

# METAL MATTERS



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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



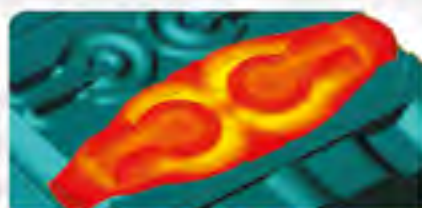
Machining



Fabrication & Assembly



Flash Butt Welding



Forging Simulation



Quality Control



Warehousing



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Front cover image courtesy of Brooks Forging LTD

## up and coming events

### CBM - Forging and Fastener Sector Metting:

13th September 2pm, via zoom. Register with Louise Campbell - Louise.campbell@thebcm.co.uk

### HUK Metals Expo:

13th - 14th September, NEC Birmingham

### Health, Safety & Environment Group Meeting:

19th September, 9.30am Sertec Group Ltd, Wincaster House, Gorsey Lane, Coleshill, Birmingham, B46 1JU. National Metalforming Centre, 47 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich, B70 6PY. Register with Melinda Jean - melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk

### Crowe & CBM Survey Report:

19th September , 8am. NMC Venue Birmingham Road, West Bromwich, B70 6PY

### Metallurgy for Non-Metalurgists Course:

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

### Advanced Engineering:

1st -2nd November, NEC Birmingham

### CBM Annual Dinner & Awards:

21st March 2024 - The Grand Hotel, Birmingham

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## Reasons to be Optimistic

If I look back at my previous President reviews, it is understandable that we have not had many positive things to report on. Even if we had, I am pretty sure that it would have been with a caveat to dampen any expectations. A bit like the economist reports showing positive economic figures, which highlighted improved manufacturing performance in June and a small growth in the economy, despite all the predictions stating otherwise. I am pleased they don't predict the weather, maybe manufacturing is a bit too difficult for them and we should pack up and just be a service and hospitality economy or is that what those who don't understand manufacturing's importance to GDP are hoping for, which unfortunately includes many elements of the government.

Well, I am sorry, but we are not going anywhere, as I have said many times despite everything our members have remained resilient throughout all the challenges thrown at them and continue to do so.

Whilst there are still challenging times ahead, there are also plenty of reasons to be optimistic about the future. There is certainly an underlying optimism that I have witnessed when speaking to members but also those in the wider manufacturing sector.

The recent announcement from Tata of the massive investment in a Gigafactory in Somerset to support battery production for JLR was most welcome, even if it was overdue. It is a huge step in the right direction and one that was supported by the government. However, this should only be the first step for the government, if we are to have a sustainable automotive sector long term, we are playing catch-up in a global market that is moving at a greater pace than the UK, so we need to keep momentum by investing to maintain our status as a world class manufacturing nation.

This followed a positive quarter 1 financial report on JLRs performance, this is great news for them but also our many members who supply to them and also the wider supply chain as a whole. The importance to our sector cannot be underestimated. This was on the back of positive news from SMMT on car production figures, which continue to grow month on month.

We have also witnessed positive signs of reshoring, with Brandauer, again leading the way on tooling and components and JLR resourcing a package to Whiston Tools, who could meet their aspirations on delivery.

However, I do not think these examples will be alone, we have had many signs from members that they are quoting work which is currently outside the UK. Reshoring has taken a much slower time to materialise than many people would have liked, let's hope with global pressures in supply chains and the pressure on everyone to reduce their carbon footprint, that it really starts to take a hold and move forward at pace.

We've just returned from the ICOSPA conference in Japan, where we represented the UK and presented updates on the UK economy and an overview of manufacturing performance. I have to say, as I suspected, that these compared favourably against feedback from the USA, France, Germany, Japan, and China. It is fair to say there were some countries who have their own unique challenges or successes. However, the majority have the same issues, labour, skills, supply chain issues and material costs.

This highlighted for me that the way UK performance is reported in the media or by economists, is not quite as bad as they will have you believe but also things are not as reported in other countries either. I will leave you to draw your own conclusions on that.

The CBM had other reasons to be optimistic, especially after our intense lobbying on the energy crisis. It was gratifying to see that hard work and perseverance pays off with the announcement that Ofgem will now represent business. This was something the government told us that they did already but that wasn't actually true, and we called them out on it.

We are delighted Ofgem will now support business and CBM members have been given an opportunity to feedback on their consultation paper on what support they would like to see. This is clearly a step in the right direction and goes to prove that tenacious lobbying does get results.

