



TIMG Group Meeting Minutes - 4th March 2016

Present:

Melanie Jury, Lucite, Chair
Elaine Falconer, Amec Foster Wheeler and TVU
Jay Brooks, BOC
Tom Ballantyne, Conoco Phillips
Tim Hammond, Durham University
Richard Tweddle, Pyreco and CF Fertilisers
Jon Howard, Ineos Nitriles
Gillian Baker, Inter Terminals
Andy Teague, Koppers
Malcolm Horne, Lotte
Andrea Parr, Materials Processing Institute
Philip Aldridge, NEPIC
John Brady, NEPIC
Stan Higgins, NEPIC
Felix O'Hare, NEPIC
Joanne Rout, NEPIC
Paul Gotts, NEPIC Consultant/Leven Consultants
George Ritchie MBE, px Limited
Stephen Hands, Sembcorp
Suhail Aslam, Teesside University
Alan Pollock, Wood Group PSN

Apologies:

Keith Brudenell, CF Fertilisers; Jon Gluyas, Durham University; Peter Kay, Ensus;
Chris Platt, Greenergy; John Shipman, Huntsman PU; Gerard Stephens, MPI;
Mike Ducker, Sabic; Ian Trossell, SNF Oil and Gas Ltd.; Mark Lewis, TVU:

Welcome and Introductions

Melanie Jury welcomed everyone to the meeting and each attendee introduced themselves.

Hydrogen Partnership and Teesside Collective Update (Elaine Falconer) – please [click here](#) to view the presentation

Elaine provided a short update on the Teesside Collective on behalf of Mark Lewis who was unavailable because he was hosting Lord Oxburgh who chairs the CCS working group on behalf of DECC.

This was in the context of the cancellation of the White Rose and Peterhead projects last November.

The Teesside Collective was still active and Sembcorp had replaced SSI in the collective following the closure of the steelworks. A study had been commissioned by Sheffield University to look at opportunities for use and conversion of Carbon Dioxide in the Tees Valley and this should be available in the summer.

Elaine then provided an update on the North East Hydrogen Partnership.

Elaine also introduced Suhail Aslam from Teesside University who will be the lead on this project from April onwards.

She also highlighted that the NE was the largest producer and user of Hydrogen in the UK.

So far the focus had been on fuel cells and more specifically vehicles however there was growing interest in hydrogen as a low carbon fuel when combined with industrial CCS leading to a real possibility of a hydrogen economy.

In automotive there was a drive towards improved battery technology and this was impacting the case for Hydrogen vehicles. However there was an opportunity in industrial vehicles e.g. Fork Lift trucks.

Elaine asked members of TIMG if they could pass on any possible opportunities in the region to develop the Hydrogen Economy.

Action – TIMG members to feedback suggestions to Elaine elaine.falconer@amecfw.com

Update on Skills Development/Apprentice Levy (George Ritchie)

Apprentice Levy – please [click here](#) to view the presentation and [click here](#) to view the Q&A.

George shared an overview and Q&A regarding the new Apprentice Levy. The information is self-explanatory but any queries should be directed to the National Apprentice Service (NAS). There is a team based in the Team Valley at Gateshead who can answer your queries or come and see you at your premises.

A key message for employers is to maximise their use of apprenticeships so that they get make full use of the funding they put into the scheme.

The supply chain operating companies are already paying a levy as part of their rates to engineering supply chain companies (if in ECITB) so they can use their influence on how this levy is used to maximise skills development. The future role of the ECITB is still being addressed.

Apprenticeship Reforms Standards – please [click here](#) to view the presentation

There are fundamental changes being made to future apprenticeship especially the move away from the current frameworks (which will cease to exist) to new apprenticeship standards. It is essential that employers ensure that their needs are being met with the new system.

Action – TIMG members to feedback any gaps which you currently see in the list of apprentice standards as this will be the key way forward in the future for delivering apprenticeships.

George also referred to the English Apprenticeships: Our 2020 Vision document – please [click here](#) to view.

Technical and Professional Education Reforms – please [click here](#) to view the presentation and [click here](#) for the TPE Round Table with Simon Blagden

In November the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills announced the formation of a panel led by Lord Sainsbury, including Bev Robinson and Alison Wolf to introduce reforms to technical and professional education (TPE). The Panel has been tasked with reporting back to the Department on reforms to training for technical and professional roles, with the intention of providing more standardised vocational routes into employment for 16-19 year olds.

The Department intends to create up to 20 specific new professional and technical routes, taking young people from full time education into clear, skilled vocational employment, including up to degree level study. These new routes will be easy to understand and provide a clear whilst flexible roadmap for young people to progress into highly technical careers. For many this will mean moving into apprenticeships of various forms.

The Minister has asked Simon Blagden MBE of Fujitsu UK & Ireland, a member of the panel to bring together the views of industry and then to inform the work of the Panel. He has involved George as a leader in this field in the North East region to help contribute to the Panel's discussions in trying to gather employer views throughout the North East.

The roundtable has and is looking at the following issues and more detail is given on the attached slide pack plus briefing note for reference:

- Is there a common set of knowledge, skills and behaviours that potential employees need to have?
- What signals to employers that a potential employee has these knowledge, skills and behaviours (i.e. qualifications, licences to practice, registered practitioners)?
- Should each route start with a broad curriculum before specialising into higher level occupations?
- How important is experience of work or practical skills in a particular work environment when recruiting or promoting employees?

