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BROOKS FORGINGS

THE NON STANDARD SPECIALISTS



FORGING, BENDING AND FABRICATION SERVICES OVER 20 MANUFACTURING PROCESSES



Robot Forging



Upset Forging



Drop Forging



Counterblow Forging



Open Die Forging



Hand Forging



Hot & Cold Bending



Hot & Cold Pressing



Swaging & Pointing



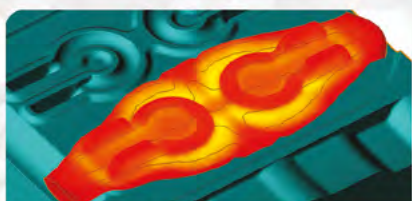
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Flash Butt Welding



Forging Simulation



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Warehousing



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Front cover image courtesy of CBM Dinner and Awards

up and coming events

Health, Safety & Environment Group Meeting

16 May, 9.30am National Metalforming Centre, 47 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich, B70 6PY

Subcon

7 & 8th June 2023, NEC Birmingham

Manufacturing and Engineering week:

7th - 8th June, NEC Birmingham.

UK Metals Expo

13 & 14 September, NEC Birmingham

Metallurgy for Non-Metalurgists Course:

18 & 19 October, 9.30-1pm each day Online Via Zoom

Advanced Engineering:

1st -2nd November, NEC Birmingham

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Government 'Ostrich' Policy is Leaving Manufacturing in Peril

There is an idiom that an 'Ostrich' hides its head in the sand and is used for describing someone who foolishly ignores a problem in the hope that it will go away. Well, I think that describes our Governments policy for Manufacturing or should I say the total lack of one. Of course, their rhetoric will say that they are giving our sector lots of support but in reality, will all know it amounts to very little or in the majority of cases nothing at all.

Do not mistake this for a political anti-government rant, I am just a realist and see the dissatisfaction, and in some cases, even disdain for the lack of support for Manufacturing, but even more so the total disregard with which it is held. I think back to the CBI Conference in Birmingham last year, with our Prime Minister Rishi Sunak giving his maiden speech as PM in this Industrial heart land and not once did he mention the word 'manufacturing.' Successive budgets under Jeremy Hunt have just hindered Manufacturing through lack of investment, reduction in R&D Tax Credits and removal of the Energy Business Relief Scheme which was replaced by the Energy Bills Discount Scheme, which in reality offers very little support to our members.

I applaud Make UK's launch of a request for an 'Industrial Strategy – A Manufacturing Ambition'. It states Britain's manufacturers are calling for the establishment of a Royal Commission as a starting point to develop a long term, modern Industrial Strategy which would help provide companies with a vision and a stable environment to invest, access talent and grow their business.

Three of their key findings underpin my open statements:

- > Majority of companies believe there has never been a long-term Government vision for manufacturing
- > As a result, companies say lack of an industrial strategy hinders their ability to access skills and puts them at a competitive disadvantage compared to other Nations
- > Manufacturers believe an industrial strategy would provide long term vision, a stable environment and accountability

Whilst I support this Industrial Strategy it reminds me of an architects drawing for a building and even though it looks great on paper it will be a long time before we see anything worthwhile.

Most of our members would whole heartedly support this call but there is fundamental need for basic support right now with key concerns being addressed immediately.

Energy Support

Since my last Presidents review CBM have launched our biggest media campaign yet,

with extensive coverage across National and Local Media both TV and Press with additional coverage in over 30 trade publications.

This followed our attendance of West Midlands Mayor, Andy Street's Energy Summit. Andy has been instrumental in supporting business and in particular manufacturing on this issue, he has taken the time to understand it and not 'bury his head in the sand'.

We also wrote to the Chancellor and two Secretary of States (Business and Energy), although we had replies fairly promptly, they all stated the party line and were of no support. Andy had the same response and took the government to task through a media campaign

In order to follow up with support for Andy's media release the CBM will be doing the following:

- > We have completed a survey of CBM members on their current status and impact of EBRS removal.
- > We are currently formulating a response to take to a meeting with Kemi Badenoch's Special Advisor and Trade department officials; the only positive point from our letters.
- > Further investigate OFGEM, our initial investigations show they are not 'fit for purpose' to support business.
- > Launch a follow up media campaign to highlight Government's lack of support and their insistence that OFGEM is a route towards a solution, when we know it clearly isn't

EV Strategy

Andy Street continues to battle for a Gigafactory at the Coventry Airport site, where again he is leading from the front. Jeremy Hunt has visited the site in the last week and has since said 'watch this space' regarding an announcement.

With SMMT and Stellantis firing warning shots he needs to make that announcement quickly and at the same time ensure that potential trading barriers on Rules of Origin, that come in force at end of this year, are permanently removed, if he doesn't it will be the single biggest blow to the UK Automotive sector in living memory.



• Steve Morley,
CBM President

Manufacturing Minister

A Minister for manufacturing, how simple could it be for the government to appoint a Minister to support Manufacturing, someone who understands the industry and is a gateway for SME's to access government?

A persistent campaign on LinkedIn admirably led by Andrea Wilson and supported by CBM Board member's Chris Greenough and Steve Hardeman and numerous business leaders across the manufacturing sector, continues to fall on deaf ears, yet another example of this government burying its head in the sand. You have to question why when it's such an easy win!!

Final Thought

So we battle on, though you have to ask why should it be a battle, especially when you are working in a sector that has such a large contribution to GDP and employs so many people not only in its supply chain but in associated industries. It has above average well-paid jobs that allows those employed to support the wider economy. If the government took their head out of the sand, they might see this, if they do not they may instead of being an Ostrich will resemble a dodo.

Steve Morley
President of the Confederation of British Metalforming



Climate Change Levy Tax Rebates

Open to New Entrants

Did you know that CBM saves its members over £4m per year by not paying the full Climate Change Levy Tax on their energy bills?

You can now benefit from joining the CBM Climate Change Agreement with applications for entry open to New Entrants from 1st May to 30th September 2023

The government have recently announced that they will be allowing new entrant facilities to join the climate change agreement scheme for a limited period this year. Companies will be able to apply from the 1st May 2023 and submissions must be completed by the 30th September this year. Facilities which make a successful application to join will be eligible to claim the reduced rates of CCL from 1 January 2024. The CBM can do all of the work needed to make a successful application, so if you think you may be eligible to join the climate change agreement scheme please contact louise.campbell@thebcm.co.uk for more information, or to receive a copy of the CBM eligibility criteria.

NMC OFFER

*This Summer
special offers
available using
code NMC2023*



The NMC is COVID-19 compliant so the next time you're planning a meeting, exhibition, training session or seminar, take the pressure off your own office space and give attendees something special with our discount room hire.

To learn more and enquire about dates, call Marie Williams on 0121 601 6350 or email reception@nmcvenue.com. For more information visit website NMCvenue.com



The NMC Venue, home to CBM ticks all of the boxes for a great place to meet.

- Convenient West Midlands location just 200 yards from Junction 1 of the M5
- Free and secure parking
- Spaces that work well for hosting meetings for up to 120 people.
- Free Wi-Fi for all attendees
- Free unlimited tea & coffee
- Out-of-hours availability – so you can hold meetings early in the morning, into the evening and at weekends
- Catering from renowned providers, with a range of options to meet your needs

**SPECIAL 10% DISCOUNT FOR
CBM MEMBERS ON MEETING
ROOM HIRE**



just mention you're a member of the CBM to claim your discount. Information correct at the time of printing



The UK's only specialist manufacturers' organisation for experts in metalforming

Why Join the CBM

You get valuable influence, business support, technical expertise and market insight as a CBM member.

Lobbying & Promotion

Get your voice heard within Government and the wider manufacturing industry

- Benefit from our active lobbying support, which has played a key role as post-brexit trade negotiations accelerate and business conditions continue to be challenging.
- We collaborate with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) on a weekly basis, covering issues ranging from Rules of Origin, electricity prices, Steel Safeguarding, labour and skills to name but a few.
- Our mission is to represent UK in those industry discussions – and help you access opportunities through collaboration with a broad stakeholder group.

Compliance & Cost Management

Save money through your CBM membership

- As a CBM member, you get access to a range of practical services that save money and make operations easier.
- Our accredited energy tax rebate service is a key benefit – it's saved members £4 million+ annually in Climate Change Levy Tax on their energy bills.
- You can boost your savings with our cost-effective Streamlined Energy & Carbon Reporting compliance service and Energy Saving Opportunity Scheme assessments – as well as discounted meeting room hire, our free business support helpline and more.

