

Milestone achievement – 100th Chemical Elements event



On the 9th June 2011 Chemicals Northwest had a special celebration event at The Heath to mark the 100th Chemical Elements event. The event, held in conjunction with the National Skills Academy for Process Industries was based around our Skills Theme.

The first Chemical Elements event took place at the Heath on 11th October 2000 and was entitled "Increase your Company's Profits – New ways of Using Analysis and Analytical Services". At the time, Chemicals Northwest was known as the North West Chemical Initiative and was led by John Diggle. Chemical Elements started with an initial trial run of six events on different topics, it was hoped that 20 people would attend each session. However, the initial six proved so popular that another six were organised... and Chemical Elements grew from there. Now 11 years on, the event is still going strong and remains a core way of facilitating networking and information sharing for the chemical sector within the region.

Our 100th Chemical Elements entitled, Process Safety – Human Factors – Skills & Development was based around the skills

agenda, which as we all know is core to the ongoing development of the chemical industry. Nearly 40 people attended the event which featured speakers from the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), National Skills Academy for Process Industries (NSAPI) and an industrialist's view from a former Shell, Stanlow employee.

Amanda Cockton from the HSE discussed how good leadership is the core to managing a major hazard business. She outlined how findings from accident investigations have influenced current thinking and described some characteristics of good leadership. Neil Smith from NSAPI spoke about the work NSAPI is carrying out with industrialists and key stakeholders on a series of projects related to Process Safety Management which would meet industry requirements. Clint Devine who worked for Shell Stanlow, before joining NSAPI, gave an industrialist's view of how training and development had influenced process safety and behavioural safety in general. Clint spoke about the tools they had utilised, including the 'Deal With It' programme that the SOG Group have developed.



The event gave an opportunity to raise questions and concerns with regulators to the industry as well as understanding key developments in the process skills area.

The event was very well received with all three presenters getting excellent feedback from the attendees. From the feedback we had comments like: "Excellent opportunity to network, let people know what the HSE is doing – and to get feedback".

If you would like to find out more about this event, including the speaker slides, or to keep up to date with the future Chemical Elements events please look on the events pages of the website www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk/events/cnw/

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Chemicals Northwest – Going Forward

As we move onto the summer edition of the newsletter and having seen through the recent staff changes within Chemicals Northwest, we just wanted to thank our members and businesses for their support throughout this time.

As most of you will be aware we have gone through some significant changes over recent months, including the change from public sector ownership to the private sector and the loss of funding support that our previous ownership attracted. Our main challenge as we move through this year is to develop a model that gives even more value and benefit to the members with a view to attracting new members and therefore remaining a sustainable support business.

Business as usual

Members should all have received their renewal invoices for the 2011-12 membership year and certificates, once payment for membership has been made. If you have not received your member certificate but have paid your membership fee then please contact alex.heids@chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk and she will send a certificate out in the post to you.

Since the spring edition of the newsletter, we have been very busy; not only keeping the Chemical Elements events going forward – which in June reached the milestone 100th event; but also launching a new breakfast networking event for the industry. Our first event was a great success; we hope to build on this for the future to make the events a regular part of our offering. For further details on the inaugural breakfast networking event please turn to page 13. We have also launched our first common interest group with REACH as the subject matter. Uptake from our members for this initial subject was very high and the first meeting was held on the 7th June. As we move forward we hope to launch more common interest groups for our members so keep an eye out for further details and please feedback any ideas on areas or topics that would be of interest to wider groups.

If you are a manufacturing business, in the supply chain or offer a service to the sector and you are not a member please give us a call and we will be happy to explain the benefits and opportunities of our membership.



Chemicals Northwest Awards Dinners

It is still our intention to hold a regional sector awards event during 2011 – 2012. The event has previously taken place during May but due to the need to plan this type of event months in advance it would not have been practical to do this whilst CNW was undergoing significant changes. We currently have some options for October but we are dependent on support and sponsorship and this is proving difficult in the current economic climate.

If your business is interested in supporting our awards, acknowledging performance within the sector and region whilst promoting your own involvement and business offer, we would be pleased to speak to you.

Please contact Alex Heys on Tel: **01928 515678** or email: alex.heids@chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk for further details.

Producing a Digital Marketing Explosion with Duo Design

What is digital marketing? Digital is everything from your own website to comments on twitter, posts from a blog or even mobile Apps. This is where Duo Design has expertise, whether it be to increase traffic, sell online or even your ability to interact with your clients. Duo can help you control and streamline this explosion of information as part of your marketing strategy.

Often the center of any digital marketing, your website needs to be reassuringly professional. The first impression you give to potential customers will usually be your website so having a strong corporate identity, professional layout and up-to-date content is a must. Success attracts success so cutting corners on your website can be a costly mistake.

Helping you to take control of the web
Importantly we take time to understand our clients needs both for now and the future, and build sites which will serve them today and tomorrow. Often a key to success is to allow you to be proactive and use your site as a powerful marketing tool.

Social integration

Duo can help you closely integrate Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, Linked In and Flickr helping you to spread your marketing message

across the web while keeping it consistent.

iPhone Apps & Mobile Technologies

Mobile platforms are a rapidly growing way to interact with the internet. Duo have developed both iPhone Apps and mobile focused websites for various clients enabling them to take advantage of this social shift.

For realistic expert advice contact Duo to discuss your requirements.

10 Point Digital Marketing Review & Strategy Development

Free* Expert advice and consultation to help inform and advise you on...

