could be by supporting cluster events, larger companies building local supply chains, jointly lobbying on matters of common interest or playing a full role in selling the industries to young people and supporting skill development.

There are some real challenges ahead including the potential effects of the European referendum. Business people are usually right to avoid party politics but some issues are bigger and of major potential impact to business stakeholders. NEPIC will be seeking the views of members on the issue.

People in the process industries are often reluctant to adopt a public face and can sometimes see the negatives in situations more than the positives. However, if we are proud to speak out and show our region to be positive, ambitious and welcoming we will see the benefits in cluster growth and prosperity.

Along with the excellent core team at NEPIC, I will do everything I can to drive that success.

## WELCOME

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- > Kawasaki Robotics



## Contacts

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

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### ADVERTISING & SPONSORSHIP

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# INDUSTRY CELEBRATES REGION'S BEST & BRIGHTEST



FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2016 - HARDWICK HALL, SEDGEFIELD

Witnessed by some 430 process industry executives, fourteen awards were presented to the region's brightest youngsters, best companies and tireless contributors within the process sector at this year's NEPIC Annual Awards evening.

Eighteen thousand pounds in prize funds were donated over the course of the evening to award winners, in support of future career development and local science-related school projects.

Eight of the region's rising stars were recognised from companies following a flurry of fantastic entries.

Apprentice of the Year Awards - three in total - were awarded to Asad Ali of SABIC Petrochemicals, Tiffany Connor of Billingham-based Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies and K Home International's Patrick Shepherd for their outstanding commitment to their studies and career progression.

Young Achievers from across the region's industry sectors were awarded for their exceptional career achievements to-date. This year's winners included Stephen Anderson of Absolute Antibody, Lynsey Watson of Aesica

Pharmaceuticals, from Billingham-based Biochemica, Sandra Rountree, Craig Hooper of CF Fertilizers (formally GrowHow) and from Amec Foster Wheeler, Elaine Falconer - who all picked up awards and walked away with cheques for £1,000.

The Primary School Environmental Award was won by Gateshead-East school, Lingey House Primary, for their plans to save the water voles in the park adjacent to the school grounds. The prize fund will allow the school's 'Green Team' to erect signage and educate the public, as well as the pupils, with regard to waterfowl diets and stop the use of bread that is ultimately attracting rats and endangering the protected water voles.

Cramlington-based Shasun Pharma Solutions scooped this year's Industrial Environmental Award for their five year journey to reduce the firm's environmental burden by promoting improvements in technology, processes and products beyond the requirement of regulatory compliance. Having donated their £2,000 prize to Grasmere Academy in North Tyneside, Shasun will now work with staff and pupils using the funds to develop a science-related project.

“

*With over 70 award applications, the process industry in the North East of England has shown it has excellent young people that will ensure its future leadership within the sector and the project awards to companies demonstrate the excellent work that is going on within industry.*

”

DR STAN HIGGINS, CEO, NEPIC

Also collecting an award, made from locally manufactured acrylic at the Lucite International site in Billingham, is SME of the Year, Chemoxy International.

The Middlesbrough-based SME was praised for punching above its weight in advanced manufacturing in the North East. Formed only four years earlier following a management buy-out, the firm has achieved significant growth, expanded its manufacturing capacity, increased export sales and created 50 new jobs. The firm was also commended for going over and above in relation to apprenticeships and community programmes. This work will continue further as Chemoxy donate their £2,000 prize fund to Breckon Hill School and work together on science-related activities.

A special award for International Business Development was presented to visiting guest Kamal Nanavaty from Indian chemical giant Reliance Industries. Mr Nanavaty has gone over and above the call of duty in his support and encouragement of NEPIC's international work, providing an invaluable insight to market opportunities, along with direct logistical support to NEPIC's members that have visited the country.

However, it was Cramlington-based drug manufacturer MSD that stole the show, scooping two awards.

First came the top prize for Manufacturing Sustainability following the firm's long-term commitment to manufacturing excellence that spanned 15 years and has made the site a true six-sigma operation.

And the celebrations continued for MSD as Site Director, Martin Inskip, joined the roll of honour of the sector's greatest contributors as he collected the 2016 award for Outstanding Contribution.



To date the event has gifted £186,000 to the region's rising stars and regional school science and environmental projects.

The evening was sponsored by ABB, Northumbrian

Water, Lotte Chemical UK, Cape, BOC, Haden Freeman, Middlesbrough College, Sembcorp, Bond Dickinson - and the winner's trophies provided by Lucite International.

NEPIC CEO, Dr Stan Higgins, commented:

“With over 70 award applications, the process industry in the North East of England has shown it has excellent young people that will ensure its future leadership within the sector and the project awards to companies demonstrate the excellent work that is going on within industry. It is also exciting to be able to once again link our sector to local schools, where the human resources of the future are being developed”.

**If you are interested in find out more about this year's winners, visit [www.nepic.co.uk/annual-awards](http://www.nepic.co.uk/annual-awards) to read their bios and also find out how this could be you next year.**

#### FEATURED PHOTOS

1

Winners of the Cape Young Achiever Awards.

2

Stan Higgins congratulates Outstanding Achievement winner, [Martin Inskip](#).

## NEPIC NEWS

### NEPIC Annual Awards Dinner 2016

#### FEATURED PHOTOS

3

BOC's [Dave Lockyer & Sue Graham-Johnston](#) presenting Lingley House Primary with their £2000 prize fund having scooped the 2016 Primary School Environmental Award.

4

[Asad Ali](#) of SABIC UK Petrochemicals (5th from left) celebrates his Apprentice of the Year Award win with colleagues.

5

[Ian Stark](#) of Chemoxy International clutches his trophy and winner's cheque having been crowned SME of the Year.

6

Cape's Tony Jester with Biotechnology Young Achiever [Stephen Anderson](#) of Wilton-based Absolute Antibody.

7

New Chairman Ian Swales and NEPIC Chief Executive Stan Higgins present [Kamal Nanavaty](#) of Reliance Industries with the inaugural International Business Development Award.

8

Apprentices of the Year 2016: [Patrick Shepherd](#) of K Home International, [Tiffany Connor](#) of Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies and SABIC's [Asad Ali](#).

9

[Craig Hooper](#) of CF Fertilisers UK (centre) celebrates his Cape Young Achiever Award win.





7



8



9

## CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

# MEET THE MEMBERS

The Region's Chemical & Supply Chain  
Networking Event of the Year

📍 The Grand Marquee,  
Wynyard Hall, Tees Valley TS22 5NF  
📅 Wednesday 22 June 2016

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# NEPIC AGAIN CHOSEN TO LEAD MARKET VISIT TO INDIA IN 2016

**Interested in developing your business in India? Come and join us...**



**S**upported by UKTI through the Northern Powerhouse, NEPIC are heading off to India again flying out on 12th March and returning 19th March 2016. The visit is taking in the prestigious India Chemical Industry Outlook Conference and exhibition taking place in Mumbai on 17th and 18th March. The visit will also take in important business centres in Gujarat and Karnataka and is suitable to both first time visitors to India as well as those companies who are experience in exporting to India. The visit, primarily focused on the process sector and supply chain, also has broad industrial and service sector appeal. NEPIC visits have proved extremely popular in previous years.

## WHY INDIA? WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

India's positioning relative to the other developing economies has become increasingly attractive. Following the rapid slowdown in the Chinese economy with resulting financial turmoil, many commentators now expect India over the next 2 decades to replace China as the main driver for worldwide economic growth. India's chemical sector is 50% larger than the UK's and is growing at 12% per year. India is a key partner for, and one of the UK's most important markets in the world, bilateral trade is growing at 30-40% a year and investment is on a similarly strong upward trend.

## OUR MARKET VISIT PARTNERS

Joining a group with experienced leaders from NEPIC and supported by UKTI, who lead this market visit, with all their long established networks in India affords, companies with an ideal opportunity to de-risk their early interactions with what can be a very difficult location to do business on your own. In country support partners are critical to success and include the Indian Chemical Council (ICC, the Apex body for the chemical industry in India). In country partners supporting previous visits include TATA, Reliance Industries, Karnataka Pharmaceutical Cluster, Dahej PCPIR, Mangalore SEZ, Vapi Industries Association, local chambers of commerce and trade associations.