Marketing & Business Development Support

- Build relationships and develop opportunities
- CBM members come from across the supply chain – and work across automotive, aerospace, rail, defence, energy and Construction. We help you build relationships with potential customers and partners.
- You can also use our platform to promote your business – in Metal Matters magazine, at industry events and among our growing social media audience. Our popular website directory and Buyers' Guide is a popular way to get noticed by supply chain managers.

Technical Support

Leverage expert knowledge of metalforming techniques

- Whether you have a problem or want advice on a new process, our sector specialists are here to help. With your CBM membership, technical support is quick and cost-effective.
- Over 130 years' experience with our Sector Specialists who cover Forging, Fastening, Press work and Sheet Metal

Innovation & Knowledge Sharing

Keep your business on the front foot

- CBM events give you opportunities to share knowledge and best practice. Thanks to member days, sector group meetings, monthly market reports and more, it's easy to learn about developments that will help your business.
- Through your membership, you also benefit from our established links with universities and innovation hubs like Warwick Manufacturing Group, Advanced Forming Research Centre, Imperial College and Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre.

Training & Skills Development

Fill skills gaps and boost retention

- We offer training opportunities for technical and non-technical roles, so you can fill gaps in your business.
- In response to CBM member feedback, a level 6 Apprenticeship (degree level) programme was developed by the CBMs Trailblazer group.
- The level 6 Tool Process Design Engineer Apprenticeship was specifically created for the metal forming sector in recognition of increasing skills shortages. It is the only Apprenticeship that recognises the unique and specialist skills for this senior technical role. This apprenticeship is available to enrol on now.

Health & Safety

- Our popular Health & Safety Group meetings provide a vital forum for sharing successes and getting advice on overcoming challenges.
- You have access to our HSE helpline, as well as discounted private healthcare and occupational health services.

NEW HR Support

- Exclusive access to a CBM dedicated website
- Designated Client Relationship Manager
- Discounted rates for litigated matters in any Employment tribunal

CBM membership pays for itself thanks to the opportunities, access and cost management benefits you receive. Contact us to discuss your business needs and the best membership

**CONTACT CBM NOW ON
0121 601 6350 or
email Melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk**

PROUD
MEMBER
OF



Media Coverage - CBM in the News

The voice of Metalforming in the media has never been louder for our members. We will continue to engage with Government to raise your issues

11/01/2023
CBM PRESS RELEASE ON BUSINESS ENERGY SUPPORT
 Stephen Morley, President of the Confederation of British Metalforming, the leading trade association for UK manufacturers of fasteners, forgings and pressings, cold-rolled and sheet-metal products, said: "A lot has already been written about yesterday's announcement, but the CBM wants to draw attention to the Government's fixation on giving additional support to Energy Intensive Industries (EII) at the expense of other heavy energy users whose costs are relative to EII's as a percentage of their turnover."



Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM) reposted this.



Stephen Morley • 1st

President at Confederation of British Metalforming
 1mo • 0

Thanks to Chris Greenough and the SMEFOCUS team for giving me the opportunity to speak about the CBM and the support we give our members, especially SME's but just as UK Manufacturing as a whole.

#chrisgreenough #cbm #cbi #ukmfg #ukmanufacturing #smmt #makeUK #industryforum #croweuk #ey #geraldinebolton #stevehardeman #jonathandudley #chrisgreenough #rowancrozier #markwebber #mikehawes #TonyDanker #LiamHalligan #Jameshemphill #danhurd #garethhiggins #markwebber #grantadams #chrisprior #anthonybrown #benmcivor #philmatton #garethjones #stephenlittlechild #andrewwilson #markweymouth #BenHiggins #chrisocroft #russcockburn #garethjones #stuartblackett #ElliotDudleyToole #mikegilllett #rachelgranville #tammyinglis #paulwhitehouse #davidwoakes #SupportUKMfg #ukmanufacturing #shoutaboutukmfg #SMEFocus



GB News
 @GBNEWS

With the start of the tax year, many manufacturers will pay higher corporation tax. Government help with firms' sky-high energy bills also just ended, which industry bosses say could lead to widespread factory closures.

@Liam_Halligan reports.



12:55 PM • Apr 4, 2023 • 44.7K Views



Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM)

1,555 followers
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Stephen Morley • 1st

President at Confederation of British Metalforming
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CBM continuing to highlight the threat to manufacturing with two of our SME members CLEVEDON FASTENERS LIMITED and TINSLEY BRIDGE LIMITED

stating their respective cases on one impact of the EBRs ending and the lack of support from the new scheme.

As I have always said it's a Sector wide issue as the full article clearly shows.

The rhetoric from the government really is appalling, they are only standing by a few and not the many !!

Mark Webber Steve Hardeman Geraldine Bolton Pam Murrell Rachel Eade MBE Rachael Bromley Rachel Graville Tammy Inglis Stuart Gregory Ben McIvor Ben Higgins Andy Street Matthew Rhodes Christopher Greenough Sarah Moorhouse BA (Hons) MCIM MCIPR Adrian Hanrahan MBA Corin Crane Natasha Green Stokes Richard Blackmore Richard Aylmore Garrett Bell Rowan Crozier Gareth Higgins MBE Gareth Jones Nick Thomas Stuart McSheehy Les Wilkins Michael Gillett Lorence Nye Steve Tinley Tina Abbott Liam Halligan Tony Danker Mike Hawes Johnathan Dudley Paul Whitehouse Peter Gallone BSc Brian Haigney Mark Weymouth

#manufacturinguk #supportukmfg #supplychains



GB News
 @GBNEWS

'This is very serious. If we start to fragment the supply chain, then our automotive sector will fall down.'

President of the Confederation of British Metalforming, Stephen Morley, speaks to @LiamHalligan about the scheme for non-domestic energy customers coming to an end.

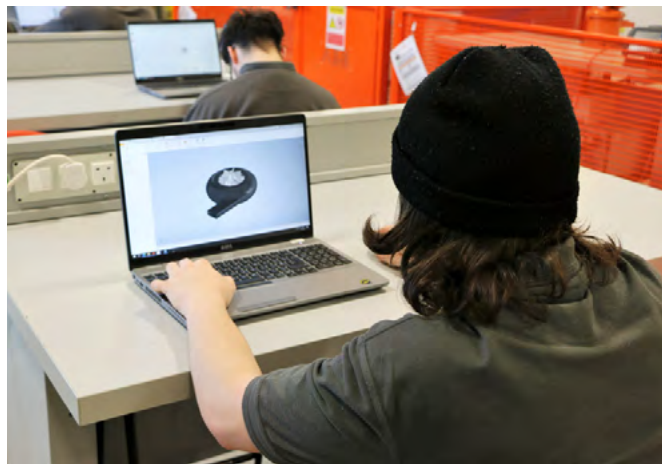


12:09 PM • Mar 31, 2023 • 13.4K Views

Degree Apprenticeship as a Tool Process Engineer, You can sign up now for a start date in September 2023



You can now do a Degree Apprenticeship as a Tool Process Engineer, AMRC Training Centre's apprenticeship is a first The University of Sheffield AMRC Training Centre has become the first provider of its kind to deliver a degree apprenticeship for the Tool Process Design Engineer standard, which has been developed to meet the direct needs of the members of the Confederation of British Metalforming.



The apprenticeship you can now enrol on to start at the AMRC Training Centre this September 2023 and employers can take advantage of the end-to-end recruitment service the training centre offers to help find the right apprentice for their company, or look to upskill existing members of staff.

Further information about undertaking a degree apprenticeship at the AMRC Training Centre is available via: <https://amrctraining.co.uk/apprenticeships/degreeapprenticeships-level-6> or you can contact CBM directly and we will help you from there info@thecbm.co.uk



ENERGY SAVINGS OPPORTUNITY SCHEME (ESOS) PHASE 3 COMPLIANCE HAS STARTED AND NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED EARLY DECEMBER.

DONT MISS THE DEADLINE!

Confederation of British Metalforming is here to guide your company through the audit process with our expert knowledge of your sector. We have an engineer, who is knowledgeable in your sector who carries out the audits.

The legislation means all qualifying organisations have to prepare **mandatory energy audits** and if you know you will qualify for Phase 3 there is no reason why you shouldn't start doing your energy assessments now.

The audits identify cost-effective measures to cut energy spending, and phase 3 of the audits must be signed off by a registered assessor and submitted to the Environment Agency by December 5th 2023.

All companies with at least one of their UK group members with 250 employees or more, turnover above 44m euros, or a balance sheet value above 38m euros will be affected, which is likely to be more than 9,000 enterprises across the UK, and will affect 40+ CBM members. Please remember this is based on your organisation group structure. The scheme covers all power and fuel used by a company for industrial processes, building and transport.