- Existing branding, website and digital marketing
- Choosing the right web address
- Maximizing digital to deliver a crystal clear marketing message
- Targeting the right audience
- Being Found - Search Engine Friendliness Built In
- iPhone Apps & Mobile Technologies
- Selling online
- Accessibility guidance
- Guide to take advantage of Social Networks
- Social integration - social marketing made easy
- Creating must have engaging content
- How you can proactively use your website to market

Contact Duo Design now to discuss how we can help – **0845 026 3628**

www.duodesign.co.uk

*Subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. These offers will run until December 2011.



PayPal – easier payment system for Chemicals Northwest

Chemicals Northwest now has a PayPal account which members and non members can use to make online card payments for events and membership. To pay for membership online please go to the membership page of our website, click on the "join us" link and click the PayPal option at the bottom of the page. For non members to pay online for events please follow the link at the bottom of the events page, or alternatively we can invoice you for the cost of the event or membership.

We will offer both options for most events but for events where the cost is minimal (breakfast networking events for non-members) we will request payment in advance via the Paypal service only.

CNW Introduce 'Common Interest Groups'

As a result of feedback from our member survey and events, we have looked at the possibility of introducing common interest or user groups. The aim of which is to give member companies a forum to share experience and knowledge, understand wider issues and implications and access specific subject information. Our inaugural group has now been set up with the interest area based around REACH and related regulations. Over 30 businesses indicated an interest in the forum and the first meeting, held on June 7th, was attended by over 20 businesses from across the sector.

The meeting was supported by REACH specialists who were able to give a view on the current and future issues. This was followed by the businesses sharing experiences and identifying areas that they would need future support in or benefit from knowledge sharing. Overall the general consensus and feedback is very positive



and we have identified topics for the future meetings.

We plan to introduce further common interest groups for member businesses, if you have ideas about topics and themes and you have not fed these back already please contact **Duncan Simcock** at CNW.

Remsol – managing chemical industry waste

Remsol is a Lancashire-based firm experienced at managing chemicals industry waste. Remsol helps companies boost profits by cutting waste, recycling more and disposing of less to achieve lasting savings. They accomplish this by forming an integrated partnership with clients to effectively become an extension of the management team. To further help in these tough economic times, Remsol is now offering a totally unique “No win, No fee” approach to SMEs, recognising that businesses want to pay for results – not promises. After a free audit to establish a baseline of costs and compliance, a free summary report highlighting the “scope to save” is produced. If Remsol is then engaged to deliver the improvements, fees are taken as a share of any savings or rebates obtained, making this a totally risk-free venture for the client.

Remsol's independence allows it to source the best value for clients and it has recently helped radically boost recycling rates at Preston-based Total Bitumen to an average of 85% – maintained for two years. Previously, a third of waste was landfilled. Remsol found an alternative use for problematic bitumen emulsion waste, which is now used to create environmentally friendly secondary liquid fuels – beforehand, the several hundred tonnes per year of waste emulsion was landfilled. With Remsol's help, savings of over £40,000 were achieved in the first year.

Remsol's imaginative approach has also helped Tesserlendo to find a home for more than 400 tonnes of contaminated hydrochloric acid from its former Widnes site, which could not be discarded at conventional acid/alkali treatment sites around the UK because of volume and cost. After being approached by the company, Remsol had arranged by the end of the day for the acid to be transported by a fleet of specialist tankers to another chemical site in the region for use in a process in which the contaminant posed no problem. This enabled Tesserlendo to avoid disposal and make an impressive saving of between £30,000 – £90,000.

In April, the Waste Regulations (England and Wales) 2011 came into force, ushering in some significant changes including a requirement for firms to apply the waste hierarchy when transferring waste and a new hazard classification of H13 Sensitising. Other changes include a new two-tier system of registration for



Carriers, Brokers and Dealers of Controlled Wastes. Remsol can provide CNW members with one-to-one advice on the new legislation and members can also register for a breakfast seminar over the summer for general guidance.

For further information: www.remsol.co.uk or **0845 123 2544**.



The Hazchem Network is the UK's only pallet network dedicated to chemicals. With over 40 regional members, our quality of service exceeds 99.5% on time in full deliveries for ADR Pallets & Parcels.

The Hazchem Network provides the solution to the problem of delivering ADR consignments next day across the UK & Ireland safely and economically. It provides the operational efficiencies and commercial benefits of Hub-and-Spoke Pallet Networks to the European Chemicals Industry where ADR and COMAH regulations apply rigorously – ensuring safety, security and environmental considerations remain the number one priority in this highly regulated and tight margin logistics sector.

Our member hauliers would have previously worked within competing supply chains, but by all working 'in-concert' with the specially designed hub in Rugby, they bring their local knowledge to provide a national solution with pooled resources. The efficiency is brought by the members using their radial vehicles to collect and deliver ADR packaged freight during the day in their allocated regions. They consolidate [with key segregation rules] their customer's products and night-trunk to the hub in Rugby, where the material is subject to careful sortation [based on

THE HAZCHEM NETWORK

Kemmler Classification], and then reloaded back to their allocated regions for onward customer delivery. Shift controllers work with the members tracking and tracing consignments and ensure POD's are collated and available for rapid invoicing.

In-conjunction with Harwell based National Chemical Emergency Centre, Braemar Howells and OAMPS Petrochemical, the

Hazchem Network also offers the unique 'Hazchem Emergency Response Service' (HERS) in the event of a chemical or environmental incident. HERS operates a Level I, II and III response service.

The Hazchem Network has been recognized by the chemical logistics industry for the innovations it has introduced since its inception in 2004.