Finally, it was nice to get some recognition for the work we do, with a nomination for an Innovation Award and then being confirmed as a finalist. I must be honest this is not an award I would have entered if it was down to us to put ourselves forward. However, when preparing to be judged and looking up the word innovation the definition I found was enlightening

'where a service is renewed and brought up to date by applying new processes, introducing new techniques, or establishing successful ideas to create new value. The creation of value is a defining characteristic of



• Steve Morley,  
CBM President

innovation.'

There is a saying when you do not win something that it's the taking part that counts. Well I'm going to say it now, even though we won't know the results until the end of October. Why? because I do believe we have delivered innovation and as a result are delivering more value to our members and in new ways, which we had not before, that for me is like winning anyway. Rest assured we will continue to do so going forward.

**Steve Morley**  
President of the Confederation of British  
Metalforming



# 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-brexite 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](mailto:Melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk)**



# CBM would like to welcome TRANSVALOR: Forging the Future with Digital Solutions

**We are a global leading company in the field of process modelling, supporting the UK forging and forming industry, and contributing to its digital transformation.**

TRANSVALOR offers an extensive portfolio of high-performance simulation software dedicated to material forming processes, fracture analysis and lifetime estimation.

Our global platform encompasses software such as FORGE®, COLDFORM®, SIMHEAT®, and DIGIMU®, helping companies produce high-quality parts, optimize manufacturing processes, and achieve substantial cost savings.

Our solutions bring significant engineering and modelling expertise to a variety of industrial sectors (Aerospace, Automotive, Energy, Heavy Industry, Oil & Gas, Medical, etc.) and a wide range of forming processes (forging, fastening, rolling, extrusion, sheet metal forming, and heat treatment).

Whether you operate in large OEMs or in smaller SMEs, you have everything to gain from digital solutions. Transvalor software provide indisputable benefits for the metal forming industry, including:

- Designing a first time right forming processes,
- Improving overall product quality with flawless metal flow,
- Reducing costs of non-quality and cutting down the cost of trials,
- Anticipating microstructure and mechanical properties to meet customers' requirements,
- Extending tooling lifetime,
- Optimizing heating technologies to reduce energy consumption,
- Accelerating time-to-market for new products,
- Stimulating innovation for more sustainable forming processes.

We have developed a very precise and exhaustive technology through joint research programs between the Paris School of Mines and European industry leaders. Our latest release, FORGE® NxT 4.0, introduces numerous attractive features, including a brand-new Python API, which is the first brick towards Digital Twins. It aims at bridging forging equipment to simulations based on real-time process data acquisition. This technology adds real tangible value and best fits our customers' requirements.

Over the years, we have developed tight links with academic institutions and established long-standing R&D partnerships (e.g., since 2019 Transvalor has joined the Advanced Forming Research Centre AFRC as a Tier One Partner). This ensures a constant stream of advanced scientific developments and innovative functionalities.



Transvalor is an ISO9001:2015 certified company that has been operating worldwide for almost four decades. Today, more than 1000 companies worldwide, representing thousands of users, trust Transvalor's cutting-edge products and quality customer service.

All software are available on annual lease or on paid-up license conditions. On top of that, our experts deliver on-demand consulting services to achieve your most challenging industrial projects.

Find out more about Transvalor and its software suite for process modelling at: [www.transvalor.com](http://www.transvalor.com)



## 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

**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](mailto:melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk)**





## CBM would like to welcome Rotech Laboratories as new members

**Rotech Laboratories is a UKAS-accredited metallurgical test laboratory based in the West Midlands, providing an extensive schedule of accredited tests, offering a large range of testing services to many industries.**

Rotech is proud of its comprehensive product knowledge and the ability to provide technical support to all its customers. Rotech Laboratories has successfully developed a unique position within laboratory testing, providing immediate, friendly, personal, and professional advice from extensive experience. We believe in sitting down with customers and discussing issues using, as far as possible, non-technical jargon, which can sometimes frustrate customers.

### Major test work includes...

- Mechanical testing; tensile at ambient and elevated temperatures, impacts at ambient and sub-zero temperatures, hardness and bend testing, and a full range of tests on fasteners and welds.
- Failure analysis\* and manufacturing investigations - using optical and electron microscopy and x-ray analysis.
- Microstructural evaluation to examine aspects such as weld quality, effectiveness of heat treatment, case depth, grain size, coating thickness etc.
- Product finish testing utilising a fully equipped coating testing laboratory for the evaluation of painted, phosphated and electroplated finishes by salt spray, humidity, thickness, adhesion tests etc.
- Chemical analysis of ferrous and non-ferrous metals and alloys using ICP-OES and Leco C+S and nitrogen determination.
- Weld testing harnessing considerable experience of destructive weld testing for weld procedures and welder qualifications to EN ISO, ASME IX and major customer specifications.