Phase 1 and 2 has taught us that detailing all energy uses throughout a large business, and calculating means of reducing costs can be complex and time consuming, so enlist services of CBM. Contact Louise Campbell email louise.campbell@thebcm.co.uk



Is your business **COMPLIANT?**

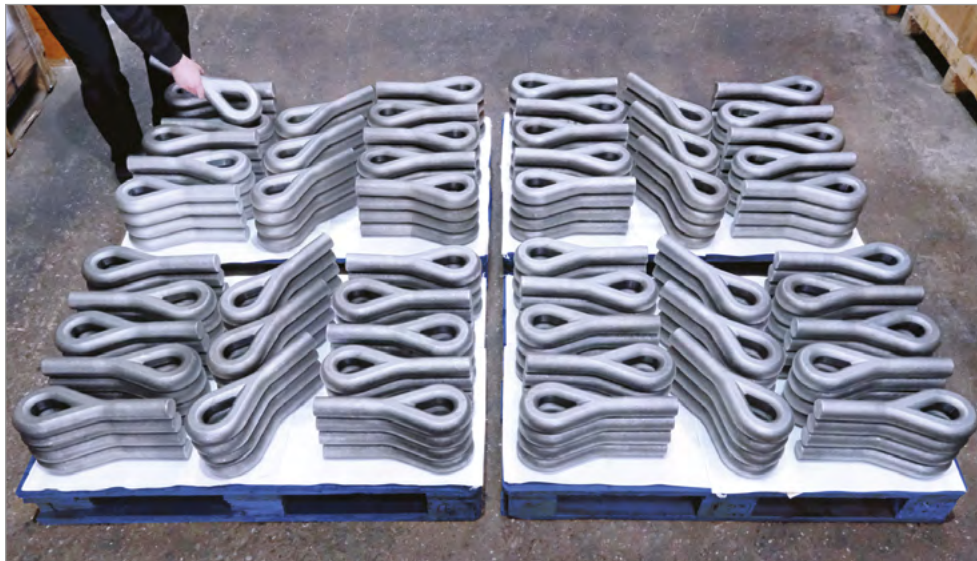
Stay up-to-date with April's employment law changes.

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Brooks Forgings Produce Critical Forged Components For Historical Union Chain Bridge Restoration Project

Brooks Forgings were approached to take part in the Union Chain Suspension Bridge refurbishment project, focusing on the manufacture of replacement chain rod ends and various supporting walkway components.



550 replacement chain rod ends were drop forged, machined, and supplied by Brooks Forgings.



Assembled chain rods span the River Tweed.

The Union Chain Bridge located in Northumberland spans the river Tweed connecting the Scottish and English borders. Designed by Sir Samuel Brown, the bridge opened in 1820 and was the world's longest wrought iron construction suspension bridge spanning 137 meters and the first vehicular bridge of its type in the United Kingdom. The Union Chain Bridge is said to be the main influencer in bridge innovation and design which is reflected in the later-constructed Clifton and Menai suspension bridges.



Exploded view of the chain rod and hanger assembly.



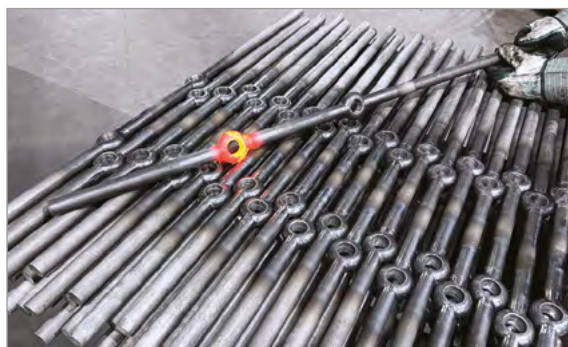
The contractor welded the forged chain rod ends to solid bar in various lengths.

In 2020, essential works were required to preserve the 200-year-old bridge as many of the original critical components had started to deteriorate and show signs of fatigue. The Spencer Group was appointed the project by Northumberland County Council to dismantle, replace, refurbish (where possible), and fully rebuild the bridge to mark its bicentenary.

A total of 550 replacement chain rod ends were drop forged, machined, and supplied by Brooks Forgings enabling the replacement of 275 chain rods from the original 444 used in the construction. The chain rods are joined together to span the length of the bridge on both sides and are the key structural element in its design.

Along each side of the bridge are walkways that are constructed using decorative wrought iron handrail components. Brooks was able to produce a one-piece forged design remaining faithful to the original method of production.

The Brooks Engineering Group can assist with the production of critical forged components in support of historical bridge preservation or the construction of new modern engineering projects. Please get in touch with our team of experts who will be happy to assist with your specific requirements.



Hot forged one-piece handrail posts were produced for the project.



Replacement hot forged and machined handrail clamps.

tel: +44 (0)1384 563356 email: sales@brooksforgings.co.uk

Striking a hammer blow for metals recycling

Footprint Tools – one of the leading manufacturers of traditional hand tools in the UK – is at the heart of a research project that could see Sheffield spark a recycling revolution in industrial forging that unlocks a step change in the manufacture of safety critical components for the aerospace, defence and energy sectors using machining waste and state-of-the-art linear hammer technology.

The Sheffield-based business with 12 employees and two robots traces its roots back to the 1760s but has always had its eyes firmly focused on the future. This week it unveiled the latest addition to its Admiral Works shopfloor: a £1.4 million state-of-the-art Schuler precision linear forge, the only one of its kind in the UK and one of only three in Europe.

As the centrepiece of an R&D partnership between the small family firm and two world-leading research institutions – The Henry Royce Institute (Royce) and the University of Strathclyde's Advanced Forming Research Centre (AFRC), part of the National Manufacturing Institute Scotland Group – the equipment will help consolidate Sheffield and the UK's lead in advanced forging manufacture.

Following a packed gathering of the AFRC's Forging and Forming Forum, where the R&D venture was announced, Royce Professor Martin Jackson said he was delighted that the Servo technology hammer, initially destined for Manchester, had found a home in Sheffield, the hub of the UK's forging and forming industry.

Professor Jackson added: "This raises forging technology to a completely new level. Our job at Royce and the AFRC is to take the knowledge we unlock from this R&D collaboration and roll it out to forging companies across the country, especially in the use of recycled machining waste such as titanium.

"Sheffield has more titanium waste than anywhere in the UK, yet we put it into the ferro-titanium as an alloy addition. It is too good of a material to do that. That's why Sheffield is leading the way in a forging revolution around recycling, putting us at the forefront of rapid near-net shaping from recycled materials. We are well ahead of China and the United States, and this should enable us to extend that lead.

"Within a two-mile radius of where we are standing today, we can take waste material, rapidly consolidate it and forge it into near net shape parts that are not only made from recycled material but have properties far superior to other primary materials. Sheffield should be proud of that."

The Head of Operations at the Advanced Forming Research Centre (AFRC), Dr Alastair Conway, said: "We are delighted to have helped create this unique research partnership. We have so much to learn from the Footprint Tools team and so much to gain from our collaborative research with Martin and his team at Royce as we take research out of academic institutions into the real world.

The accuracy of the linear hammer could help us create a step-change in the production of safety critical components in aerospace and related industries that have previously been nervous of hammer technology and the black arts often associated with its use."



Richard Jewitt, Director of Footprint Tools said: "This is a big moment for a small company like us and for small and medium sized forgers across Sheffield and South Yorkshire. It gives our sector access to world-class equipment and world class R&D talents in two brilliant research teams. For firms like us in the region, this is an opportunity to develop more accurate and consistent processes, which could lead to more manufacturing reshoring and open new product export markets. There is a real sense of pride and excitement on the shopfloor that we are the home of this incredible venture."

Dr Conway added: "People mistakenly think of forging as a technology of the past. It's not. It's a technology of the future. Next time you fly off on holiday, remember the two most important processes in aircraft manufacture are forging and machining. To generate the key properties in aero-structural and air engine material you need to forge. This is a huge opportunity for Sheffield to strike a hammer blow for the use of recycled materials in some of the biggest markets on the planet that need decarbonising."