- 2004** – Best Business Newcomer [Rugby Council]
- 2005** – European Supply Chain Project of the Year [Logichem]
- 2006** – Finalist at Motor Transport Excellence Awards for Safety [MT]
- 2007** – Highly commended as one of Britain's Digital Elite [Microsoft]
- 2008** – Finalist at the CILT excellence awards for IT in Logistics [CILT]
- 2009** – Finalist Energy Institute Award for Safety [EI]
- 2010** – Shortlisted for International Freight World Business Innovation Award [IFW]

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For more information www.hazchemnetwork.co.uk and www.hers-info.com

Processium

"Design a new production unit or improve the performance of an existing plant, reduce potential pollution linked to your processes, these are the solutions that PROCESSIUM provides to save your time, lower your costs and reduce your risks.

Determine the key data of chemical substances for a better design of production units, identify new green solvents, conceive new compounds that are more environmentally friendly and safer, these are the challenges that face our platform dedicated to physical properties.

Our new laboratory is dedicated to measure physical properties such as; vapour pressure, liquid-vapour equilibrium, liquid-liquid equilibrium, solubility or surface tension. Our technology platform spans all the needs from; measurements to the implementation of modelling tools and includes a proprietary database e-thermoTM. Therefore our teams have a complete range of high-level tools to help our customers and bring them new solutions.

At PROCESSIUM, we struggle with the same fundamental challenges confronting any company involved in innovation. How can we become more efficient in designing and in the development of our products? How can we be sure that we are building products that customers really want? Our new projects such as the database e-thermoTM, photocatalytic treatment of effluents, intensification of processes or the development of new microwave reactors have enabled us to meet all these challenges."

PROCESSIUM is an independent company founded in 2002 and located in Lyon on the LyonTech University Campus in France. Our teams work for the chemical, cosmetic, pharmaceutical, oil and environmental industries. We are involved in the design, development and improvement of industrial processes with the aim of identifying industrial solutions and validating industrial units. The technological choices and the economic studies are then integrated in the processes of industrialisation as early as possible to achieve better control of the development of the processes.

We also have a team that specializes in thermodynamics and physical properties. Our approach combines modelling and experimental tools. We have laboratories dedicated to physical properties, chemical characterisation (e.g. support for REACH) and small-scale tests (e.g. reaction, distillations, stripping, filtration, crystallisation...).

We can validate our studies by conducting pilot tests on plants and also support projects during start-up/optimisation on site. Thus, our scope extends from the molecule to the production.

For further information please contact:

Dr. David Bensa

e-mail: **Bensa@processium.com**

Phone: **+33 (0)478 173 704**

Website: **<http://en.processium.com>**



Legal stitch in time saves nine

RW Legal provides practical legal advice to companies in the chemicals sector. Rachel Wilkinson has 17 years experience as in-house legal counsel, predominantly in the specialty chemicals industry, dealing with the full range of legal issues and also helping organisations to anticipate and avoid some of the pitfalls that can lead to legal proceedings.

Rachel and RW Legal's network of specialist legal advisors share an approach that differs from most mainstream law firms:

Assessing legal risk

we believe being proactive in assessing legal risks and early decisive intervention is the best approach to develop your business. It also avoids expensive and time consuming "fire-fighting" on legal issues.

Understanding your business

we spend our time (but not your money) getting to know and understand your business so that we can make a valuable contribution and provide legal support as soon as the need arises.

Competitive rates

without the high overheads of traditional legal practices, RW Legal can offer very competitive rates and flexible fee structures without sacrificing quality. If you need specialist assistance, we can help you find the right expertise at competitive rates.

We have extensive experience in drafting and negotiating commercial contracts including sale, distribution and agency, contract manufacture, supply and collaboration and we produce documents that are robust, clear and workable.

We also offer a "virtual in-house legal department" for established clients providing quick and pragmatic help by telephone or email.

RW Legal Limited is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority to provide legal advice.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Rachel Wilkinson on **0161 860 6446** or rachel@rwlegal.co.uk to discuss your requirements.

Web: www.rwlegal.co.uk



Protol Comar Contract Chemical Manufacturers

The Protol group of companies have been offering toll and contract manufacturing services to the chemical sector for the last seventeen years and recently moved to their new location at Widnes Waterfront.

The range of services offered provides for both liquid and powder processing and include mixing/ blending, drying, kibbling/ nibbling, milling, flaking, spray coating and pelletizing.

Process temperatures can be achieved from ambient to 200 deg C, and chilling can be provided down to 5 deg C for flaking. Blending and drying can be carried out at atmospheric pressure or under vacuum. A range of blenders/driers, including double cone, u-trough, ploughshare are available.

Baker-Perkins and z-blade offer low shear gentle mixing through to high shear dispersion of powders or powder/liquid combinations.

Turbo and air classified mills can offer both coarse (< 200 micron) and fine (<20 micron) micronizing and vibratory or turbo sieving can be used if required. Particle size analysis can be checked on BS standard screens or by laser diffraction.

Raw materials and finished products can be accommodated in virtually any pack size, from 5kgs to bulk road tankers.

Pilot scale plants are available for all processes, so that initial feasibility studies can be carried out prior to bulk processing or utilized for more complex product development projects.

The company philosophy is to be able to offer one stop processing to its customers to avoid the need for multi contractor use. It also likes to promote its experience and expertise as a problem solver in areas where a product or a process may need to be approached in an unusual way.

Good examples of this are a patented process for powder coating fines recycling and a novel approach to pelletizing low melting point materials without the need for expensive chilling.

The development of the pelletizing technology has opened up new markets in the plastics and plastics recycling sectors in addition to traditional chemical processing. It means that products can be produced in fully formulated and pelletize master batch form without the need for polymer inclusion or compounding extruders.