## 9th ANNUAL INDIA CHEMICAL INDUSTRY OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Organised by ICC, the conference is attended by over 250 decision making executives principally from India but also from the Americas, Europe, Mid-East and Asia Pacific. The conference is an ideal location for networking and one to one meetings. NEPIC as international partner to ICC are ideally placed to assist companies in targeting prospective business partners and assisting in arranging meetings. The conference includes an exhibition and networking receptions providing an ideal opportunity for companies to build a comprehensive network of contacts.

## WHAT'S ON OFFER? GREAT OPPORTUNITY, LOW RISK AND VALUE FOR MONEY!

- Security of a group visit and coordinated travel & accommodation itinerary
- On-hand support from the experienced team including pre-visit support
- Bespoke in-depth research, identification of key contacts & a pre-organised itinerary of business appointments by a country-based UKTI Officer through Overseas Market Introduction Service - charges apply
- Access to a large network of contacts well known to the MV organisers
- Value for money with a total cost including travel, accommodation and living of <£2,500
- Opportunities for sponsorship, exhibiting and presenting
- Financial contribution towards costs may be available for eligible companies.

## PROCENERGY™ LAUNCH NEW INDUSTRY TRAINING GATEWAY

Teesside based Procenergy™ have developed a new online training gateway that aims to revolutionise the search and booking process for industry training courses. Just as Uber don't own taxis, and Airbnb don't own hotels, Procenergy don't run the training courses themselves; they act as a bridge between the customer and supplier.

The user process is very simple:

- Search for a course using the custom built Procenergy drill down system.
- Choose an available date that best suits you.
- Book the course online (e commerce function provides a fast and secure payment method to offer piece of mind to both supplier and customer).
- Attend the accredited training centre where the course is delivered.

The training gateway can be of huge benefit to training providers who are looking to increase sales and access new markets without having to commit to the burden of capital intensive marketing campaigns. It also allows training

providers who can't afford to stretch their precious resources to focus more on the quality and delivery of their courses whilst Procenergy takes care of the sales and payment aspects.

Co-founder Greg Hynes commented saying

*"Not only have we developed a concept that is unique, we have also developed something that delivers value to all its users, we are very excited about launching the website".*

Employing companies can benefit from having access to a very useful resource as the training gateway provides the facility for employing companies to login to their own online company account where they can book the training courses required for their employees. This reduces on administrative duties and also provides the employing company with flexibility by providing the user to choose from a wider range of available dates on offer.

To find out how you sign up to the training gateway contact [greg@procenergy.co.uk](mailto:greg@procenergy.co.uk)

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



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# BREXIT COULD COST UK CHEMICALS FIRMS £7bn

## LACK OF FTA COULD SEE 14% DECLINE IN EXPORTS



ADAM DUCKETT  
**Editor, TCE**

**T**HE UK chemicals sector could lose as much as £7bn/y (US\$10.1bn/y) in exports if the country votes to leave the EU in the so-called Brexit referendum.

Trade credit insurance firm Euler Hermes has warned that if the UK exits the EU without a free trade agreement (FTA) higher import and financing costs will lead to a decline in exports, estimating a maximum annual loss of £7bn. This would be a 14% decline on the value of current exports, according to figures from the UK Chemicals Industry Association.

Those clamouring to leave argue that the UK can secure more tailored trade deals with non-EU members, spend the money saved on EU membership for scientific research and new industries, and take back control of the likes of employment, health and safety and immigration law.

Those campaigning for the UK to stay in the EU have argued that leaving will see an increase in trade tariffs, and by being on the outside the UK will no longer have a say over product regulations that exporting companies must comply with. Furthermore, they warn that by standing alone, the UK diminishes its power to negotiate deals with non-EU countries.

"With over half of the chemical industry's exports heading to the EU, any decision to break away from continental trading partners would have knock-on effects on the supply chain and put jobs at risk," said Ana Boata, European economist at Euler Hermes. "The figures emphasise the importance of negotiations to secure an FTA in the event of Britain leaving the EU."

Even with an FTA in place, Euler Hermes estimates that chemical companies could see a loss of up to £2.5bn in annual exports.

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

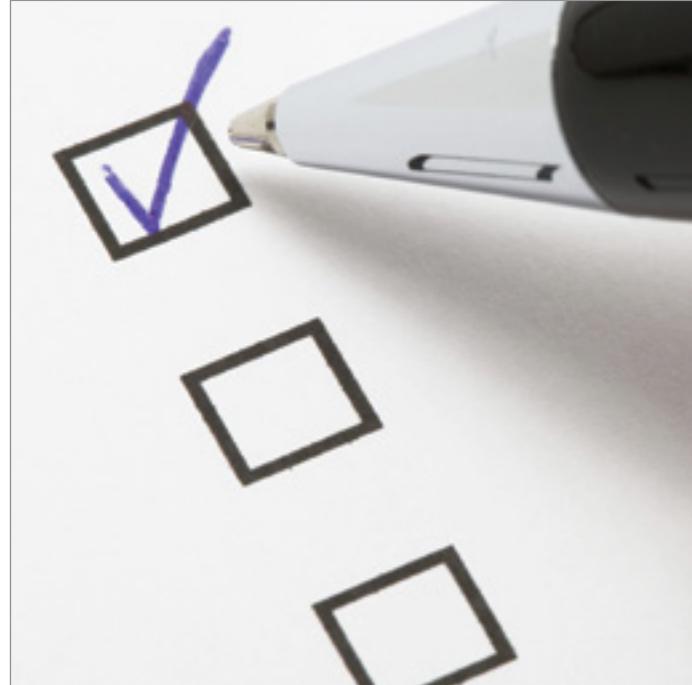


The UK's Conservative government has promised a referendum on the country's membership in the EU by the close of 2017. Prime Minister David Cameron is seeking to renegotiate the terms of membership, including giving greater power to national parliaments to block EU legislation, halting UK contributions to eurozone bailouts, and limiting state benefits for migrants. A public vote to stay or leave is expected later this year.

“

With over half of the chemical industry's exports heading to the EU, any decision to break away from continental trading partners would have knock-on effects on the supply chain and put jobs at risk," said Ana Boata, European economist at Euler Hermes. "The figures emphasise the importance of negotiations to secure an FTA in the event of Britain leaving the EU.

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# NATIONAL AWARD FOR BUSINESS RESEARCH PROJECT

A TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE HAS RECEIVED A PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD, AT A CEREMONY WHICH CELEBRATES UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS, FOR HIS WORK ON A GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH PROJECT.

**B**arry Moore, Business Improvement Manager at Mech-Tool Engineering Ltd, in Darlington, has been named as a Business Leader of the Future at the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Best of the Best Awards 2015.

the different functions of the business communicate better and improve the flow of information. The findings could result in savings of up to £200,000 a year for the company.

KTPs are part-funded by Innovate UK, formerly the Technology Strategy Board, and are a three-way partnership between a university, a business and a graduate.

Typically, over a two year period, the graduate works within the company to complete a research project designed to improve its competitiveness and productivity through better use of knowledge, technology and skills.

The KTP Best of the Best Awards, held at Old Billingsgate in London, recognise the people and partnerships behind the most successful KTP projects in the UK.

The Business Leader of the Future Award is given to the graduate who was able to demonstrate outstanding leadership skills above and beyond the normal expectations of a KTP Associate.

Teesside has an established track record for providing high-quality KTPs. In January 2015, 87% of the University's KTPs over the previous five years had been judged 'outstanding' or 'very good' compared with a national average of 55%.

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



Barry, a BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering graduate and PhD student, has been working with academics at Teesside University as part of a KTP to investigate different ways in which Mech-Tool can make its manufacturing processes more efficient.

Mech-Tool designs and manufactures products that protect people and plant from blast, fire and heat hazards. The KTP project looked at ways to make

# BUSINESS BENEFITS IF MORE WOMEN ARE INVOLVED IN 'STEM' OPERATIONS!

**...says Allyson Cole, MD, at IT Accessed Ltd**

**WITHOUT ADA LOVELACE I MIGHT NOT BE TYPING THIS ARTICLE ON MY PC.**

**A**da's 1843 "computer" program for Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine is regarded as the first ever computer code to be published. It is also described as the most elaborate and complete code written by the people that Babbage surrounded himself with.

Yet despite her legacy the number of women entering computer science degrees has declined steadily since a high in the 1980s, and according the British Computer Society, women currently make up less than 17% of the IT workforce. In some other areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, it is even fewer.