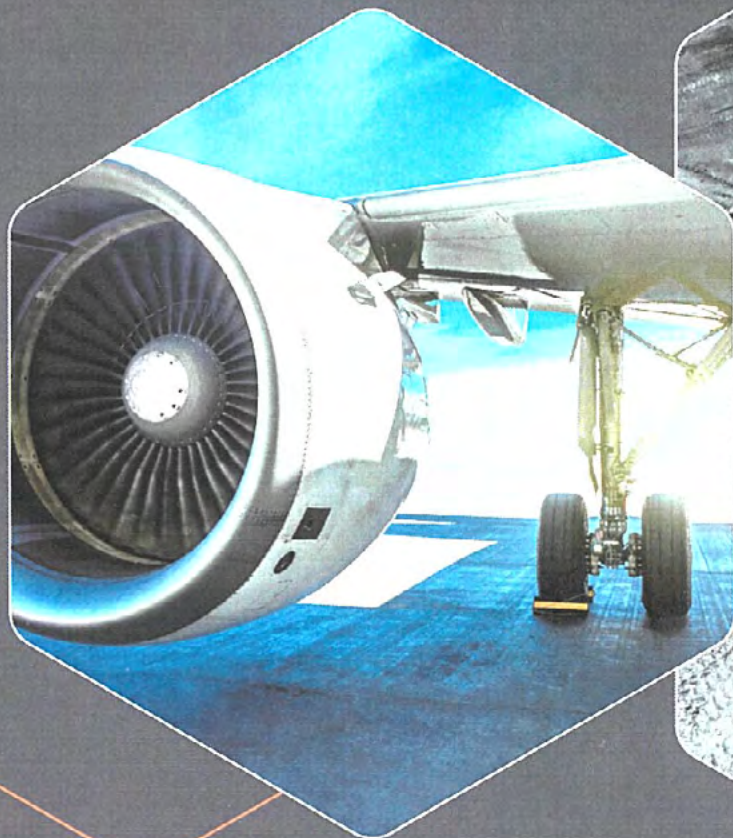
NMIS
National Manufacturing
Institute Scotland

**Advanced Forming
Research Centre**
University of Strathclyde

The AFRC is a globally recognised centre of excellence in innovative forging and forming technologies and is based near Glasgow Airport with an outreach office in Sheffield's Olympic Legacy Park. It is part of the UK's High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Catapult.



**FORGED
SOLUTIONS**
GROUP



Forged Solutions Group provides high integrity forgings for the world's most demanding applications.

From aerospace and energy production, to underground mining and off-highway vehicles, we have forged solutions for advanced manufacturing industries for more than 100 years.

Capabilities

- Extrusions
- Forged Rings
- Closed & Open Die Forgings
- In House Design
- Testing
- Complimentary Capabilities

Markets

- Aerospace
- Mining
- Off Highway
- Defence
- Oil and Gas
- Energy



www.ForgedSolutionsGroup.com

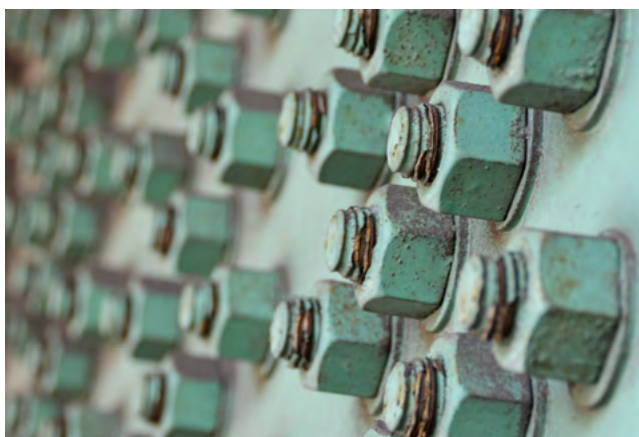
Tightening a bolt past its yield point

Here Dr Bill Eccles, from Bolt Science, looks at why, when some bolts are deliberately tightened past their yield point, they don't come loose when an external load is subsequently applied.

When a bolt is tightened into its plastic region, yielding is the result of the combined effects of both tensile/axial stress and the torsional stress exceeding the yield point of bolt material. The tensile/axial stress is the result of the extension/stretching of the bolt and the torsional stress as a result of the thread friction and stretch torque acting on the thread. When the joint sustains an external loading, there are two effects that allow the bolt to be axially loaded without sustaining further plastic deformation:



Firstly, a significant proportion of the torsion in the bolt, typically 50% or so, disappears as soon as the tightening operation is concluded. There is a change in the torque reaction within the fastener. For example, if the nut is tightened, there will be a torsion acting down the shank being driven from the socket and reacted at the bolt head. When the socket is removed, the torsion is then reacted between the nut face and the bolt head with it being reduced by 50% or so. The remaining torsion is thought normally to disappear as a result of embedding/relaxation losses.



Secondly, a new yield point forms at the point on the strain curve that the bolt had been tightened to. This effect is referred to as the Bauschinger effect (more details on this effect is available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bauschinger_effect).

The net result of these two effects discussed above is that even with the bolt tightened plastically it will perform elastically when external loads are applied to the joint. Obviously there are limits to



of different materials subjected to a significant temperature change. One such application is a steel bolt in an aluminium joint. In such joints the bolt can further yield as a result of differential thermal expansion subsequent to it being tightened. (The coefficient of thermal expansion of aluminium is broadly twice that of steel and so the joint thickness increases with rising temperature at a greater rate than the steel expands.) Effects such as a reduction in the yield strength of the material at an elevated temperature can also play a part. In some of these cases, for example cylinder head bolts, yielding can occur when the engine first starts and heats the block but the yielding is limited and is stabilised in subsequent heat-cooling cycles.

BOLT
SCIENCE

METALLURGY FOR NON-METALLURGISTS

WEDNESDAY 18TH & THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER

THE METALLURGY FOR NON-METALLURGISTS PROGRAMME IS A TWO HALF DAY ONLINE COURSE DESIGNED FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT METALS AND PROCESSES USED IN THEIR COMPANY.

OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENTS

- Metal properties
- Metals structure
- Ore smelting
- Metals making & casting
- Rolling and metal forming
- Mechanical Testing and NDT
- Hot & cold working/shaping/forming
- Heat treatment
- Metal alloy classification
- Corrosion

BUSINESS BENEFITS

The Metallurgy for Non-Metallurgists programme will enable participants to:

- communicate more effectively with technical colleagues
- be better informed and more efficient when dealing with customer enquiries
- avoid mistakes caused by lack of understanding
- understand the production, processing and testing of relevant metals and alloys
- appreciate the properties and applications of relevant industrial alloys

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Courses commence with delivery of core knowledge components and progress onto a series of extended knowledge modules.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Courses take the form of participative workshops, led by an expert metallurgist with extensive metals industry experience.

The content, length and structure of the course can vary according to individual company needs.

A folder of course materials is supplied and all attendees will receive a certificate after completing the two day course.



Places are limited, so to avoid disappointment reserve your place(s) now contact:

Melinda Jean at the CBM on 0121 601 6350 or email: melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk

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Are Your Fasteners Hard Enough?

By John Cross, General Manager Rotech Laboratories

Hardness testing is one of the most important mechanical test methods used to determine if a material is suitable for its intended application. It is a measure of the strength, wear resistance, and toughness of a material by indicating its ability to resist indentation.

Almost every engineering component that is manufactured undergoes some form of toughness test, whether it is raw material from suppliers, industrial treatments during the engineering process, or final product testing before shipping.

Quality control and compliance are crucial for manufacturing and production.

Ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and standards gives our customers confidence that their products are suitable for their intended purpose. This reduces the chance of product failure which could result in subsequent legal, commercial, and health and safety implications.

We test many different fasteners for hardness, including the tiniest of fasteners and screws, to the heaviest of bolts used in structural and civil engineering. These fasteners could also vary in their fragility; from delicate bolts and screws for medical purposes, to industrial-sized fasteners used in aerospace and nuclear applications.

Different Types of Hardness Testing

There are many things to consider when choosing the right hardness test, as different types of materials may not be suitable for certain tests:

- > **Brinell Hardness Testing** is most suitable for uneven or rough surfaced materials, as it uses a greater diameter indenter aimed at testing structural differences and surface inconsistencies.
- > **Vickers Hardness Testing** is ideal for small, thin metal layers with light loads and a polished, smooth surface prepared for testing. These materials can often be quite delicate, so Vickers uses lighter loads to test at a precise location.
- > **Rockwell Hardness Testing** is a common choice, as it is a good testing option for bulk metal hardness determinations. It is a quick and simple method, that only leaves a minor indentation in the sample.



Metallurgical hardness tests may also be used if further analysis of the material's structure and characteristics are needed.

Micro-hardness Testing helps to analyse the surface or coating hardness, case depth, or microstructural hardness variations of a particular material. Knoop Hardness Testing is also another consideration, as it uses very low loads to measure hardness. This is ideal if a sample or metal is extremely fragile or brittle.

Hardness Testing can be combined with our full suite of tests.

We understand how frustrating it can be to outsource many samples to different test laboratories. Samples can be costly to machine and sent out to multiple test houses, and it can be difficult to coordinate testing deadlines with all involved.