Contact: Steve Conley
Tel: **0151 423 9390**
Email: protolcomar@btconnect.com
Web: www.protol.co.uk



Travelex International Business Payments – Secure Your Profits

With budgets tight, and the increased volatility in currency markets, a lack of transparency with exchange rates alongside lost or mis-routed international payments can have a real impact to your bottom-line and client & supplier relationships.

Travelex Global Business Payments has partnered with Chemicals Northwest to provide members with help to protect your profits when sending and receiving international payments. As the world's leading international payments specialist, we help companies of all sizes in the

chemicals industry improve cash flow, manage currency risk and take advantage of market opportunities. Our customers and strategic partners include FTSE 100 & Fortune 500 Corporations, financial institutions, the world's leading law firms & universities and thousands of small to mid-market businesses.

Finalists for 3 UK customer service awards in 2010, our clients receive access to both a client manager & FX dealer to ensure the best service and competitive rates (we are consistently less expensive than the banks).

Travelex are already working with a number of Chemical Northwest members already.

To find out how we can help you reduce your costs please call us on **0870 010 765**

All new customers who sign up by the end of July will receive 3 months fee free.



Hertel meeting maintenance needs

Hertel, the global industrial construction and maintenance services company, has been working with the North West's chemical industries for more than three decades.

The company, which recently celebrated its 115th year, first came to the North West in 1975 when it opened a regional office after being awarded the maintenance contract at Stanlow refinery – a contract it still holds. Hertel's office is today in Preston Brook, Cheshire, while its UK headquarters are in Middlesbrough.

The company has grown steadily in the UK and now has more than 1,500 skilled employees providing a range of multi-disciplinary industrial maintenance services particularly serving the oil, gas and petrochemical sector.

The range of services which Hertel provides includes access/scaffolding, insulation, painting & surface preparation, mechanical, fabrication, asbestos removal, electrical & instrumentation, trace heating, fire protection, industrial cleaning, civils, cladding, nuclear decommissioning, modular accommodation, valves & rotating equipment, water treatment.

Hertel has built long-standing relationships with many of its clients and believes in 'Strength in Partnership'. Key to this is partnership working, as well as sharing knowledge and experience to help drive out inefficiencies and optimise working processes. Hertel has adopted many improvement processes including Lean Six Sigma, which is welcomed by clients as it fits similar initiatives they have.

Underpinning everything that Hertel does is safety. The company is proud of its

safety record and has developed a number of bespoke schemes to raise awareness and reward best practice/innovations. Every employee holds a personal safety record and takes responsibility for their own safety performance.

The company's approach to its safety record has seen it win a number of supplier awards from clients and receive the prestigious ROSPA President's Award for 12 consecutive Gold Awards.

For further information please go to: www.hertel.com or contact Lynn Devenport on **01928 704009**.



Sustainable vehicle of the future

The automotive industry is a key end market for chemical companies. The preference for vehicles with lower emissions levels and better fuel economy is strongly correlated to increased demand for smaller, lighter vehicles. This leaflet highlights where UK chemical companies are developing new products to assist the automotive sector to meet future regulations and low carbon aspirations.

Victrex

The Low Carbon automotive sector is something that Victrex are very involved in, encompassing all aspects of vehicle engineering from fuel systems to braking systems and exhaust systems. PEEK is now specified for suspension systems to reduce friction to steering systems to assist with the elimination of heavy hydraulic power steering devices. For the future we are involved in the development of fuel cells, turbochargers and the next generation ABS systems.

www.victrex.com

AGC

AGC has developed a 2 layer fuel hose system to meet lower hydrocarbon emission standard. This is a fully commercialised product already approved by key OEMs for auto fuel systems. The next generation fuel hose in development will cut emissions dramatically.

www.agcce.com

MEL chemicals

Future and current emission regulations for petrol and diesel engines are requiring the development of emission control systems to reduce the amount of pollutants emitted on every vehicle. A number of strategies are being progressed in order to reach the targets to reduce CO₂ emitted by the automotive sector, with catalysis playing a major role.

MEL Chemicals manufactures and continues to develop a range of catalyst support materials for both diesel and petrol engines. These are designed to enable compliance to current emission legislations across a wide range of engine types and sizes.

www.zrchem.com

Multisol

Multisol supply a portfolio of specialised fluids and advanced oil additives to the leading multinational oil companies & independent lubricant blenders. Through these partnerships, they continue to develop technologies that meet new European standards, protect engines, deliver higher levels of fuel economy, and ultimately reduce the environmental impact of modern vehicles.

www.multisolgroup.com



Engine

developments for bio-based lubricants improve fuel economy, reduce NOx emissions, protect fuel system components, reduce noise and vibration and improve low temperature startability and operability.

Battery

both electric and fuel cell vehicles require innovations from the chemicals and materials industries to minimise weight, improve battery lifespan and performance, and ensure safety measures are met.

Headlight

solid state lighting such as LEDs developed for improved brightness, longer life of bulb and lower energy use.