There has been some research into the IT decline with two reasons often mentioned. Firstly, the nurture not nature argument, i.e. girls are not encouraged to become interested in science and technology. Interestingly Ada was Lord Byron's daughter and "Fearing that Ada would inherit her father's volatile 'poetic' temperament, her mother raised her under a strict regimen of science, logic, and mathematics"!

Secondly, as computing has become a more lucrative career the boys have managed to shoulder the girls out of the way, and a self-perpetuating male dominated working culture has developed, to match the one that already existed in other STEM subjects.

One of Ada's most important contributions is that she was "the first to express the potential for computers outside mathematics". In other words, she took a different view to Babbage and his other associates.

Women have different life experiences, and organisations need a mix of males and females to provide different perspectives and ideas. This leads to diverse innovation and a better service for customers.

Also, there are more women in our businesses than ever before, so your B2B clients are more likely to be women than ever before. Business internet use is equal by gender, social media use is greater among women.



To make the best use of technology and science, modern businesses require people with empathic and communication skills as well as a solid understanding of how complex technologies function. Women get a lot of training in the former from birth - but they are, in the main, not encouraged to develop their technological side.

My recommendations are: review your own personnel, lobby, ask questions of suppliers and encourage girls at school. Your business will benefit!

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

# INVEST IN THE UK AND GROW IN INDIA

By John E A Moss Chemicals Specialist UK Trade and Investment

“

*There is a great deal of UK Trade & Investment support available free of charge to companies looking to locate or invest in the UK.*

”



**JOHN E A MOSS**  
**Chemicals Specialist**  
UK Trade & Investment

With growing prosperity in India, comes the demand for more sophisticated products from the market place. Indian companies are highly competitive with each other, so achieving good profitable growth can be difficult unless you have something which is different, special and is what the consumer wants. A "technical edge" is a great way to secure good margins. So how can your company gain a sustainable "technical edge" for these demanding markets?

By establishing a presence in the UK, Indian companies can benefit from the UK markets established track record in innovating and supplying to some of the most demanding customers in the EU market of 300m consumers. This is after all the most valuable single market in the world. The market experience gained, and the technology developed could translate to sustainable competitive advantage in the home Indian market.

#### How to Do It?

One approach is to establish a business with a technology or product development facility in the UK, with the aim of developing technology and products for EU based customers and then transferring this to the Indian market. I believe that this could be a great way for an Indian company to "internationalise" its presence. Many companies from India including TATA, Shasun, Piramal, Vivimed, Dr Reddy's, United Phosphorous and Glenmark have already invested successfully in the UK. Why not join them?

#### What is available in the UK?

There is a great deal of UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) support available free of charge to companies looking to locate or invest in the UK, for example, helping to find a suitable location, staff recruitment, and business set up. Once you are established in the UK, UKTI will continue to support you, assisting with exports out of the UK and with business expansions which can facilitate export growth.

Support is one thing, but I would like to concentrate on what I think are the most important benefits of making an investment in the UK.

The key benefit is undoubtedly in the area of successful commercialisation of innovation. Much has been written about Innovation and Innovation processes. Of course a structure is necessary, but taking an idea through to a successful commercial development can be a messy, expensive and uncertain process. I am a member of a profession (Chemical Engineering) which exists almost entirely because the process of scaling up is definitely not trivial. Whether it's engineering scale up or business scale up, these are both tricky and uncertain processes. We need to reduce the risk and improve the chances of success.

#### Innovation Centres

The UK Government has set up nine innovation centres around the UK aimed at removing some of the risk in the innovation scale-up process so you are able to commercialise more quickly. The centres are called "Catapults", to portray their role in developing ideas through to successful investable propositions.

As an investor in the UK, you can apply to access their services. For our Industry, the relevant organisation is the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) which is located in Teesside in the North East of the UK and is also conveniently located near one of the major chemicals clusters in the UK.

As well as managing projects and providing technical expertise, CPI has developed a robust model of the essential requirements for successful innovation. They call this the Business Integrator model. This would be a great place to start a review of your innovation portfolio. CPI has also worked on a number of projects throughout 2015 which underpin many climate change goals and work towards making the bioeconomy a reality.

From commercialising bioplastics with TerraVerdae, Biome Bioplastics and ReBio

Technologies to utilising waste streams to create graphene and hydrogen and converting sugar from landfill waste into enzymes for industrial biotechnology processes as well as projects to increase the economic proposition of biodiesel and replacing food crops with seaweed for anaerobic digestion processes.

CPI also recently established the National Formulation Centre, in recognition of the fact that formulating science is a really key area for successful innovation in consumer markets.



#### PHOTO DETAILS

Teeside from Eston Hills

#### Chemical Clusters

The benefits of establishing on one of the major Chemical Clusters in the UK have been well stated by others. You would be moving into a community where the needs and requirements of Chemical Manufacturers are well understood and where availability of good support services, modern infrastructure and a trained workforce means that capital costs and operational costs can be kept to a minimum. The cluster organisation which is leading the trade mission initiative which coincides with the Indian Chemical Council meeting (NEPIC) also has particularly strong knowledge of India and its customer needs. They and sister organisations are ready and willing to assist with your investment projects.

#### Demanding Customers

Investing in the UK will widen your ability to deliver the highest performance and gain that "technical edge" by developing products to satisfy the demanding needs of companies like Proctor & Gamble, Unilever, Givaudin, Reckitt Benckiser, GSK etc. Working with this type of customer can be challenging, but if you are successful there, then this could also strengthen your position in your home market. There are also established speciality suppliers in the UK with strong knowledge of Indian business such as Surfachem for the personal care market.

#### Speciality Chemicals Expertise

Speciality Chemicals is the area where the UK is strongest with medium sized companies in particular having developed deep expertise in specific areas of complex chemistry. These are some of the companies that provide the effects needed in a wide range of markets including health & personal care, polymer transformations, lubricants, fuels, food additives, cosmetics, paper, leather, metal forming, agrochemicals and electronic chemicals.

#### Chemical Feedstock Availability

Recent investments by INEOS and SABIC will make shale ethane derived Ethylene available in the UK. This has the potential to make the UK a competitive place to manufacture petrochemicals and downstream materials. Following the demise of ICI, there are still some significant gaps in UK supply chains which have the potential for investment.

#### Operational Knowledge

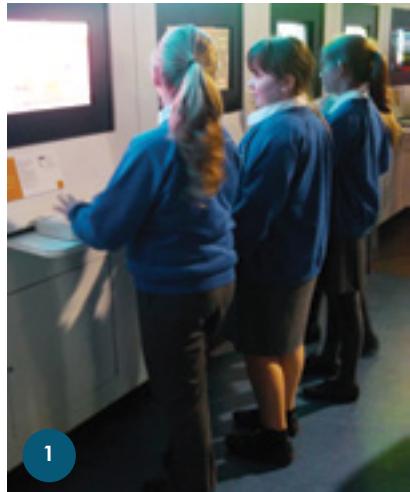
At its heart, our industry is really about carrying out sophisticated, complex and potentially hazardous chemistry in a safe way and with minimal environmental impacts. The industry is tightly regulated in the UK and also highly professional. I believe that in the field of Chemical & Process Industry Operations Management, Process Engineering & Control the UK has a great offer. Such expertise has the significant benefit that companies can go about their lawful practices in a peaceful and safe way.

#### Quality of Life

If you are persuaded to consider investment in the UK, perhaps we should think about what your staff could be doing in their spare time!

The cultural centres and major cities are probably well known to most of you. Britain is as we all know a densely populated country and yet retains some of the most attractive countryside to be found anywhere. The lake district in the North West of England is justly famous the world over, less well known are the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors and the beautiful county of Northumberland. All very close to the major chemical clusters too.

In summary, UK is the easiest major economy in Europe to do business in and is a great place to de-risk your chemicals investments and turn them into profits Choose the UK.



1



2

FEATURED PHOTOS

**1 & 2**

Pupils from Prior's Mill Church of England Primary School enjoying their day out at the Life Science Centre.

**Y**ear 6 pupils from Prior's Mill Church of England Primary School visited the Life Science Centre in Newcastle on November 6, where they took part in two 'code breaking' workshops and had the opportunity to explore the centre, which features a range of educational exhibits - including a 4D motion ride.

The trip was made possible due to a £2000 donation to the school from Tomlinson Hall, which the company was awarded when it was named SME of the Year in the 2015 NEPIC Annual Awards.

Gillian Wild, head teacher at Prior's Mill Church of England Primary School, said: "We were delighted to be named as Tomlinson Hall's chosen school and the recipients of the £2000 donation.