We offer a full suite of tests, which includes:

- > Mechanical testing (hardness, tensile, impact)
- > Chemical analysis (ICP-OES, Spark-OES, Carbon, Sulfur & Nitrogen analysis, Copper-Nickel alloys)
- > Metallurgical analysis (cleanliness testing, corrosion, failure investigations, fracture analysis, SEM & EDX analysis)
- > Routine testing (finish, fasteners, product, weld, testing consultation)
- > Full machining of samples to your requirements

If you would like to find out more about our range of testing services or would like to discuss your hardness testing requirements in further detail, please contact us at:

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E: info@rotechlabs.co.uk

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ROTECH
LABORATORIES

Gestamp closes 2022 exceeding pre-covid levels

> Gestamp has achieved its projections for the 2022 financial year, with revenues of €10,726 million and increasing its EBITDA by 21.2%

> The reduction of net debt has allowed Gestamp to reach a leverage level below 2 times EBITDA, in line with the commitment made at the IPO in 2017

> Gestamp has continued to drive forward its ESG plan through the acquisition of Gescrap, aiming at reinforcing its positioning ahead of the opportunities that the automotive circular economy brings

Madrid, 27 February 2023. Gestamp, a multinational company specializing in the design, development and manufacture of highly engineered metal components for the automotive industry, has released today its annual results for 2022. Gestamp has achieved the objectives set for the year, despite the challenging environment, marked by geopolitical tensions, high inflation and macroeconomic uncertainty caused by rising interest rates.

Francisco J. Riberas, Executive Chairman of Gestamp: "Despite being one of the most adverse environments in decades, the company has managed to exceed its pre-covid levels, achieving results that allow us to face the future with ambition and focused on our aim of growth taking advantage of the opportunities that the transition to electric vehicles offer."

According to Riberas, "the results achieved in 2022 once again demonstrate the strength of Gestamp's positioning, as well as the success of the strategy implemented to adapt our business to a challenging market environment as the number of vehicles produced continues to be below pre-pandemic levels while production costs remains at an historic high level."

Regarding the outlook for 2023, the Executive Chairman pointed out, "the year ahead is still marked by macro uncertainty; Gestamp continues to focus on growth, especially in new electric vehicle projects, cost control and financial discipline. The dedication and commitment of our extraordinary team puts us in a unique position to reach new milestones and drive sustainable and profitable growth in the coming years."

Financial strength to recover pre-pandemic levels

Gestamp's revenues in 2022 grew by 32.5% to reach €10,726 million, a record figure. EBITDA stood at €1,210 million, an increase of 21.2%. As for net profit in 2022, it was already above 2019 levels and reached €260 million.

On the other hand, at the closing of 2022, Gestamp has generated a free cash flow of €255 million. This has allowed the net debt figure at the end of the year to stand

at €2,145 million, driving to achieve a level of leverage over EBITDA below 2 times, in line with the commitment made at the IPO in 2017. Strengthening of the balance sheet and financial discipline have been the strategic objectives that will allow Gestamp to face future challenges with greater strength.

In December 2022, Gestamp announced the payment of an interim dividend of €0.061 per share. The Board of Directors has decided to propose to the upcoming Annual Shareholders' Meeting the approval of a complementary dividend of €0.0746 per share in line with the commitment to distribute 30% of the company's net profit acquired since the IPO. As a result, Gestamp will pay a total dividend of €0.1356 against 2022 results, increasing by 67% when compared to 2021.

related to circular economy, Gestamp has acquired a stake in Gescrap Group. The company is the European leader in the management and recycling of high-quality scrap metal. Thus, Gestamp will enhance the circularity of its business model, thanks to the promotion of the use of its scrap as a secondary raw material in the production of low-emission steel. With this acquisition, Gestamp seeks to strengthen its position in the opportunity that the circularity of the economy poses for the automotive sector in its quest for decarbonization.

This acquisition allows Gestamp to position itself within the low-emission steel supply chain and to seek new formulas for collaboration with its customers and steel suppliers.

€ Million	2021	2022
Revenues	8,093	10,726
EBITDA	998	1,210
EBIT	413	540
Net income	155	260
Capex	531	799

All figures including IFRS 16

Significant progress in ESG

During the 2022 financial year, Gestamp has continued to work on its ESG strategy to promote decarbonization and strengthen its position ahead of the circular economy opportunity in the automotive sector.

On the one hand, the company continues with its plan to increase renewable energy supply in all its plants. After its implementation in 2022 in Spain and Portugal, Gestamp has signed an agreement with Cemig, a leading company in the electric power sector in Brazil, so that all its production and R&D centres in the country will fully operate with 100% renewable energy.

On the other hand, with the aim of capturing new business opportunities

Finally, in line with its commitment to society and its employees, Gestamp is collaborating with its employees at Beyçelik Gestamp, its joint venture in Turkey, to support those affected by the recent earthquakes that have affected part of Turkey.

Driving the change towards electrification

In 2022, Gestamp celebrated 25 years of history, consolidating its position as one of the market leaders in the manufacturing of vehicle components. The company continues working to drive the transition towards electric vehicles together with its customers, given the strong prospects for the sector. The number of electric vehicles produced in 2023 is expected to reach 16.4 million units (according to IHS as of

December 2022), which translates into a market share of around 19%.



As the electrification opportunity gains momentum, innovation plays an increasingly important role. Gestamp is one of the market leader in innovation, which is one of the company's strategic pillars. Together with its suppliers and customers, Gestamp works to respond to the new requirements that the automotive industry needs.

During this financial year, Gestamp announced that during the year it would invest between €200 and 250 million in strategic projects for electric vehicles in three regions: North America, Europe and Asia. With this investment, Gestamp seeks to strengthen its position as a leader in the transition to electric vehicles.

Geographic diversification reinforced in Asia

Continuing our strategy of geographic diversification, as well as driving the transition to electric vehicle, Gestamp has recently announced the opening of its fourth hot stamping line in India. With this announcement, Gestamp seeks to respond to the needs of its customers and boost their path towards the mobility of the future. This is an opportunity for which the company has all the necessary technical and human resources and represents a new moment to continue adding value to a market, the Indian market, in which Gestamp was already a pioneer by introducing hot stamping.

Gestamp in 2023

2023 will continue to be a challenging year for Gestamp. Automobile production is expected to continue on the recovery path, although not reaching pre-pandemic levels until 2024. High inflation in key costs will continue to be the main challenge. In this context, Gestamp expects to continue to grow above the market in terms of sales and profitability similar to 2022, with a cash generation of more than €200 million.



About Gestamp

Gestamp is a multinational specialized in the design, development and manufacture of highly engineered metal components for the main vehicle manufacturers. It develops products with an innovative design to produce lighter and safer vehicles, which offer lower energy consumption and a lower environmental impact. Its products cover the areas of bodywork, chassis and mechanisms.

The company is present in 24 countries with more than 100 production plants, 13 R&D centers and a workforce of nearly 43,000 employees worldwide. Its turnover in 2022 was €10,726 million. Gestamp is listed on the Spanish stock exchange under the ticker GEST.

Former Birmingham apprentice is named as one of the top 20 manufacturing professionals in the UK

A Birmingham-based apprentice turned Manufacturing Director has been named as one of industry's Top 100 professionals.



Stuart Berry, who joined metal stamping and tooling specialist Brandauer 15 years ago, was recognised by The Manufacturer as an Exemplar in the Innovation, Inspiring Leader and Young Pioneer categories.

The passionate advocate of engineering impressed judges with how he has used vocational learning to progress to the very top of his profession, securing a 'First Class' BEng Honours degree in Management of Manufacturing Systems in the process.

Judges at the high-profile event in Liverpool also praised his role in helping the company diversify into new markets, combining a strong production methodology with a commitment to the latest technology, delivering a host of product introductions for a male grooming product, nose clips for face masks and wafer-thin laminations for electric vehicles.

Stuart commented: "There are some things

in life that take you completely by surprise and this is one of them. To be named in The Top 100 manufacturing professionals in the UK is a massive honour, to be named an Exemplar in that prestigious field is mind-blowing.

"From the minute I stepped on the shopfloor at Brandauer, I knew I wanted to learn as much as I could and progress in industry. Sometimes it's about finding the right company that gets you and you get them, that's what happened here and we've both benefitted."

Stuart, who was joined on stage by Make UK's Stephen Phipson and Donna Bruce of Northern Lights, has played a key role in the development of the UK's first £1m Precision Tooling Academy in the West Midlands.

A joint project between Brandauer and In-Comm, the purpose-built commercial toolroom produces complex tooling, as well as acting as a professional training ground for the toolmakers and designers of the future.