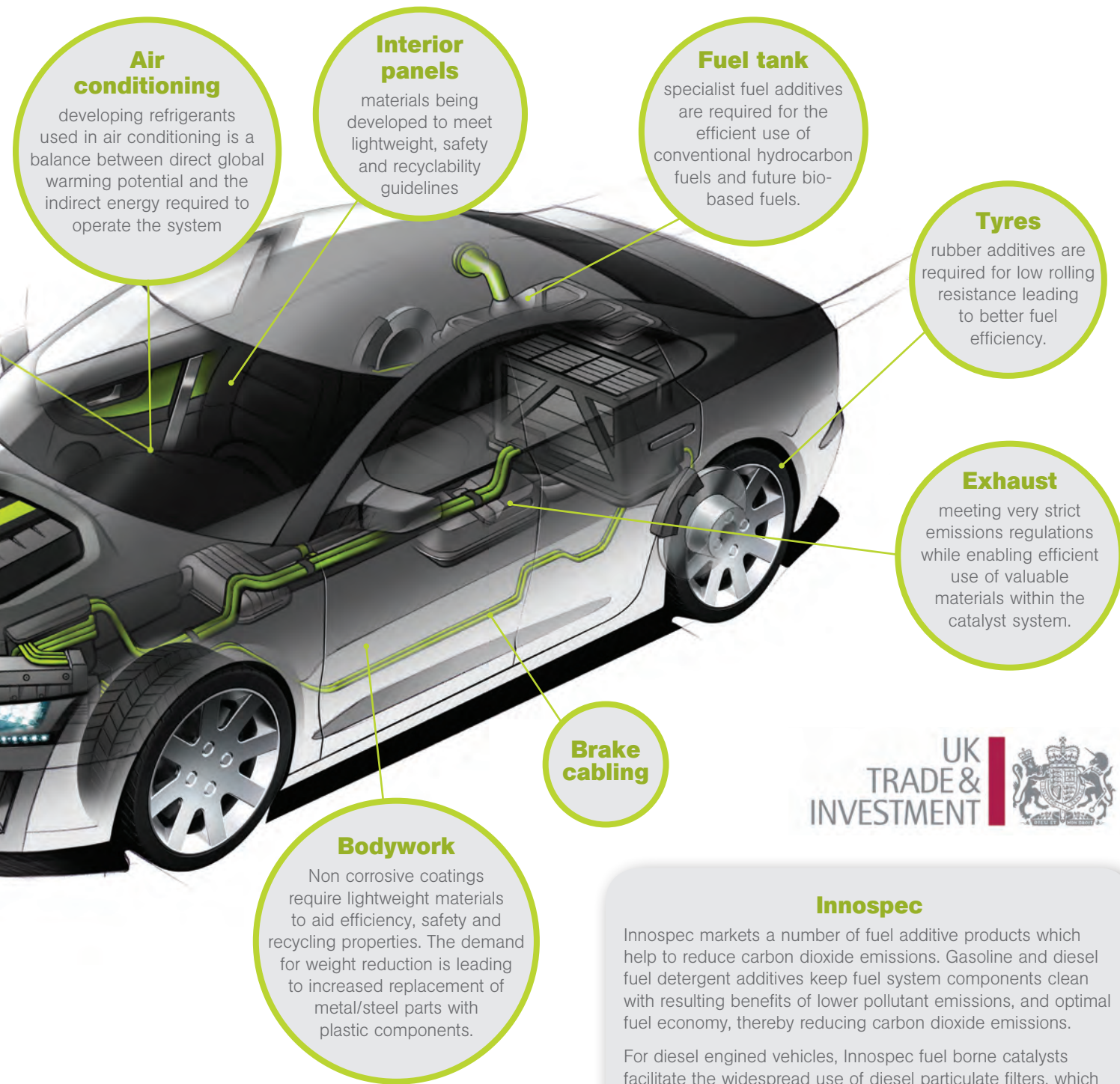


www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk/key_a

Knowledge Centre for

Materials chemistry innovations have broad relevance to the automotive industry including

- Polymer materials and chemistries for incorporation into lightweight composites
- Materials and components for fuel cells
- Storage of energy gases
- Thermoelectric materials for waste heat recycling



Air conditioning

developing refrigerants used in air conditioning is a balance between direct global warming potential and the indirect energy required to operate the system

Interior panels

materials being developed to meet lightweight, safety and recyclability guidelines

Fuel tank

specialist fuel additives are required for the efficient use of conventional hydrocarbon fuels and future bio-based fuels.

Tyres

rubber additives are required for low rolling resistance leading to better fuel efficiency.

Exhaust

meeting very strict emissions regulations while enabling efficient use of valuable materials within the catalyst system.

Brake cabling

Bodywork

Non corrosive coatings require lightweight materials to aid efficiency, safety and recycling properties. The demand for weight reduction is leading to increased replacement of metal/steel parts with plastic components.



Innospec

Innospec markets a number of fuel additive products which help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Gasoline and diesel fuel detergent additives keep fuel system components clean with resulting benefits of lower pollutant emissions, and optimal fuel economy, thereby reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

For diesel engined vehicles, Innospec fuel borne catalysts facilitate the widespread use of diesel particulate filters, which cut black carbon emissions typically by 99%. Black carbon emissions are strongly associated with global warming. Researchers now equate black carbon reduction to significant carbon dioxide savings.

www.innospecinc.com

Mexichem Fluor

Mexichem Fluor is the largest producer of refrigerants for automotive air conditioning in the world and has its R&D headquarters at Runcorn in the North West of England. Mexichem is currently increasing its investment in new products and technologies to develop the next generation of energy efficient low global warming potential refrigerant gases for automotive air conditioning and refrigeration applications.

www.mexichemfluor.com

activities/sustainable-development/car/

Materials Chemistry

- Chemical transformations for utilisation of renewable resource feedstocks in the material supply chain
- Improved catalysts for emissions control

www.materialschemistry.org

For further details and to receive a copy of the full leaflet please contact Alex Heys at alex.veys@chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk

First European Inorganic Chemistry Conference

In April, speakers and delegates representing different strains of inorganic chemistry from across Europe met in Manchester for the first European Inorganic Chemistry Conference.