## TOMORROW'S SCIENTISTS GET A LITTLE HELP FROM TOMLINSON HALL

CODE BREAKING, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND PLENTY OF FUN WERE ON THE TIMETABLE LAST MONTH FOR PUPILS FROM ONE BILLINGHAM SCHOOL – THANKS TO NEPIC MEMBER TOMLINSON HALL.

"With budgets being ever squeezed, such an additional amount of ring fenced funding can make an exceptional difference to the enriched curriculum that we offer to the children."

Tomlinson Hall was named Best Small Business in the Teesside Business Awards 2015 and in April won the Small Business of the Year award in the North East Business Awards 2015.

The company was also a finalist in the Small Business of the Year category in the national Chamber Awards 2015, held last month in London.

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

## 2M HOLDING'S SPLASH OF COLOUR AND A CRIME-SOLVING EXPERIMENT BRINGS CHEMISTRY TO LIFE FOR STUDENTS

**A**s a chemical distribution company, 2M Holdings knows future generations of scientists are essential in driving forward the chemical industry.

At present, the numbers of pupils choosing science A-levels is low. Despite government initiatives, hundreds of schools and colleges in England are failing to enter any pupils for science and maths A-levels.

As a Chemical Manufacturing graduate himself and the EY Entrepreneur of the Year for Manufacturing in the North, Mottie Kessler, Chairman and CEO of 2M Holdings, finds increasing the number of young people entering the industry very important. When the Catalyst Museum asked for 2M's help in getting pupils into science, Mottie was delighted.

Jim Bell, Dispersions Development Manager and Specialty Chemicals expert at Banner Chemicals, a 2M Holdings Company, baffled and then amazed pupils with two experiments.

"All pupils seemed to enjoy the day and were very talkative and asked many questions, I really enjoyed presenting to them, as I could recall exactly what I was like at school when interested in science."

In the first experiment, Jim showed pupils how to mix various dyes to create a purple dye bath, dip a strip of fabric into it and have it emerge multi-coloured! The explanation? The fabric was created of different strips of natural & man-made fibres, each fibre showing different fastness properties to each dye in the bath.

In the second experiment, pupils, wearing nitrile gloves, handled an iPhone box which they had previously coated with a water-based optical brightener solution.

The 'detectives' could then show who had handled the box by illuminating their hands under a UV black light, demonstrating how UV light can show the presence of an invisible marker- an anti-theft product.

Clare Hampson, Education Manager at the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre said:

"Jim delivered a fascinating interactive session. Pupils saw science in action outside the classroom and were inspired to think about how studying science could help them in their future careers."

[www.2m-holdings.com](http://www.2m-holdings.com)



**Haden Freeman**  
Engineering Solutions

## Feed Study for Innovative Nappy Recycling Scheme

With absorbent hygiene products (AHP), primarily nappies, amounting to a massive 1.1 million tonnes of the UK waste arisings, Manchester and Redcar-based process engineering design consultants, Haden Freeman Ltd, are undertaking a Front End Engineering Design (FEED) study for an innovative process to recycle AHPs recovering valuable plastic and fibres on behalf of Knowaste Ltd.

The Bromsgrove-based subsidiary of Knowaste International was the first UK company to recycle AHPs in 2011 at its development plant in West Bromwich. The new FEED study will be for a proposed larger £14m recycling plant to be located in Hayes, West London, which will recycle almost 100% of AHPs with the plastic destined to make waste containers and the fibre a high quality pet litter.

Roy Brown, Chief Executive of Knowaste, commented, "In essence, whilst we

always had a market for the recycled plastic liners of nappies, incontinence pads and other AHP's, the absorbent fibres within these products were still unwanted. We now have the technology to convert these cleaned and sterilised fibres into valuable pet litter producing a complete process, including reusing the heat produced to dry materials."

Stuart Dow, Technical Director of Haden Freeman Ltd, added, "We do a great many of such front end studies to ascertain the feasibility and costs of projects. The Knowaste project is typical involving the modeling of a process to see what it needs to take this up in scale to sustainable level and what costs are involved. The study involves many engineering disciplines from civil, structural, mechanical and electrical right down to instrumentation design to see what the optimum size plant will be for this site."



*Knowaste was the first UK company to recycle AHPs.*



*A small section of the 1.1m tonnes of AHP that the UK annually produces.*

For further details, please contact Jennifer Yates by email:  
[jyates@hadenfreeman.com](mailto:jyates@hadenfreeman.com)

# NORTECH & WILTON ENGINEERING COMBINE TO DELIVER AGILE AND COST EFFECTIVE EPC SERVICES

Nortech Group and Wilton Engineering, two of North East England's leading oil and gas supply chain companies, have formed a new collaborative arrangement to deliver full-service engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) for brownfield oil and gas projects in the UK.



## PHOTO DETAILS

Bill Scott, CEO of Wilton Engineering and Bryan Bunn, MD of Nortech

**N**ortech Group and Wilton Engineering, two of North East England's leading oil and gas supply chain companies, have formed a new collaborative arrangement to deliver full-service engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) for brownfield oil and gas projects in the UK.

Bringing together Nortech Group's engineering design and project management specialism with Wilton Engineering's construction, engineering and fabrication expertise will offer the industry a dynamic agile and responsive EPC contracting service.

Nortech Group is a fast-growing specialist engineering provider with offices in Teesside, Aberdeen and Abu Dhabi. It has established its Engineering, Design, Management Consultancy and Staffing Search and Selection Services across sectors including energy,

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*The new industry landscape has dictated the need for change and we have responded with an offering that will meet the economic and quality requirements of brownfield projects.*

”

BRYAN BUNN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, NORTECH GROUP

petrochemical, and nuclear. Nortech also recently launched its Middle East operation after entering into an agreement with Dhabi Contracting LLC.

Wilton Engineering, which is based on its unique 52-acre site by the River Tees in Middlesbrough, is a multi-discipline engineering services provider.

At the heart of the business is an extensive fabrication capability with four large fabrication halls, profiling beds and one of the largest shot-blast and paint facilities in the UK. It has produced a wide range of structures including J-Lay Towers, Platforms, Subsea Arches and Umbilical Carousels.

Bryan Bunn, Managing Director of the Nortech Group, said: “This partnership merges the capabilities of two of the UK's leading oil and gas businesses in their respective sectors, which will offer considerable benefits to the offshore industry.

“It also represents the future of the UK oil and gas industry, which will be delivered by greater supply chain collaboration. The new industry landscape has dictated the need for change and we have responded with an offering that will meet the economic and quality requirements of brownfield projects.”

Bill Scott, Chief Executive of Wilton Engineering, said: “North East England has always delivered innovative solutions for the oil and gas industry whether it's through technology-led solutions or creative working practices. The region's industry is alive to the challenges facing the industry and through this collaborative agreement we can support the sector's evolving requirements.”

“Collaborating with Nortech demonstrates our desire to provide the industry with a full-service capability that reflects the changing requirements of UK oil and gas.

Together we can react quicker, offer a superior level of service and provide better engineered solutions, in addition to delivering the significant cost reductions the industry needs.”

[www.nortech-group.com](http://www.nortech-group.com)

## MATERIALS PROCESSING INSTITUTE EXPERTS LINK UP WITH GLOBAL STAINLESS STEEL GIANTS

RESEARCHERS FROM THE MATERIALS PROCESSING INSTITUTE HAVE LINKED UP WITH PRODUCTION TEAMS FROM ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST STAINLESS STEEL MANUFACTURERS TO OFFER TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE.

Outokumpu is recognised as a global leader in stainless steel, with production facilities in China, Finland, Sweden and Mexico as well as the USA and UK and more than 12,000 workers employed by Outokumpu across 30 countries.

The firm, which was created more than 100 years ago, is now working alongside the Teesside-based Institute on research and development projects which result in stainless steel being put into supply chains for the likes of nuclear, marine and offshore markets.

Andrew Smith, Principal Researcher at the Materials Processing Institute, said: “Outokumpu was formerly part of British Steel and then Corus, but when they moved away to operate independently we initially worked alongside them on various projects.

“It was essentially technical support on stainless steel making, covering everything from liquid to hot rolling.

“That working relationship was struck up again in May this year when our Chief Executive Officer Chris McDonald met up with representatives from Outokumpu and became aware of various projects they were doing which we could assist them with.”