This is a vital move for domestic industry, with the sector being held back by a severe lack of toolmakers and the very real possibility of losing these essential skills forever as older workers choose to retire. The Precision Tooling Academy aims to reverse this trend by offering companies

access to professional toolmaking courses, upskilling opportunities for qualified engineers looking to diversify their skills and a Level 6 Tool Process Design Apprenticeship to develop the next generation of talent.

Training will be unlike anything currently on the market, with up to 35 individuals in the first twelve months able to learn on live tooling projects that will be producing hundreds of thousands of parts every week and, under Stuart's guidance, will give Brandauer and other tooling experts the opportunity to reshore more manufacturing projects from Asia, the EU and the US.

Stuart concluded: "Embarking on an apprenticeship has been so good for me and that's something I want to get across to the next generation...this Top 100 title will definitely help me to do that."

The Manufacturer Top 100 are the most dynamic leaders and innovators in manufacturing, as nominated by a 265k-strong audience, the wider industrial community, and judged by an esteemed panel featuring leaders of industry, academic institutions, and manufacturing associations.

For further information, please visit www.brandauer.co.uk or follow @cbrandauer on twitter.

Annual Dinner returns in style after four-year break

Metal Matters gets on its dancing shoes to look back at the recent CBM Annual Dinner and Awards



Manufacturing resilience, innovation and doing all we can to promote industry were the key talking points at the Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM) annual dinner.

More than 175 guests from the sector descended on Birmingham's Grand Hotel to celebrate the performance of the sector, share best practice tips, and recognise some of the best companies involved in producing parts from metal.

The evening was hosted by well-known Birmingham historian Carl Chinn and featured keynote addresses from GB News' Liam Halligan and former Financial Times Industrial Editor Peter Marsh, the latter now running the critically acclaimed Made Here Now website.

Sponsored by Forged Solutions Group, the dinner celebrated the achievements of the sector in coming through the pandemic and the after-effects of Brexit.



CBM President Steve Morley also took to the stage to talk about the importance of Government listening to our members, most noticeably around the rising cost of energy and steel safeguarding.

The industry veteran called for more action from the powers that be at Whitehall and called on CBM companies to continue to tell their story when it comes to life at the coalface – both good and bad.

His rallying call was echoed by Liam Halligan, who explained why his news channel was backing UK manufacturing and how he'd seen some fantastic examples of world class production during his visit to the West Midlands.



"There are so many excellent stories of manufacturing that never get told because the mainstream media don't seem to value that narrative. GB News is different, and we are doing everything we can to raise the profile of this tremendous sector, as well as championing its key concerns," explained Liam.

"One recent example is the rising cost of energy that is holding so many firms back. We've worked with Steve at the CBM to hold Government to account and have also worked with the likes of Steve Hardeman at Clevedon Fasteners to get his voice and concerns on a national platform."



Peter Marsh quickly followed Liam on stage and spoke about the importance of explaining manufacturing to politicians and the public.

"The big factories used to be in every city, making steel, cars and ships. Everybody could understand what it was. Promoting modern-day manufacturing is a different and more complex animal.

"Today, the typical employer is much smaller, employing perhaps 100 people in a small building on the edge of town. They will be making, in many cases, obscure components for other more complex products. Explaining the reality of 21st century manufacturing is, therefore, very much needed.

"So, what do we need to do? Simply put, we need to work together to create a better understanding of industry and explain all the amazing things we do. We also need more skills development activity and reinforcing - through websites like Made Here Now - why the UK continues to lead the world."

Once the speeches were finished the crowd were treated to a 60-minute high-octane set from ska band Under the Covers.

Other sponsors that made the event possible were Sertec Group (Menu), Biffa (Pre-Dinner Drinks and HSE Initiative of the Year), Crowe UK (Company of the Year), Apprentice of the Year (AMRC), Control Energy Costs (Energy Efficiency Initiative) and Advanced Forming Research Centre (Members Day Headline Sponsor).

Thank you.



Best of the Best

The CBM Annual Dinner was also the perfect platform to recognise some of the leading stars in our membership family for their outstanding achievements over the last twelve months.

Brandauer, a metal pressings specialist from Birmingham, was the star of the show winning Apprentice of the Year thanks to Oliver Eskriett and, importantly, beating off the challenge of finalists to win Company of the Year.

"It was a great night for our business and tops off a superb year of growth, investment and diversification," said Stuart Berry, Manufacturing Director at Brandauer.

"To be voted by your peers in the metalforming industry is a massive achievement, as they understand the economic pressures we've been under and what it takes to come through situations often outside your control."

He went on to add: "I was also delighted that Ollie was recognised. He joined us as an apprentice toolmaker bench hand seven years ago and he has progressed into being one of our best engineers, now managing the two busy toolroom departments."

The other winners on the evening were Forged Solutions Group for the best HSE Initiative, whereas G-Tekt Europe Manufacturing walked away with the Energy Reduction Initiative Award.

Forged Solutions Group were praised for the planning and structured approach and the 'STOP for clarity' initiative. The latter was praised for its drive to be carbon neutral by 2035 and how its new facility in Gloucester would be Net Zero by 2026.

Geraldine Bolton, CEO of the CBM, concluded: "Our winners highlight the talent and manufacturing excellence we have in the UK, and these are exactly the type of businesses we need to hear more about."

"They will inspire the next generation to buy into manufacturing and pursue a career in our wonderful industry."

Full List of Winners and Shortlisted companies:

Apprentice of the Year

Winner:

Oliver Eskriett (Brandauer).

Finalists:

Alex Kemp

(Forged Solutions Group)

Callum Barlow

(Titan Steel Wheels)

Jamie Pearce

(Glen Dimplex Home Appliances)



Energy Reduction Initiative

of the Year Winner:

G-Tekt Europe Manufacturing

Finalists:

Petrofer UK PLC

Somers Forge LTD



HSE Initiative of the Year

Award Winner:

Forged Solutions Group

Finalists:

Cooper & Turner

G-TEKT Europe Manufacturing

Padley & Venables

Somers Forge



Company of the Year Winner:

Brandauer

Finalists

Petrofer UK PLC

Somers Forge Ltd



SAVE THE DATE
CBM ANNUAL DINNER & AWARDS

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH
2024

Changes to UK Trade Remedies Policy

In 2021, considering recommendations for steel safeguarding, then Secretary of State for Trade, Liz Truss discovered just how constrained ministers' options were by the way the UK's post Brexit Trade Remedies Framework had been written into law. She didn't like it, over-rode it and committed to revise the law. In March 2023, now Business and Trade Secretary, Kemi Badenoch published a policy paper set to fundamentally change how UK trade remedy policy is determined.

Background

Written into law under Teresa May's premiership, the UK's post-Brexit trade remedies framework initially established the Trade Remedies Investigation Directorate to undertake transition reviews of remedies 'inherited' from EU membership. The Trade Remedies Authority was subsequently established as a non-executive, non-departmental body sponsored by the Department of Trade.

The provisions of the original legislation tightly constrained the powers of the Secretary of State, limiting her to either totally accept or reject TRID/TRA recommendations, but not to make changes. In many ways this echoed the European Union's technical approach to trade remedies, with investigations conducted by the European Commission's Trade Directorate, and the final implementation of trade measures dependant on a qualified majority vote by member states.

In 2021 the TRA submitted recommendations for the extension of Steel Safeguarding Measures to then Secretary of State Liz Truss. The TRA recommended that safeguarding measures should not be further extended on nine steel categories. This flew in the face of heavyweight lobbying from the British steel industry, from both left and right leaning UK media, and from 'Red Wall' Conservative MPs.

Claiming she was in receipt of new evidence, albeit never defined, Liz Truss used a last-minute legislative device to override the TRA recommendation and continue the safeguarding measures.

The situation exposed the limited ministerial authority over trade measures – anathema to a UK Government committed to enhancing ministerial authority and reducing scrutiny over its decisions. Realistically, the balance between technical process and political assessment was too skewed to the former. Liz Truss committed to revise legislation to 'correct' the situation.

Kemi Badenoch revisions

In March 2023, Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Kemi Badenoch published a policy paper announcing a reform to the UK's Trade Remedies Framework. The proposals were presented as "striking a balance between the benefits of the Trade Remedies Authority independent analytical function and giving Ministers greater flexibility in making decisions within the public interest, taking



into account the needs of UK producers, importers, and consumers, within our international obligations."