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and nominated members from its Dalton Division worked alongside the EuChemS Inorganic Group to create an event that showcased work from early career scientists through to leaders in their field.

The programme presented the best work in seven key areas:

Bioinorganic and Metalloenzymes
Energy and Photochemistry
Inorganic Materials
Main Group
Organometallic and Catalysis
Reaction Mechanisms
Supramolecular and Coordination Chemistry

Leif Hammerstrom opened the first session with a presentation on his work on artificial

photosynthesis and its applications to harness solar energy. The second session was led by the RSC's 2010 Frankland Award winner, Sylviane Sabo-Etienne, who presented work on fundamental studies of the organometallic chemistry of hydrides, silanes and sigma-bond metathesis. Paul Beer concluded the first day with his work on anion-templating to interlock host molecules.

The second day continued with Markku Rasanen presenting his latest work on noble gases and Claudio Luchinat explaining how he has exploited the use of various tools in understanding metallo-proteins. Martin Jansen concluded the day with a talk on new oxometallates that exhibit low dimensional charge, spin and orbital ordering.

The last day was opened by Reshef Tenne with his work on inorganic nanotubes and the final sessions were introduced

by Pablo Espinet, describing his work on homogeneous catalysis with metals.

The event was supported by posters from many institutions. The two student poster winners, Danielle Covelli and Sven Hansen, were each awarded a year's subscription to an RSC journal.

The overall event brought together 356 delegates from across Europe and we are pleased to announce that this is set to continue with the second event due to be held in Jerusalem in 2013.



Sustainable Design Workshop – 24th March 2011

Run by C-Tech Innovation in conjunction with Chemicals Northwest, Chemistry Innovation and Environmental Sustainability Knowledge Transfer Networks, this workshop took participants through Chemistry Innovation's Sustainable Design Guide.

The Guide helps companies think big and develop better products. It introduces and explains a suite of tools and principles that help businesses to develop innovative products, processes and services bringing genuine benefits to end users whilst

minimising any negative impact on environment and society. The workbook (each participant received a copy) presents a collection of practical ideas and solutions along with examples of how they have been exploited in many sectors with truly far-reaching success. It provides a structured approach to building sustainability thinking into innovation processes based on current best practice.

The workshop saw 14 companies understand how these principles and tools

could be applied in their organisations through a series of presentations and exercises as well as a worked commercial case study. The workshop also offered the opportunity to consult with experts in this field and network with other businesses striving to capitalise on the opportunities for Sustainable Design.

Following the excellent feedback from this workshop, C-Tech and Chemistry Innovation are now working on a program of future events in partnership with RSC and IChemE.

Unite the Union supports Gold Standard

Unite the Union has a long history of membership within the chemical and allied industries and the Unite membership in this sector now extends across engineering and maintenance, supervisory, scientific, administration, marketing and sales and management grades, with total numbers exceeding 20,000.

Alan McGuckin, Unite Officer, who was part of the negotiating team that took the Gold Standard competency framework to Europe said, "It is very positive that trade unions and employers in the chemical sector have come together on the skills agenda to help businesses and workforces through the global economic crisis and build a platform for sustainable growth.

"The overall picture in the chemicals sector is one of cutbacks in the bulk chemical industry with an increasing concentration in specialty chemical production and the

growth of highly specialised bio-chemical operations.

"Skilled individuals are more important than ever as the industry continues to see a breakup of the old giants with smaller businesses being sold off to, for example, specialty operators who are developing niche markets."

Unite assistant general secretary, Tony Burke, represents both Unite and the TUC on the board of Cogent, added: "The agreement is the first of its type in the chemical industry and only the second across all EU sectors relating to training, education and lifelong learning."

John Holton, Cogent Strategy Development Director is delighted with the new agreement, he said, "The 27 countries of the European Union will initially use the Gold

Standard competency framework for process operators and first line supervisor job roles in the chemical sector, moving onto other roles in due course. This will ensure high levels of competence in a key strategic sector."

Unite is the largest union in the country, and was at the forefront of negotiations in establishing the new Framework Agreement on Education, Training and Lifelong Learning across Europe.

It was also agreed by the European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG) and the European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers' Federation (EMCEF).



Cogent announces training fund to support science sector female workforce development

Cogent, the UK skills council for the science-using industries has announced further funding to support the training and development of 355 female employees across the UK Sector through its Women and Work programme.

Cogent's successful bid into the Employer Investment Fund (EIF) which is managed by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) will mean enhanced career development for those who take part.

The Cogent SSC Women and Work programme is a successful and established initiative for the science-using industries to support the skills development of women, particularly into non-traditional technical roles.

Employers are encouraged to review the skills development needs of their business and where a skills gap or progression opportunity is identified among female staff

they may be eligible for a maximum £600 grant (per person) for their development.

Joanna Woolf, Cogent CEO said: "Research by Cogent shows that women are under-represented across many roles in the Sector. But it doesn't take research to understand that this is a traditionally male-dominated sector – with men making up around 72% of employees.

"The Women and Work project has a real capacity to change lives and perceptions of women in these industries. Importantly it is linked to business objectives with a real focus on adding-value through skills."

Research from UKCES shows that removing barriers to women working in roles traditionally occupied by men, and increasing women's participation in the labour market, could be worth up to £23 billion to the economy.

This is the second year of the programme, with Cogent having already supported 119 women as part



of a pilot programme during 2010 across the polymers, chemical, pharmaceuticals, downstream and nuclear industries.