MPI's link up with Outokumpu operates in the form of a support contract, but there are hopes that if the Finnish firm gains external funding for other research and development projects then the partnership could be strengthened.

Andrew, who travels to Outokumpu's UK base in Sheffield on a weekly basis, added:

“A key part of the service at MPI, something which we pride ourselves on, is bringing our technical expertise into industrial processing having built up a high standard of experience in more than 70 years of being in operation.

Continues on page 22...

...continued.

"We can offer process enhancement and consultancy support in addition to the technical areas, and we are continuing to strengthen our own knowledge so this is a mutually beneficial partnership."

"In this instance we are offering advice on specialist grades of steel, which are eventually used in sectors including nuclear, offshore and marine."



"We are hopeful of extending our working relationship with Outokumpu in the future, particularly if they look to gain Government funding from schemes like Innovate UK for further research and development projects."

John Beeley, General Manager for Outokumpu Stainless Long Products, added:

"Under various company names, MPI and Outokumpu Stainless SMACC (Stainless Melting and Continuous Casting) have a working relationship going back to the days of the state-owned British Steel Corporation."

"Back then came exciting innovations in continuous casting which are now taken for granted such as Mould Thermal Monitoring and Strand Soft Reduction. Our relationship has recently been renewed with a contract for Andrew Smith of MPI to work one day per week in our Sheffield Melting Shop."

"This not only allows focused improvement projects to be progressed quickly but also fosters those vital coffee-time technical discussions with our own metallurgical team."

"It's well known that these are a fertile ground for new ideas and even new products and technical solutions. Andrew is backed up by the comprehensive technical, modelling and pilot plant facilities available back at MPI's Teesside base."

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

## INTERNATIONAL ENERGY SECTOR TRADE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROCESS INDUSTRY BUSINESSES TO FUEL THE NORTHERN POWERHOUSE

PROCESS INDUSTRY BUSINESSES WITH THE CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT THE OIL & GAS SECTOR CAN BOOST THEIR EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES AS PART OF A NORTHERN POWERHOUSE INITIATIVE LED BY UK TRADE AND INVESTMENT (UKTI).

Working with specialist energy sector business development organisation, NOF Energy, UKTI has organised a series of trade missions to international markets that hold significant opportunities for UK companies.

Taking place over the next of six months, the visits will take in Brazil, Singapore and Western Australia - all markets with established and growing energy sectors that are keen to engage with UK suppliers.

The initiative has been introduced to highlight the innovations, technologies and services of businesses in the Northern Powerhouse regions by supporting first-time exporters and new-to-market enterprises.

David Coppock Regional Director of UKTI, said: "Within the Northern Powerhouse regions are innovative companies that have developed technology-led solutions that will be in demand from the international market. Therefore, by utilising the strengths of the Northern Powerhouse, we can help fuel our economy by increased exports to industries such as oil and gas."

George Rafferty, Chief Executive of NOF Energy, said:

"From decades of developing technology-led solutions that have been applied in deep water and harsh environments, the UK's oil and gas supply chain is seen as the gold standard across the globe. The process industry supply chain is particularly strong and can support the ambitions of the Northern Powerhouse with its export-led activities."

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

# DRÄGER TUBES TOP 100 MILLION SALES IN LAST DECADE



ONE OF THE LEADING MANUFACTURERS IN SAFETY TECHNOLOGY, DRÄGER, IS CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF ITS DRÄGER TUBES, FOLLOWING WORLDWIDE GLOBAL SALES OF MORE THAN 100 MILLION IN THE PAST DECADE.

Dräger Tubes, referred to by the company as 'a laboratory behind glass', provide spot check measurements of toxic gases and vapours in the workplace atmosphere. They offer companies a cost-effective, flexible and reliable short-term gas measurement system.

More than 220 short-term tubes are available for measuring up to 500 gases in the chemical or pharmaceutical sectors, where a range of gas hazards in plant or laboratory situations calls for on-the-spot measurement.

Whether it be to determine concentration peaks, leakage detection, or analyse air in sewers, shafts, chemical tanks or confined spaces, Dräger Tubes can play an important role in keeping workers safe.

The tubes, or sealed glass vials, contain a solid carrier material - a chemical reagent which reacts to certain gases or vapours by changing colour. To cause this reaction, a defined volume of ambient air is drawn through using a Dräger Tube pump.

Other uses include firefighting, disaster prevention, laboratory work, environmental protection and other areas which need immediate results so critical decisions can be made.

There is no need for calibration as this is shown in the form of a scale printed on the tube and no need to send samples into the lab for analysis.

Kevin Honner, from Dräger, said: "We are committed to offering safety solutions that really make a difference to our customers, and I believe this has played a big part in the Dräger Tubes' success over the past decade."

"Where gas safety is concerned, the tubes' measurement system plays a pioneering role and we're forward-thinking in that new technology is being continually developed around our customers' requirements."

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

# PD PORTS CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY of Teesport Rail Terminal



16TH NOVEMBER 2015 MARKED THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF PD PORTS' INTERMODAL RAIL TERMINAL AT TEESPORT.

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*Our partnership with Freightliner and DB Schenker demonstrates how businesses across the north can work together to fuel the Northern Powerhouse in finding ways to build a better connected north and make greater use of our rail network and waterways to move goods around the country.*

”

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GEOFF LIPPITT, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, PD PORTS

PD Ports welcomed the arrival of the first Freightliner train at the terminal in November 2014 as part of a £3M investment to improve connectivity for freight movements between the Port and the rest of the UK.

Initial connections included Felixstowe and Southampton but within months of the terminal opening new daily routes to Mossend and Grangemouth in Scotland were established when PD Ports collaborated with DB Schenker Rail UK.

The rail terminal is part of PD Ports' wider growth strategy at Teesport which in the past five years has seen £60M invested in developing, upgrading and enhancing capacity to meet the demands of its customers and position the Port as the northern gateway for containerised goods destined for the North of the UK.

Geoff Lippitt, PD Ports' Business Development Director, commented:

"We have invested significantly in expanding the intermodal services available at Teesport.

"Our partnership with Freightliner and DB Schenker demonstrates how businesses across the north can work together to fuel the Northern Powerhouse in finding ways to build a better connected north and make greater use of our rail network and waterways to move goods around the country.

"Our facility at Teesport has the potential to further attract logistics activity to sites with efficient low cost transport networks and reinforces our commitment to finding solutions that are best for customers, consumers and the environment," concluded Mr Lippitt.

Further connections are expected with the Midlands and North West in line with market demand.

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

# TASK FORCE SECURES MORE THAN £35M TO RAMP UP SUPPORT FOR FORMER SSI WORKERS

**The SSI Task Force has secured more than £35m as they continue to deliver support to workers who lost their jobs at SSI's Redcar steelworks.**

**F**our new funding packages, as part of the up to £80m Government support fund, will be available to help redundant employees deal with the impact of losing their jobs and help them find new employment.

Grant support will also be made available to help on-site contractors and supply chain companies in the Tees Valley cope with effect of the plant's closure on their business.

And money is being made available to encourage local firms to employ SSI workers and their dependents.

The latest SSI Task Force funding approval comprises:

- A £16.5m Jobs and Skills Fund to help local firms employ former SSI workers or their spouses in full-time or part-time jobs for a minimum of three years
- £16m support for firms in the SSI supply chain and wider Tees Valley impacted by the Redcar steelworks closure, to safeguard jobs, provide the stimulus to create new posts and provide expert assistance to help them expand their business
- £2.4m Safety Net Fund to help SSI workers deal with the immediate financial impact of the plant's closure if they find themselves in crisis, for example if they are at risk of losing their home
- £750,000 to fund advice and grants to start up a new business

This latest round of funding follows on from £7.3m of task force support approved last week, which included £1.7m to enable 50 former SSI apprentices to complete their training with other local companies.

Business Secretary Sajid Javid said:

"The Government support we've made available will make a difference. They can get help with funding for reskilling and college courses or get advice on starting up a business. Employers are being paid to take on the SSI apprentices and now firms in the area with the potential to grow or take on SSI workers can also apply. We have now approved £40 million for SSI taskforce proposals and we are determined to work hard to boost growth and jobs in the Tees Valley."

Amanda Skelton, Chair of the SSI Task Force and Chief Executive of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, said:

"The Task Force is committed to getting this money through to communities as soon as possible so it can start to make a difference. It is important that recovery work with our local employers and businesses starts as soon as possible and these funds will help to kick start that process."