Action – URGENT - TIMG members to provide feedback from your company on the above questions to this important debate to George Ritchie at george.ritchie@pxlimited.com with responses by a tight deadline of Friday 18th March.

A letter to this effect was sent out by Felix O'Hare immediately after the meeting.

Stan Higgins suggested that given the high level of activity on the Skills agenda we should consider reforming the NEPIC Skills Thrust Team.

Action – George Ritchie/Stan Higgins to reform team

Tees Estuary Partnership Update (Felix O'Hare and Tom Ballantyne) – please [click here](#) to view the presentation

At the last meeting this subject was entitled Teesmouth SPA update but the situation had moved on rapidly in recent months.

A new Tees Estuary Partnership group has been created which has representation from industry, the Environment Agency, Natural England, relevant NGOs e.g. RSPB, local authorities and the LEP. Key individual NEPIC members are represented directly in the group e.g. Sabic and Conoco Phillips. The two key members organisations represented are NEPIC and the Tees Harbour Port Users Association as they cover all the key industries on or near the estuary.

INCA (Industry Nature Conservation Agency) are the secretariat and are also providing resources to help manage the upcoming workload. The above presentation was produced by INCA as part of the general communications from the group.

For industry the creation of this joint group is a key benefit as otherwise the original Teesmouth SPA proposal would have been imposed with potential detrimental impacts on industrial development in the region. Also it provides an opportunity for early involvement on other legislation which could impact industrial development on the river e.g. the Water Framework Directive and the review of Special sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Industrial involvement to create an optimised solution will also lead to more resource in order to carry out a detailed study of the river and environs in order to make informed decisions on an optimised solution to meet both industrial and wildlife requirements. This work will also need to pay for third party expertise and some of this cost will fall to industry. INCA will be issuing letters explaining what help is needed in the coming weeks.

Engineering Issues plus review of Teesside Engineering Forum (Paul Gotts)

The Engineering trade unions have declared themselves against the engagement of "Umbrella Company" or Agency Personnel. This stance is now potentially impacting a local turnaround event. Some clients may have agency personnel employed by contractors without their knowledge who could become targets for Union activity.

It was also reported that in the North West "rope access" was coming under trade union scrutiny. The technical competency and payment grades for those carrying out work from "rope access" are being questioned for what is being seen as a low cost option equivalent to cheap labour.

An update was also given on the client based Teesside Engineering Forum. This was chaired by Caroline Mackenzie of Lucite and three meetings had taken place so far. This meeting was complimentary to TIMG in that it focused in more detail on issues relevant to site engineers.

A key current issue was the implementation of HSE compliance on ageing assets and also the issue of improving maintenance productivity. The productivity discussions had focused entirely on manpower efficiency e.g. tea breaks, rope access versus scaffolding, improved schedules etc. Relatively little emphasis had been directed to the use of technology in improving efficiency and reducing costs.

It was therefore pertinent that Paul mentioned an upcoming seminar presented by NEPIC and Aveva - Digital Asset Rationalisation. Please [click here](#) for further information.

The seminar will take place on Friday 22nd April at Wilton Centre addressing some of the technology support available to engineers to enable them to improve safety and compliance and also increase productivity.

Teesside Integration Study (John Brady) – please [click here](#) to view the presentation

Please note that this is now known as Tees Valley Process Industry study or TVPI.

John provided a summary of the excellent work which had been carried out since the last TIMG meeting. This has produced detailed information from the 45 most relevant companies in the Tees Valley as well as a comprehensive list of opportunities in the region.

The next stage was to hold a workshop with the contributors which was provisionally set for 20th April at the Lecture theatre, Wilton Centre by which time the report should be available.

The key messages would also be relayed back to other key parties including government via the Northern Powerhouse minister and Lord Heseltine.

Chemistry Growth Partnership Update (Felix O'Hare) – please [click here](#) to view the presentation

Felix provided a short update on the work of the [Chemistry Growth partnership](#) or CGP which was a national programme to grow the chemistry using sector by 50% in 2030. There were several subgroups covering energy and feedstocks, innovation, skills and supply chain. Felix was involved in the supply chain subgroup and gave a short overview on the key strategic thrusts of this group.

Jay Brooks stated that the work on TVPI was an excellent model to use at national level and Felix stated that the intention was to roll out this template across other key UK locations and he would be providing an update to the CGP supply chain team in May.

NEPIC Strategy and Projects Review (Joanne Rout and Philip Aldridge)

Joanne mentioned the upcoming Innovate Tees Valley or ITV project to assist SMEs in the Tees Valley to commercialise their research and inventions. This project was a joint Teesside University, MPI and NEPIC project. NEPIC was mainly involved at the front end of the project engaging with prospective companies which could come from all sectors and then the university, MPI and others could help these companies realise their potential innovations using their extensive expertise and range of equipment for prototyping.

It is expected that the project will be approved soon. NEPIC is starting work at risk.

Philip mentioned the upcoming (subject to approval) project in the NE LEP region to provide more broad support to SMEs in that region based on the key elements of BASME and DEELOCSI which had been successfully delivered by NEPIC. This project if approved would require engagement with mentors from the larger companies in the Tees Valley as had been the case with BASME.

AOB

Next Meeting – Please note this will now be on **Friday 8th July 2016** and the following meeting will be on **Friday 7th October 2016**.

These meetings will both take place in G216, Wilton Centre at 09:00.

Felix O'Hare