For further information please contact Julia Bennett on **01925 515 200**



Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus – leading the way forward

Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus is one of two national science and innovation campuses in the UK established in 2006, with a focus to be an internationally-recognised community of science, innovation and enterprise. It is home to over 100 high-tech companies in sectors including biomedical, advanced engineering and materials, digital/ICT/ mobile and renewable energy technologies, covering companies from very early-stage SME businesses to IBM. Daresbury Laboratory, part of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), and the Cockcroft Institute, (the National Centre for Accelerator Science) are also located on the Campus.

The long-term development of the Campus is now managed through a private-public joint venture comprising STFC, Langtree, North West Regional Development Agency and Halton Borough Council. This partnership paves the way for the delivery of around 1 million square foot of space for science and innovation facilities, high-tech businesses and supporting infrastructure, bringing more than 6,000 new jobs to the area over the next 20 years.

The next phase will be the opening of Vanguard House in summer 2011 offering high quality office, laboratory, workshop, and meeting room space. Vanguard House will provide accommodation for the rapidly expanding companies on Campus as

well as a suitable home for larger, more established high-tech businesses, looking to access the wider Campus and its facilities.

The Innovations Technology Access Centre is one of these key facilities. Managed by STFC, I-TAC provides businesses and researchers with affordable and flexible access to laboratory facilities and £3m of cutting edge scientific equipment that had previously only been readily available to academic researchers and large budget companies.

Through working at I-TAC, companies such as Butters Innovation, BiSN Technologies Ltd and TopCat Research have benefitted from support in identifying and achieving funding opportunities. I-TAC's unique combination of scientific and business amenities has already led to regional and national recognition, including being shortlisted for the Chemicals Northwest Awards last year.

There are many Daresbury Campus companies that have relevant technologies and capabilities for the chemicals sector. This includes companies such as Arcis Biotechnology and Byotrol, who pioneer new anti-microbial technologies, and DCN Corporation,



specialising in nanotechnology. Arcis Biotechnology and Byotrol have a growing presence in I-TAC.

Process control and optimisation is important to the chemicals industry and Daresbury companies such as Perceptive Engineering, Peak 42 and DSoft Solutions bring great expertise and technology to this area.

Daresbury SIC also has a wealth of expertise in instrumentation technologies from the sensor and detector capabilities at STFC, to companies such as Instrument Science and Quantum Detectors who supply leading-edge equipment in areas such as mass spectrometry and material detection.



**Daresbury Science
& Innovation
Campus**

Printed Electronics Centres of Excellence (PECoE) Clinic. May 5th – The Heath, Runcorn



PECoE is the Printed Electronics Centre of Excellence: members of the group are WCPC, CIKC, OMIC, PETEC and CPE with PPE KC acting as the hub.

Following the very successful “Chemicals and Materials for Printed Electronics” event on 19th January, jointly organized by ESP KTN, Chemicals Northwest, Knowledge Centre for Materials Chemistry and UKTI. Analysis of delegate feedback indicated a strong desire for a follow-up event – hence the “PECoE Clinic” on 5th May.

Experts from each of the CoE's attended the clinic and met on a 1-2-1 basis with companies and organisations looking to engage with and/or be part of the emerging Plastic Electronics industry. This helped support the companies attending and also raised the profile of PECoE, allowing the individual Centres of Excellence to present a united single face to the industry. A key part of the project was the preparation by IDTechEX of a number of “value chain” scenarios.

Feedback from nearly 40 attendees is still ongoing as the event only took place a few weeks ago, but comments so far indicate it was a very well received new format.

Dr Mike Cowin of Smartkem Ltd indicates that the 1-to-1 sessions, were a great idea,

saying “I think this format is the way forward – well done – it eliminates the feel of “talking shops” opens up the opportunity to get organised feedback on technology, opportunity etc and because it is one to one, the expert can offer an undiluted (honest) opinion on technology and/or company without having to be too concerned about diplomacy (as they would if it were an open forum and questions from the floor)”. Mike will continue to support the excellent work ESPKTN does.



Stuart Green of Victrex said “The event was a useful way to network in a short period of time with key UK players in this industry. I thought the format of using an appointment system and separate meeting rooms was a great idea to extract maximum benefit from the day. Having a guest speaker to start things off was useful opener. The location and lunch arrangements were perfect. I have followed up with those that I met on the day and we are continuing helpful discussions.”

Tino Triste said “Thanks for organising this event. I've managed to network with a number of people from different levels

in the value chain, which was very good. It was also good to have a feel for the potential audience of the Plastic Electronics community”.

Mike Cowin said “The 1-2-1 was ok. However, I had the impression that the help is to a certain extent biased in favour of giant corporations. But overall was helpful”.

Marie-Beatrice Madec of Solvay Interco commented “Thanks again for the event it was really interesting for industrial to meet with all the CoE's and understand how we can work together. I hope there are more like this to come”.



A Chemical Breakfast

After the extremely positive feedback we received from our member survey which was sent out in February, we decided to launch a series of breakfast networking events. The inaugural event took place at the Heath on the 18th May.

The event attracted nearly 50 people from the chemical industry whose main focus was to meet like minded people and network over a bacon roll! We included three short, snappy talks at the event including a round up from Sarah Galbraith of the Galbraith Muir Consultancy on the importance of networking and how the chemical industry can benefit from it. Neil Lancaster from SOG gave a short speech on changes taking place at The Heath to encourage more people to use it as a drop in hub. Neil also briefly described the 'Deal with It'[®] behavioural safety programme, produced by SOG.

The event was a great success and to build on this we have arranged a second event for 20th July which will be held at the Heath. There will be a small charge of £10 to cover costs for those who are not members of Chemicals Northwest. Please pass on the word to friends and colleagues and let's build on this initial event to get Chemicals Northwest's breakfasts events the talk of the industry for meeting people.