If you would like further information on the funds and how to apply please email:

**Middlesbroughmeansbusiness@middlesbrough.gov.uk  
or call 01642 729007.**



# TEESSIDE COMPANY DRIVES RESEARCH INTO RECYCLING ROADSIDE PLANTS

**Roadside verges may provide crucial chemicals that can be recycled for use in medical applications according to a research project being undertaken by a Teesside company.**

**T**eeGene Biotech is undertaking in-depth research into plants and greenery from roadside verges that have been subjected to significant levels of air pollution from exhaust fumes.

The company, based at the Wilton Centre near Redcar, is investigating the possibility that they may contain valuable chemicals, platinum group metals, which can be recycled for use in anticancer drugs and biomedical devices such as pacemakers.



PHOTO DETAILS

Rahman Pattanathu,  
TeeGene Biotech

The research project to determine how to extract the platinum deposits from these plants is being undertaken by a consortium of scientists from TeeGene Biotech, a Teesside University spin-out venture, and the University of York.

Going forward, on successful completion of the project, the aim is to work in conjunction with the Highways Agency who will provide the plants collected by their gardening teams from roadsides throughout Yorkshire.

Johnson Matthey is the industrial partner in this project and will commercialise the technology with TeeGene Biotech.

The research project 'Plants as Nanoparticle Producers' is funded through a CBMNet (Crossing Biological Membranes network) Proof of Concept Grant.

The CBMNet pools skills from academia and business to develop research projects with the potential to overcome major challenges in the industrial biotechnology and bioenergy arena.

Founder of the company Dr Pattanathu Rahman said:

“

*This is an exciting project that utilises TeeGene's expertise perfectly. The nano level platinum group metals that are at the heart of our research are rare materials that are used in many industrial applications, often in quantities too small to even be seen with a microscope.*

”

"There is a growing demand for platinum to be used in medical applications just as there is increasing concern about the environmental impact of platinum deposits due to air pollution so this research is very timely."

The research project is scheduled to finish at the end of August 2016.

# WILTON CENTRE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

**FORTY YEARS AFTER THE WILTON CENTRE WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED IN 1975, THE CENTRE IS REFLECTING ON WHAT HAS CHANGED, AND WHAT HAS NOT, DURING THAT PERIOD.**

**O**riginally commissioned by ICI's Petrochemicals division as a headquarters and office and research complex for 1200 staff, the new Wilton Centre building was much heralded from the outset, something which has not changed significantly since.



The brief for the architects required a "sound functional design ... with a standard of prestige fitting the size of the organisation and its place in the petrochemicals industry".

Minutes from a meeting in 1969 to discuss the appointment of the architects may have expressed "slight reservation in respect to their apparent obsession about the use of open plan offices" and that they "might spend too long looking for perfection" but the result was an award-winning building.

Designed by the now internationally acclaimed architecture firm, BDP (Building Design Partnership), the Wilton Centre was recognised as being a "building excellent of its type making full use of a fine site" by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in its Architecture Awards in 1976 which were chaired by Sir Hugh Casson.

Wilton Centre's site director, Steve Duffield, said that the original investment in producing a flagship building and the attention to detail that went into the building is still paying dividends 40 years on.



"It was described as a 'courtly giant' in an article in the Architect's Journal in 1977, which is a reflection of the importance of the project and the quality of the building that was produced.

Steve added: "The focus on quality and investment has been retained to this day. The Centre was innovative when it was built, both in terms of its design as well as the work and research that took place here, and that hasn't changed 40 years on either."

A significant change that has occurred is that, whereas in 1975 everyone worked for one company, in 2015 there are over 60 tenant companies in occupation.

The Architect's Journal noted that in 1977, "it still retains, British fashion, an elaborate hierarchy of spaces mirroring the organisational hierarchy which ensures that there is

forever a great gulf between the 'them' in the board room and the 'us' at the drawing board or desk".

Today the board rooms and former directors' dining rooms are no more. In their place are the Lakeside Gym and the contemporary design of the Lakeside Conference rooms.

Steve added: "It is rather poignant that we have just replaced the lift in the restaurant block, which was the one originally installed when the Centre was built.

"Working practices have also changed dramatically over the past 40 years and the Centre has developed to reflect this. People who worked here in 1975 would hardly recognise some areas of the building today.

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

# MP OPENS SOFTWARE ENGINEERING FIRM'S NEW OFFICES IN FUSION HIVE



PHOTO DETAILS

L - R: Peter Coulman, IAMTech Business Development Director; Alex Cunningham, Labour MP for Stockton North; Ross Coulman, Managing Director IAMTech Limited

A move to the Tees Valley's newest business and innovation centre is helping a software engineering company tap into fresh business opportunities.

Stockton North MP Alex Cunningham officially opened Industrial Asset Management Technology Ltd's (IAMTech) new base at Fusion Hive, a purpose-built flexible workspace for growing technology and creative businesses on Stockton's Northshore.

Originally founded in 1973 as industrial plant model makers, IAMTech evolved into bespoke software development for the oil, gas, power and chemical industries in 2007 and now employs 10 personnel, five of whom have First Class Honours degrees in Computer Science.

The company develops and sells a wide range of software packages for the process sector ranging from risk management to maintenance and completion packages,

together with a variety of intrinsically safe tablets and smartphones certified for use in hazardous areas.

Managing Director, Ross Coulman, said:

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*Fusion Hive is not only an aesthetically beautiful building but has the latest technological advances, which helps reinforce to our visiting clients IAMTech's position as a technology leader.*

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"The University is a very amenable landlord who have been incredibly helpful at every stage of our move, combine this with the synergy we've found with our neighbours here and I now firmly believe I have found the right home for my company to develop."

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

**PHOTO DETAILS**

Royston Power Generation

**“**

*As recent events illustrate, with the phasing out of coal fired power stations there is an increasing risk of power shortages affecting industrial operations this winter.*

**”**

LAWRENCE BROWN, MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
ROYSTON DIESEL POWER

## ROYSTON ENSURES SECURITY OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR PROCESS INDUSTRY OPERATORS

AMID CONCERNS OVER THE ABILITY OF THE NATIONAL GRID TO CONTINUE TO MEET INDUSTRIAL POWER DEMANDS OVER THE WINTER PERIOD, ONE OF NEPIC'S NEWEST MEMBERS SPECIALISES IN ENSURING THAT POWER SUPPLIES FOR VITAL PROCESS INDUSTRY SYSTEMS REMAIN PROTECTED AT ALL TIMES.

**R**oyston Diesel Power provides a one stop service and supply option for diesel power generation systems - covering everything from the supply and installation of back-up or stand by generators to a 24 hour emergency call out response for power plant service and maintenance needs.

These specialist services are increasingly being sought by customers at greater risk than ever from the ever decreasing margin between the power that UK industry needs to maintain its activities and the generation capacity provided via the National Grid.

This situation was brought into sharp context early last month when the National Grid issued emergency measures

in the shape of a Notification of Inadequate System Margin, effectively requesting power generators to provide more electricity into the system. In such circumstances, with many companies requiring reliable power supplies to enable business critical industrial processes to continue, the condition and availability of dedicated in-house power generation equipment has become crucial.

Lawrence Brown, managing director of Royston, explains: "As recent events illustrate, with the phasing out of coal fired power stations there is an increasing risk of power shortages affecting industrial operations this winter.

"To avoid such risks it is vital that industrial operations and process sector companies take the necessary steps to protect themselves and ensure that continuous power remains available in the event of any supply failures."

As power sector specialists with over 35 years' experience and the North East's largest diesel engineering service operator, Royston is ideally placed to advise NEPIC members on the range of options available to ensure the vital security of power supplies this winter.

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

# APPOINTMENTS



**ROB DICKENS**  
**Principal Electrical  
Consultant**  
GSE Systems



**MARK JACKSON**  
**ICA Consultant**  
GSE Systems

## GSE Systems Further Extend their Senior Technical Team

In support of the continued growth of the company's Engineering division, GSE Systems are pleased to announce the recent appointments of Rob Dickens and Mark Jackson as Principal Electrical and ICA Consultants respectively.

Rob has over 35 years of electrical engineering experience and will lead the electrical department to develop technical capability and support the senior management team in establishing opportunities for further growth. Rob has spent many years in senior positions for major engineering organisations, leading and delivering projects for multinational clients in numerous industries.

Mark has over 20 years' experience working for both onshore and offshore assets with high profile clients from the Oil & Gas industry, along with operational experience at top tier COMAH sites.