The key changes are:

- Requiring the TRA to notify Ministers before initiating new investigations.
- Investing Ministers with the power to 'request' the TRA to reassess a recommendation where new evidence or an error is identified.
- Give Ministers flexibility to apply an alternative remedy to that recommended, where there is supporting evidence to do so, and it is in the public interest.
- Permit the TRA power to recommend alternative options.
- Make the TRA's assessment of the economic interest test (EIT) advisory so that the Ministers will still be able to apply measures if the TRA determines that the EIT is not met.
- Give Ministers powers to revoke trade remedy measures without a TRA recommendation if no longer deemed to be in the public interest. Ministers may request TRA advice, support and assistance before deciding to revoke measures.



All of this means the TRA's role will be limited to expert analysis and advice. Ministers will have wide-ranging flexibility to override TRA recommendations, to amend or revoke trade remedies, based on 'public interest'. That includes contradicting a TRA Economic Interest Test

assessment. In comparison with the EU trade remedies process the pendulum will now swing strongly from a technical process with a final political decision, to extensive ministerial discretion.

Implementing the changes

The core legislation implementing the changes is written into Schedule 19 of the Spring Finance Bill 2023, currently going through Parliament. In consequence the trade remedies element of the bill will probably receive comparatively little parliamentary scrutiny. Further secondary legislation will be required to implement detailed changes including to bilateral safeguarding. Trade officials expect the revisions to come into full force in Autumn 2023.



DBT engagement with CBM

At Trade's invitation, CBM engaged with officials from both the Department of Business and Trade and the TRA early in April. The meeting provided additional information and responses to questions. It was also attended by a trade specialist from the British Chamber of Commerce but, surprisingly, no other representatives of downstream industry, distribution or retail. At the meeting Trade officials confirmed they had previously met with representatives of primary manufacturing sectors, including UK steelmakers.

On a positive note, Trade committed to further engagement with CBM. However, the seemingly limited engagement with other representatives of downstream industry, let alone distribution and retail, raises questions about how balanced stakeholder input on the changes will be.

CBM expressed a core concern that the changes would leave ministers with sweeping discretion and apparently limited accountability. There are multiple references in the revisions to 'public interest' – an expression that has a very fluid definition in today's political environment. Often it has meant meeting the expectations of heavyweight lobby interests, party donors and right-wing media. More legitimately, depending on how balanced, it has responded to MPs, in relation to industry policy – but in relation to industrial policy, it appears particularly to potentially vulnerable 'red wall' Conservatives.

Specifically, CBM asked Trade how the minister would communicate her decision and the basis and evidence for it, if diverging from TRA recommendations. The response was that this had not yet been defined. However, the expectation is this would be by written ministerial statement

to the House of Commons, which limits ministers' exposure to parliamentary scrutiny.

Summary

A rebalancing of the UK Trade Remedies Framework was inevitable and to some extent necessary.

Successive Conservative Governments have substantially strengthened ministerial discretion and weakened Parliament's ability to scrutinise their decisions. The concern is the trade remedy pendulum will also swing too far in the direction of ministerial discretion and limited accountability.

Realistically, these changes will come into force with little change from the Secretary of State's vision. The pivotal amendments will be carried through by the 2023 Finance Bill.

The concern for CBM and its members, and for many other downstream stakeholders, is that ministerial decisions will be more readily skewed by heavyweight industrial and political influences. It is also probable that trade remedies will increasingly become bargaining collateral in the pursuit of free trade agreements.

Whatever happens, engaging with TRA investigations and reviews will continue to be essential. However, as steel safeguarding starkly demonstrated, that will never be enough. These changes further reinforce the critical role of effective political lobbying in the CBM armoury. CBM will need to continue to punch above its weight, as it has on steel safeguarding – where it demonstrated that persistence, thorough research, and persuasive argument could result in the Secretary of State committing a substantial increase in the quota allocation for Category 12A steel. It also proved the value of forging alliances with similarly minded stakeholders to reinforce the effectiveness of its arguments.

CBM will continue to leverage its solid relationship with Trade officials to ensure further engagement on these changes and will update members. It will reinforce the critical importance of ensuring a proper balance of all stakeholder interests is reflected in trade remedy decisions.

Hopefully, the concerns about the swing of the pendulum will prove unfounded and ministers will respect the technical rigour of TRA recommendations. Time will tell whether the changes prove to be a licence for ministers to make opaque decisions on key trade remedies or whether that balance will be ensured. What is certain is CBM must remain alert, on behalf of its members, to the potential risks.

For more information please contact CBM Policy advisor Phil Matten, Phil.Matten@thecbm.co.uk

In-Comm receives ‘Andy Street’ backing for industry collaboration

Precision Tooling Academy could be the training blueprint for industry to follow predicts the Mayor of the West Midlands



The employer-led approach that has become the heartbeat of the In-Comm Training philosophy was given the Mayoral seal of approval in March.

Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands, and Wendy Morton (MP for Aldridge and Brownhills) visited the company's Aldridge HQ to meet with Managing Director Gareth Jones, Sales Manager Paul Hodgetts and Brandauer Manufacturing Director Stuart Berry.

They wasted no time in understanding the reasoning behind the £1m Precision Tooling Academy and praised the collaborative efforts of the two companies in meeting a direct industrial need for ‘advanced skills’.

There was also time for a guided tour of the facility and the chance to meet Brandauer and In-Comm trainers, as well as some of the first engineers signed up to the new toolmaking courses.

Andy Street said: “I’m incredibly impressed that we have a training facility here that is not only equipping people with advanced engineering skills, but we are doing so in a way that creates a finished product that is sold all over the world.

“It really is an outstanding collaboration and one that I feel could be the blueprint for bridging other acute industry skills shortages.

“The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) has been very supportive in funding courses in the region that give basic engineering skills. This venture is taking that provision to the next level.”

Gareth Jones, Managing Director of In-Comm Training, added: “It was a pleasure to host Andy and long-time supporter Wendy at our HQ and hold an engaging discussion about the current skills gap and how we take action to bridge them.



“We received an interesting insight into how the WMCA are intending to support advanced manufacturing by ensuring they have access to the right skills and the general consensus was that our model could be used as a template for the rest of the region.”

Over £1m has been invested by In-Comm Training and Brandauer to create the Precision Tooling Academy, which produces complex tooling, as well as acting as a professional training ground for the toolmakers and designers of the future.

This is a vital move for domestic industry, with the sector being held back by a severe lack of toolmakers and the very real possibility of losing these essential skills forever as older workers choose to retire.

The Precision Tooling Academy is reversing this trend by offering companies access to professional toolmaking courses, upskilling opportunities for qualified engineers looking to diversify their skills and a Level 6 Tool Process Design Apprenticeship to develop the next generation of talent.

Training is unlike anything currently on the market, with up to 35 individuals in the first twelve months learning on live tooling projects that will be producing hundreds of thousands of parts every week and gives Brandauer and other tooling experts the opportunity to reshore more manufacturing projects from Asia, the EU and the US.

In a massive stamp of approval, a major car manufacturer has become the first company to put their engineers through the toolmaking course and has contributed to the actual development of the curriculum alongside the likes of the Confederation of British Metalforming.

For further information, please visit www.in-comm.co.uk or follow @incomm_training on twitter

Biffa team excited to join CBM

Safe, secure handling of hazardous waste combined with bespoke chemist services to segregate/handle materials and train teams. Consultancy packages are also available for more complex projects or industrial cleaning solutions for planned maintenance or unplanned emergencies.



James Bissell, Industrial Services Manager, Biffa comments "We've been at the forefront of the UK waste management industry for over 100 years. As specialists providing hazardous waste solutions to industrial manufacturers we also offer a range of additional services which can support CBM members. I'm excited about the opportunities for working together. Biffa's national network, facilities and infrastructure give us the scale to help organisations of all sizes in the public and private sectors to manage their waste in a more sustainable way."

With over 3000 hazardous waste customers Biffa supports a range of organisations with varied and complex requirements; from university labs to leading chemical manufacturers and heavy industry plants. As well as providing containers and equipment for compliant storage on site Biffa ensures safe collection and transport as well as treatment of materials at our own facilities.

In addition to the core hazardous waste collection and treatment solutions Biffa has introduced four further services which can be adapted to suit the requirements of metalworking

businesses.



1. Mobile chemists

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2. Hazardous waste coaching

Our expert professionals provide insight, guidance and can train your teams to navigate the complex hazardous waste landscape; ensuring they are compliant and able to meet their goals. We can develop a training programme to fit your site's processes and priorities. Programmes typically build competency around; understanding of relevant waste legislation, ways to identify hazardous materials, safe handling and storage, how to use a spill kit and complete compliance documents.

3. Consultancy on processes and projects

For larger projects support is also available to maximise resource efficiency

and minimise waste. Examples of recent work include; design phase recommendations, supporting plant decommissioning, preparation for ISO audits, overhauling production processes and sourcing resale routes for by-products.