To reserve your place on the 20th July event please go to the events page on our website – www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk/events/cnw/

New Look for the Chemicals Northwest Newsletter

As of autumn 2011 we will be launching a new look to the Chemicals Northwest newsletter.

The newsletter will still contain all the interesting features which our readers enjoy – news, member spotlight, skills, innovation, sustainable development, image and events round up but it will have an exciting new feel and layout. The circulation will remain the same for the time being so please feel free to use the newsletter as a promotional tool for yourselves and the industry.

If any of our member companies have any interesting articles, success stories or case studies around the themes below that you feel would be of interest to the industry then please contact Alex at alex.heys@chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk to organise a feature in a future edition of the newsletter.

Skills

Are you improving your workforce skills or working with education to plug the skills gap? Have you taken on one of the placement students that we have emailed around and would

you like to share your experience of this?

Innovation

How are you innovating in your business and what is the impact?

Sustainable Development

What methods are you undertaking to improve the sustainability of your business (e.g. waste reduction, recycling, resource efficiency, process efficiency etc)?

Image

Are you working with schools or community groups to improve the image of the industry? Have you won any awards or presented at events?

For those of you who read the newsletter and would like to be more involved but are not yet members of Chemicals Northwest, please see the updated member prices on page 16 and come and join our growing network.

We are also interested in hearing from businesses who would be interested in either advertising within the newsletter or acting as a sponsor for a specific edition. This is clearly a step change from what we have done before but it gives further opportunity for businesses to promote their products and services whilst helping CNW maintain the standard of our newsletter without detracting from the content and information.

Individual Membership (one person business) £140 + VAT

- Free/reduced entry to Chemical Elements – the monthly industry networking event.
- Free website profile to promote your business.
- Feature opportunities in the quarterly Chemical Northwest newsletter.
- Free entry into the annual Chemicals Northwest Sector Directory.
- Support and assistance with regulation and other legislative issues
- Discounted ticket for the Chemicals Northwest Awards Dinner.

Micro – Corporate Membership (2 – 9 employees) *£250 + VAT

**we will hold the price for current members, in 2011/12, at the new individual rate of £140*

As Individual membership +

- Free multiple-entry to Chemical Elements – the monthly industry networking event.
- Free exhibition opportunities at Chemical Elements.
- Speaker opportunities at Chemicals Northwest and other industry events.
- Discounted ticket/s for the Chemicals Northwest Awards Dinner.

Standard Corporate Membership (10+ employees) £490 + VAT

As other categories +

- Discounted rates to attend the Royal Society of Chemistry's Essential Skills Management courses.
- Access to the Chemicals Northwest Buyers' Club on a no savings, no fee basis.
- Discounts and special rates for professional services, such as recruitment and insurance.
- Discounted ticket/s for the Chemicals Northwest Awards Dinner.

Once your application is complete, your membership certificate will be issued and you can benefit from being part of the community of chemistry-using industries in the North West.

For a comprehensive list of member benefits* or to join us, visit:
www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk/membership or call **01928 515678**.

**Please note that some benefits are date specific and may not be applicable to companies joining throughout the year.*

Benchmarking Business Excellence

Following on from the article in the spring edition of the CNW newsletter on the Chemicals Northwest "Process Innogateway" programme, CNW ran a Benchmarking Business Excellence dissemination event which followed on from the programme. The event took place on 10th March at the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre in Widnes and was attended by over 60 delegates.

The programme which was run by Chemicals Northwest with funding from the Northwest Regional Development Agency, was to allow CNW to work with seven manufacturing sites across the region to test a methodology for assessing a company's performance, benchmarking it against UK and world class chemical sector standards, establishing interventions for improvement and identifying shared opportunities for companies aiding each other.

The Benchmarking Business Excellence event shared best practice and learning



from some of the companies involved in the programme: Akcros Chemicals, Innospec, Innovia Films, PQ Corporation, RS Clare, Springfields Fuels, and William Blythe.

Feedback we had from the event was excellent with comments such as "Excellent event, very good speakers" and "Concise, good delegates, interesting location – Thanks!"

A copy of the summary report which was produced in conjunction with the programme is available to stakeholders, those who were involved in the "Process Innogateway" project and other interested groups on request to CNW.

Employment Law Updates event

On 12th May we held our 99th Chemical Elements at the Heath in Runcorn; the topic was themed on latest employment law updates.

Kate Dodd from Eversheds LLP started the event off with a presentation on the changes to retirement age and age discrimination that can happen as a result of this. Simon Ost from Squire, Sanders and Hammonds LLP presented on family friendly policies and the changes to paternity leave arrangements that came into effect for those parents who have babies due on or after 3 April 2011. Dean Murray from Dickinson Dees LLP spoke about preparing for the Bribery Act and how this can affect companies and individuals.

This chemical elements was more of an interactive event around a u- shaped room setting, to encourage questions and discussions to take place. We had a very positive response to the event with comments being used on the feedback forms like "Interesting subject as all have an impact on business in difficult times" and "Excellent with chance to question".

EVENTS CALENDAR

July 2011 onwards

CE:101 Innovation & funding event
(title TBC) with site tour
Date: 14th July 2011
Venue: ITAC – Daresbury

Breakfast networking event
Date: 20th July 2011
Venue: Heath Business Park

Waste & Water Management event in conjunction with NISP
Date: 15th September 2011
Venue: Heath Business Park

Breakfast networking event
Date: 29th September 2011
Venue: Heath Business Park

For more information, visit
www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk
or call **01928 515678**

Please join us for our next special Chemical Elements event on Innovation on 14th July.