He is about to complete his Masters in Process Automation and has spent the last few years working as a Lead Engineer for a major Energy contractor delivering projects for multinational blue chip clients in this sector.

"We are delighted to welcome Rob and Mark to GSE as Principal Consultants," said Paul Welford, Managing Director.

"They both bring a breadth of knowledge and experience to our growing management team and are senior technical experts capable of providing the consultative engineering support which our clients value."

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



**ROY MERRYWEATHER**  
**General Manager,  
Business Development**  
PD Ports

## PD Ports Appoints New General Manager as Part of Growth Plans

On 1st September, PD Ports welcomed on board a new general manager business development, Roy Merryweather, as part of its growth plans to generate further new business in the Company's bulk handling operations at its North-east based port, Teesport. Roy joins PD Ports from Peel Ports where he was employed for over four years as group business development manager.

In his new role at Teesport, Roy is responsible for developing supply chain solutions for customers importing and exporting dry bulk cargo; bringing with him over 15 years' experience specialising in steel and forest products sectors.

PD Ports owns and operates Teesport, the third largest UK port by volume, supporting over 3,000 jobs in the North-east and a key driver in the region's economy. The Group also has operations across the country including on the Humber and at Felixstowe. PD Ports employs over 1,300 people and is headquartered in the North East of England.



## Materials Processing Institute appoints new Business Development Manager

Dawn Huntrod has been appointed as Business Development Manager for the SME Technology Centre at the Materials Processing Institute.

Dawn, who previously worked for Redcar & Cleveland Council's enterprise team, will have a wide range of responsibilities including networking locally and nationally, running workshops and engagement events within MPI and looking at business development.

**DAWN HUNTROD**  
**Business Development Manager**  
MPI

Her appointment is viewed by the Institute as the first part of launching the new SME Technology Centre, which will support clients ranging from pre start-ups to established SMEs to develop, commercialise and improve their technologies, while also providing an integrated business support package, and guiding clients to funding and finance.

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

## TTE Support Northumbrian Water's Workforce Development

TTE has welcomed nine aspiring engineers from across the UK to Teesside after they were accepted onto Northumbrian Water Group's (NWG) prestigious apprenticeship scheme.

The apprentices, who are a mix of electrical and mechanical engineers, will spend two years at TTE's Southbank facility, in Middlesbrough, before shadowing experienced Northumbrian Water engineers for the remaining two years on operational sites.

Upon completion of the four-year training programme, the young people will move straight into a technician role and become an integral part of the Northumbrian Water team.

The students, Kieron Marr, Luke Barrass, Carl Eddon, Jack Adams, Adam McCabe, Dylan Lowes, Kristofer Brown,

Jordan Cuthbertson and Lewis McArthur were selected after impressing during interviews and competency tests.

During their time at TTE, the trainees will spend two years working towards respected vocational and technical qualifications, spending a large proportion of their time in its uniquely equipped workshops. As part of the programme, TTE will provide accommodation for six of the group who live outside of the Tees Valley.

Northumbrian Water has been working in collaboration with TTE since the launch of its apprenticeship programme

in 2008; it forms part of the company's forward-thinking workforce development plans, which allows new and young talent to enter the company and water industry.



Whilst at Northumbrian Water, the trainees will develop the skills, behaviours and knowledge that will enable them to adhere to safe working practices, locate, diagnose and solve faults on equipment and complete maintenance on a range of waste and water systems.

Dave Thompson, Partnerships Manager at TTE, said:

"Apprenticeships form a core part of the skills development of companies like Northumbrian Water and we're delighted to welcome its latest group of apprentices. The training we deliver has been tailored to ensure it complements the Water Industry Trailblazer model as well as fits with NWG's business needs. The fact that such a well-respected company such as Northumbrian Water continues to choose TTE as its preferred training partner is a great endorsement."

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

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Cluster

# NEW MEMBERS



*The Academy of Joint Integrity™*

### **Loss of Containment Integrity Training specialist joins NEPIC**

The Academy of Joint Integrity, which is part of global sealing solutions specialist Flexitallic, is aiming to enhance its commitment to supporting engineer competency in the North East process sector through its membership of NEPIC.

The Academy provides accredited, bespoke practical training to 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.

Various certification routes are available including the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) Critical Bolting Unit Route to Competency and Energy Institute (EI) accredited mechanical joint integrity programmes, which are designed to increase competencies to ensure pipeline integrity and reinforce Flexitallic's commitment to safety and improving industry-wide standards.

The Academy have also recently been awarded a Cogent assured Gold Standard provider status specialising in the delivery of Workforce Development (Skills for Growth), an employer-devised training programme designed to enable science-based small businesses to develop their existing workforce.

Cogent has an assured network of providers throughout the country who meet rigorous standards to ensure the highest quality provision is obtained.

The assured network is aimed at ensuring high quality training across the entire science sector, promoting the availability of employer-backed training solutions, supporting new entrants into the sector, particularly through Apprenticeships, and boosting skills transferability.

Gary Milne, Academy Director, said: "Recognition from Cogent as an assured provider is a reflection of the quality of the training we provide. We see the value of Cogent-assurance and the use of its brand as a mark of quality."

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

**To book a free Site Integrity Visit or discuss training certification options, please contact Gary Milne on: 07770 233 001 or via [gmilne@flexitallic.eu](mailto:gmilne@flexitallic.eu)**



### **Health & Safety Data Management**

ProFound is a software company that provides a Health and Safety Data Management system that stands out from the crowd of database solutions. Having kept underground miners safe for 20 years, pro-HSE has just been released for the industrial, construction and commercial markets. Pro-HSE is aimed at any operation that values the safety of it's most valuable asset, it's employees, and the people that come into contact with them.

All Companies are required by law to gather data relating to the Health and Safety of all people coming into contact with that company. Why not use the data collected to proactively manage the health and safety of these people?

Pro-HSE is an integrated data application that captures all traditional data into a single, user owned management system.

Data like accident, incident, exposure, safety talk, recurrence, based so users own and manage their own data. And because complete capability is included in every system, there are no further costs to manage additional elements.

Wherever possible, collected data is linked by employee or any person that comes into contact with the company (delivery drivers, visitors and so on). Individuals can then be analysed across their entire H&S profile and subsequently managed accordingly.

Using a balanced web and desktop interface, users can manage any number of users in an extremely competitive licensing model. Add a unique workflow, action and document manager plus a full reporting suite and you have an extremely sophisticated management tool.

- Capability
- Corporate Responsibility
- Extreme Cost Effectiveness
- Duty of Care

**Please visit [www.pro-hse.com](http://www.pro-hse.com) for further details or, to really understand how pro-HSE can make your people safer, call us on 01947-844 130 to arrange a presentation.**

# NEW MEMBERS



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**paul.bryant@protelprojects.com**  
**01823 704 025**



Indecom was formed in July 2015 by Robert Barker, recognising the national demand for a specialist technical engineering service to decommission redundant industrial, petrochemical plants and assets, providing decontamination, specialist dismantling, asset recovery, asbestos removal, Industrial demolition and site clearance on top tier high hazard comah sites without delay, in accordance with current legislation and world class safety.

Our primary service is to decommission redundant obsolete industrial assets to reduce commercial liabilities, realise value from tied up assets, release land for redevelopment, reduce maintenance and unlock redundant capital to enable industrial clients to reinvest the resultant capital allowing business evolution.

We continue to develop and secure client lead collaborations;

- Fuji we dismantled a redundant clean room to release space for reinvestment with new technology;
- GSK we assisted in the removal of redundant assets to reduce liability for redevelopment;
- SPIE we assisted with the installation of new technology for safer roads

Towards the end of '15 we collaborated to design, engineer & carry out the removal of 6 bridge structures as part of the A1 expansion through North Yorkshire to motorway standard over 3 consecutive weekends – "intensive but rewarding".

Collectively the Indecom team have successfully completed the clearance of an excess of 500 high hazard top tier comah industrial processing & manufacturing facilities, where we have unlocked assets and returned over £75m for client reinvestment.