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Cerro EMS has established itself as the UK's main supplier of GIS V7 brass gas valves and BS746 fittings for over 50 years. Its ongoing commitment to quality and customer satisfaction has helped many of its clients achieve their business goals, by providing innovative solutions to help reduce costs, improve efficiency, and enhance performance.

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Why ESG is especially important in a recession

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), enables organisations to monitor the impact of a business based on these three factors.

Since the pandemic and the war against Ukraine threatened the economic stability of the UK, fears of a recession grew and many businesses were tempted to take a back seat in their ESG initiatives.

Yet, companies that continue to invest in ESG during economic downturns are more likely to 'maintain strong environmental, social and governance values while also achieving solid stock performance and shareholder returns,' according to Investor's Business Daily.

Here are four reasons why:

1. Risk mitigation

Protection against future price shocks has never been more critical. Businesses who are able to manage, predict and prepare for unprecedented circumstances are more likely to thrive.

2. Cost optimisation

By capturing Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions data, businesses can identify cost savings opportunities, preventing energy wastage, additional waste disposal, and penalties, which all incur higher costs.

3. Talent retention

Retaining top talent is crucial to navigating a volatile economy, reduces costs of recruiting new talent and provides a competitive edge as millennials and Gen Z seek companies that share their sustainability values.

4. Accelerating growth

ESG initiatives can provide a framework for new revenue streams as stakeholders and customers search for sustainable products and services.

Final thoughts

ESG is important to maintain, especially during these turbulent times. Companies that remain focused on their ESG strategy are more likely to maintain profitability and sharpen their competitive edge.



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New fire regulations come into force

The Government's proposals for fire safety reform come into force, following on from the commencement of the Fire Safety Act 2021 and the launch of the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022. So, what does this mean for your business? Here's everything you need to know...

The proposals were set out in the Fire Reform White Paper last year, which proposed to:

- > Improve the Fire & Rescue Service, through training initiatives and increased learning opportunities, including a College of Fire and Rescue.
- > Transfer fire governance to a single, elected individual who can be held accountable. They will be responsible for overseeing operationally independent Chief Fire Officers.
- > Engage with the public through a 10-week consultation to gather views from the public.

The White Paper, the Act, and the Regulations are, in large part, a response to the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, which killed 72 people. The public inquiry into these tragic events resulted in several recommendations for improving fire safety in the UK. So, how do these changes to the law enact these recommendations?

Fire Safety Act 2021

The Fire Safety Act 2021 commenced on 16th May 2022, meaning it is now in effect and must be followed as UK legislation.

The Act amends the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, clarifying what should be included in fire risk assessments of multi-occupancy residential buildings. It concentrates on two key elements:

- > The structure and external walls of the building, including cladding, balconies and windows; and
- > All doors between domestic premises and common parts of the building

Grenfell Tower, like many other high-rise buildings, was clad using combustible materials made of plastic and aluminium. This cladding, which burns so easily, acted as fuel for the fire and accelerated it.

What does this mean for responsible persons?

The Fire Safety Order already puts a duty on responsible persons to regularly review their fire risk assessment. What the Fire Safety Act does is to draw attention to elements of buildings which some fire risk assessments have previously overlooked. Responsible persons should consider whether a more in-depth assessment of the external walls is required – especially if their building uses cladding.

A competent fire risk assessor can tell you if your building needs this in-depth treatment or not. Buildings with brick or masonry external walls, or low risk buildings which don't present significant risk of fire spread won't need a redo. Simply review your fire risk assessment regularly, as before.

Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022

The new Regulations fit into the existing Fire Safety Order, implementing some of the recommendations put forth by the inquiry. These regulations will come into force Friday, on 23rd January 2023.

Again, the new rules chiefly apply to high-rise buildings. In high-rise residential buildings, responsible persons must:

- > Provide Building Plans to their local Fire & Rescue Service, and keep a secure copy on site
- > Keep up-to-date information on External Wall Systems, including the design and materials involved
- > Carry out monthly checks on Lifts and other Key Firefighting Equipment intended for use by firefighters, reporting any defects to the Fire & Rescue Service if they can't be fixed in 24 hours
- > Install Information Boxes with name and contact details for the responsible person, and a copy of the floor plans
- > Put up Wayfinding Signage with flat and floor numbers to make the exit routes clear in low light or smoky conditions

Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs)

One area not covered by the raft of changes is those who cannot self-evacuate. Disabled and mobility-impaired residents are especially vulnerable in high-rise buildings. The Grenfell inquiry found that 15 residents of the 72 who died in the fire were unable to evacuate without assistance. PEEPs are used to document how individuals will be evacuated if they have difficulty responding to a fire alarm, or escaping a building unaided, in the event of an emergency. The Government's recent consultation on resolving this issue received overwhelming support for requiring responsible persons to develop PEEPs. However, their response rejected this idea, citing "significant issues" with the "practicality, proportionality and safety" of PEEPs. Chiefly, they noted that the cost issues of staffing and equipping high-rise properties to comply with PEEPs may become disproportionate to the risk.

Until further measures are introduced and passed into law, responsible persons still need to have a documented plan to get everyone out safely in an emergency. For more information on fire safety and how to bring your premises in line with new regulations, call Croner's 24-hour health and safety advice line



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Insurance backed options available	✓	✓	✓
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MOST POPULAR

Innovate UK SMART project - SECA

Project Background

The project 'Scale-up and commercialization of an innovative forming technology for low-cost production of super-light automotive structural parts (SECA)' is funded by the Innovate UK SMART Grant, which is a highly competitive funding for game-changing and commercially viable R&D innovation that can significantly impact the UK economy. The consortium comprises three SMEs, CurvEx Technology Ltd, PAB Coventry Ltd, Confederation of British Metalforming, and one research organisation, Imperial College London. Our vision of this project is to disrupt status quo in the UK transportation high value manufacture sector to create new demands for lightweight streamlined extruded aluminium profiles in the transportation supply chain.

The Challenge

Transport is the largest greenhouse emitting sector in the UK. It accounted for 27% of total emissions in 2019. Of this, the majority (91%) was produced by road vehicles. Vehicle weight is a main factor responsible for the large emissions. Emissions of new cars in the UK fell by only 1% between 2011 and 2019 due to the rising popularity of heavy weight SUVs which consume 25% more energy on average than medium-sized passenger cars. The growth of UK electric vehicle (EV) market also faces a challenge in the need to increase driving range, which is closely linked to vehicle weight. Thus, the impetus to save vehicle weight is now a key focus of the UK carmakers to meet the country's net zero target by 2050.

Our Solution

Use of lightweight aluminium extrusion profiles is a promising solution to reduce vehicle body weight. Aluminium extrusion-intensive body structures enable 30% weight loss and 54% stiffness enhancement compared with steel counterparts. The

reduced weight contributes to 5% drop in greenhouse emissions throughout a vehicle's full life cycle. However, aluminium extrusion profiles have yet to be fully exploited for passenger vehicles due to the high product and assembly costs.

Integrating streamlined aluminium extrusion profiles in vehicle body structures makes it possible to reduce part numbers and assembly costs while improving profile dimensional precision and aerodynamic performance. However, streamlined aluminium extrusion profiles are still difficult to produce cheaply by conventional extrusion processes. Currently, streamlined aluminium extrusions are made from straight lengths of extruded profile which are then bent or cut and welded. Bending distorts the extruded cross-section and cutting/welding reduces the mechanical properties of an alloy, so both operations reduce stiffness and load bearing capacity of a designed structure. Additionally, the multi-step operation increases energy consumption, reduces productivity and adds cost to the manufacturing process.

This project consortium is exploiting a UK-invented novel extrusion technology (Flextrude®) to enable affordable manufacture of lightweight streamlined aluminium extrusion profiles in one single operation, thus eliminating costly secondary bending and joining processes.

Target Components

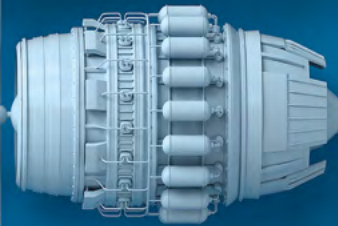
Typical extrusion components are front/rear bumper, engine mount, battery box, roof rail, cross rail etc in premium vehicle, passenger vehicle, electric vehicle, truck, racing cars.

Other extrusion components in railway and aviation are also of interest for this project.

If you are interested in using Flextrude® for your products, please contact Xiaoyu Xi, xiaoyu.xi@curvextech.com for more information.

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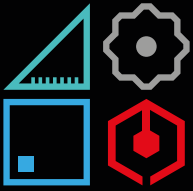
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