In 2016 we are actively engaged with:

- Complex dismantling of a failed structure for forensic investigation;
- Management of dismantling a derelict structure in close proximity to an operational substation enabling the site to be redevelopment by a world class leading power generator;
- Dismantling works on the A1 motorway expansion;
- Selective high reach demolition of a former teaching college in a densely populated residential area

**robert@indecom.co.uk**  
**07769 726 253**

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Cluster

# NEW MEMBERS



RectrixAS is a tech start up based at the Fusion Hive Stockton on Tees. Centered within the Universities

Innovation and Technology Hub RectrixAS specialise in providing aerial solutions with our UAVs / Drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) to a cross section of Industries. Our business focus is primarily:

1. Inspection - Asset Integrity Management using optical and thermal cameras. The objectives are to improve safety, save time and reduce cost. Markets are Oil & Gas, Chemical & Petrochemical, Power Generation, Utilities, Biofuels, Wind & Solar.
2. Survey - 2D & 3D data capture and analysis. Operating in multifarious environments the UAV Drone is the ideal for the following industries Agriculture, Civil & Construction, Built Environment, Facilities Management, Mining and Quarry, Volumetric Measurement and environmental monitoring.

3. Cinematography - HD 4K Aerial Filming & production. Use the latest UAV Drone technology to present your business or project in a dynamic way. Ideal for Web Imagery, Business Commercials & Promotional Productions. It's also possible to be used for Event Capture and Live Stream TV

4. Emergency - Deploy eyes in the sky and multiple sensor technology, providing situational awareness for informed incident command at incident. Acquire data, Analyse and Act the UAV Drone is ideally situated for short duration or persistent flight for the Emergency Services, Government Agencies, Security, Border Control or Disaster Management Agencies

RectrixAS can provide a tailored solution for your aerial needs. Our pilots are trained to the highest standards and have gained Permission for Aerial Work from the CAA. This means they are legally allowed to fly and carry full Insurance. If you have a use for UAV Drone Technology don't hesitate to get in touch we would love to work with you on finding you a solution.

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



Micropore's USP is the ability to manufacture uniformly sized droplets and particles, with controlled size

characteristics at high production volumes under favourable process conditions. This confers benefits on client's formulations:

- Yield improvements and reduced waste resulting from production of monosized droplets and particles with a coefficient of variation of around 10%.
- Preservation of sensitive and costly materials resulting from our low energy processing conditions.

At Micropore we believe in working closely with all our clients to achieve results to maximise their market penetration. This usually requires a collaborative approach to ensure that the client's formulation expertise is married to Micropore's technology – often in novel ways – to produce the desired product.

Our long experience has enabled us to develop a general methodology for this collaboration but – because each situation is different – we always develop a specifically tailored work programme with each client. The main steps of our general approach are:

Suitability Assessment: Micropore assesses the client's formulation for its suitability and to identify any adjustments

that might be needed; typically on the Dispersion Cell. This lab-scale unit is able to generate quality data to enable scale-up to manufacturing volumes through the Oscillating Membrane System.

In-house Development: This phase is usually conducted at the client's premises. Micropore will make pilot scale equipment available for the client to develop their own unique formulation for the best results. Micropore will usually assist the client during this development phase.

Full-scale Manufacture: When the client decides to scale up to production volumes Micropore will design and supply equipment suitably customised to deliver the client's formulation objectives while being integrated into the client's full-scale manufacturing facilities. Micropore's manufacturing scale equipment offers:

- A continuous process for production of monosized droplets and particles
- Operational stability under different flow rates
- Multi-tonne / year capability
- A small footprint
- cGMP / FDA readiness

Come and discuss your formulation needs and challenges.

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

# NEW MEMBERS



## Loss of Containment Integrity Training specialist joins NEPIC

Kawasaki Heavy Industries for 120 years has been serving in a wide range of industries since its establishment as a shipyard. During its long history, Kawasaki has diversified into many business fields and consists of seven large BU nowadays: aerospace, gas turbine & machinery, rolling stock, plant & infrastructure, hydraulic equipment, ship & offshore, and motorcycle. Almost 80 per cent of Kawasaki's business is in industrial sectors, although its motorcycle enjoys the best perception in Europe.

Just as some examples, Kawasaki:

- is a first tier supplier for Boeing supplying parts of bodies in addition to whole aircrafts for Japanese defence forces.
- has a deep expertise especially in cryogenic gas carriers(ships) such as LPG and LNG.
- is engaged in the supply of modules for commercial jet engine manufactures.
- for 40 years has supplied industrial gas turbines to a variety of customers such as hospitals, chemical and paper

industries, food companies for the supply of electric power as well as heat and steam.

- has long been in Robots business and it is one of the expanding business with various type of robots such as clean robots for semi-conductor manufacturer, medical and pharmaceutical robots, palletising robots in addition to conventional painting and welding robots.
- is also one of leading supplier of hydraulic pumps, motor, and valves for marine deck machinery, construction machinery, agriculture machinery, plastic and press machinery, automation, etc.

Kawasaki has enjoyed very warm and respectful relationships with many UK companies, especially with Rolls-Royce for jet engines, AgustaWestland for a helicopter, Jaguar for industrial robots, customers of hydraulic motors and pumps, not to mention of over 180 motorcycle dealers.

KHIUK started its operations in London in 1963 and in 1991, it was incorporated as subsidiary company of Kawasaki Heavy Industries in Japan. KHIUK has taken an important role as a foothold in the UK as well as in Europe for Kawasaki's business.

[www.global.kawasaki.com](http://www.global.kawasaki.com)



Kawasaki Robotics, a member company of Kawasaki Heavy Industries Group, has been providing

high performance industrial robots for manufacturing processes since 1969. With an office in the UK since 1996, KRUK will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary this year.

Reliable Performance and capability extends throughout the product range meeting customer demands for increased flexibility, intelligent control and high speed.

The dedicated and professional team at Kawasaki Robotics (UK) Ltd have a wealth of knowledge on robotic automation within all industry sectors. With a range of robots with payloads between 2Kg and 1500Kg, Kawasaki are able to supply a robot suitable for a wide range of applications.

Over 2500 Kawasaki robots are now operating within the UK, all supported from our offices in Warrington. KRUK are able to offer a full support package from service, spares and application support. System simulations and demonstrations to ensure the best solution for an application are also offered.

- 3 – 80Kg -Small to medium Payload – R-Series
- 100 – 300Kg – Large Payload – Z, CX and BX Series
- 350 – 1500Kg - Extra Large Payloads – M Series. MG15HL released 2015, 1500Kg

- 100 – 300Kg – Spot Welding – BX Series - Hollow arm & wrist. No external harnesses required
- Arc Welding – BA Series – Hollow arm & wrist. No external harnesses required
- Painting Robots – Explosion proof, ATEX Certified
- 80 – 500Kg – Palletising robots – RD, ZD & CP. CP best in class
- 2 -3Kg – Delta Robots – High speed pick & place. Small payloads
- 4 – 5kg – Cleanroom robots. 5Kg Stainless Steel Hydrogen Peroxide resistant

With robots supplied into Toyota, Jaguar Landrover, Aston Martin, Heinz Foods, Ryobi, GSK and Pegler Yorkshire to name but a few, the products have an unenviable reputation for reliability and performance even in the harshest environments.

For more details please contact our sales team.

[info@kawasakirobotuk.com](mailto:info@kawasakirobotuk.com)  
01925 713 000

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## NEPIC EVENTS

NEPIC PHARMACEUTICAL EVENT - CONTINUOUS PROCESSING

📍 **8 March 2016 | Piramal Healthcare | Whalton Road | Morpeth | Northumberland | NE61 3YA**

INDIA MARKET VISIT

📍 **12 - 19 March 2016 | Gujarat & Karnataka**

MEET THE MEMBERS CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

📍 **22 June 2016 | The Grand Marquee | Wynyard Hall | Wynyard | Billingham | Cleveland TS22 5NF**

NEPIC ANNUAL GOLF DAY

📍 **8 September 2016 | Slaithwaite Hall | Northumberland | NE47 0BX**

INTERNATIONAL BIORESOURCES CONFERENCE

📍 **22 September 2016 | Radisson Blu | Frankland Lane | Durham | DH1 5TA**



## MEMBERS EVENTS - NEPIC CLUSTER CONNECT

3 MARCH 2016

📍 **Materials Processing Institute | Teesside Technology Centre | Middlesbrough | TS6 6US**

7 APRIL 2016

📍 **Suite 2 - 3 | Gateway Business Centre | Gateway House | Newcastle upon Tyne | NE15 8NX**

5 MAY 2016

📍 **The Wilton Centre | Wilton | Redcar | TS10 4RF**



Visit [www.nepic.co.uk/events](http://www.nepic.co.uk/events) for full details & registration information.