\*The activities identified with \* are not UKAS accredited.



Rotech Laboratories is part of the BES Group. The BES Group is an independent testing, inspection, certification, and compliance company that is committed to providing its customers with the very best service in risk management solutions.

"Rotech has an exciting future as part of the BES Group. They are focused on both their customers and their team, and this is evident in everything they do. We know our customers will continue to get the very best service and access to the most efficient ways of working from our team, as part of the wider BES Group, and we're delighted with this move," said John Cross, General Manager of Rotech Laboratories.

**ROTECH**  
LABORATORIES

*This Autumn  
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](mailto:reception@nmcvenue.com). For more information visit website [NMCvenue.com](http://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

## CBM would like to welcome Allied Copper Alloys Ltd as members

**Established in 1998, Allied Copper Alloys have grown into one of the largest independent UK suppliers of precision rolled strip. Operating from our Birmingham based Service Centre, we stock an extensive range of copper, brass, bronze, nickel silver and stainless steel coil.**

Our specialist in-house facilities include precision coil slitting, edge dressing, poly-coating and cut to length. With no minimum order quantity, we aim to help with any requirement, large or small.

Allied Copper Alloys are committed to providing a flexible and reliable service that is tailored to meet our customer's needs, delivering excellence and quality in both product and service. We're ISO 9001 approved ensuring full product traceability back to mill production.

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T: 0121 423 1220  
F: 0121 423 4596



## CBM members collaborate to create a shield for global market consumption!

**CBM members APS Metal Pressings Limited & Allied Copper Alloys who met through the association have collaborated on a package of work formerly produced in Cold Reduced material which has since developed in the non – ferrous arena, utilising 1.4301 Stainless Steel material in a 2B finish, to provide the Automotive giant GKN with a full range of dust shields for their global market.**



Mr Steve Tinley ( Commercial Director ) of APS Metal Pressings Limited and Mr Chris Wickett ( MD / Owner ) of ACA are seen here exchanging the first of many orders it is hoped having created engineering opportunities by working closely together and collaborating on the marketing strategy of the product.

The initial raw material order is in the region of £100k and it is hoped that the stability ACA provide in terms of their pricing and supply routes will prove to be the catalyst to extend the range yet further over the coming years.

APS Metal Pressings who are 95% automotive biased prior to this project has led to further discussions between both parties, around joint ventures into other industry sectors, where both companies wish to grow their turnover.

APS have recently been approached again with regards to the Stainless Steel "Enviro-Cup" which it branded initially for the Glastonbury music festival back in 2015, with 150'000

vessels being supplied to cut down on plastics and having the relationship that they have together are hoping that this can be reintroduced also with a reduced carbon grade material particularly from mainland Europe, which will serve the environmentally conscious organisers well .

These developments are down mainly to the CBM providing the networking platform to create such opportunities and they have also been in discussions with President Steve Morley around other services they could provide jointly to the association members through steel procurement platforms, including the likes of members Highley Steel and provide HR skill gap interventions to the market place.





## Triumph at the Made in the UK Awards 2023

### Forged Solutions Group Triumphs at the Made in the UK Awards 2023: Celebrating Commitment to Skills and Talent

It is with immense pride that we announce our success at the esteemed Made in the UK Awards 2023, where we, Forged Solutions Group, were honoured with the coveted 'Manufacturing Apprenticeship/Training Scheme Award'. This prestigious accolade celebrates the best of British manufacturing and showcases the innovation, creativity, and resilience that exists within our industry.

The award was presented to our Blaenavon Forgings operations in Wales, recognised for its outstanding Apprentice and Graduate Training scheme. This initiative is rooted in our deep-seated commitment to nurturing talent and driving individual and team growth, a commitment that truly resonated with the judges.

Andy Bonthron, General Manager at Blaenavon, expressed his delight and gratitude at the recognition, stating, "We are incredibly proud to be recognised with such a respected award. It is a testament to the dedication, hard work and commitment of our entire team. Our apprenticeship and training scheme has always been about nurturing the next generation of manufacturers and this acknowledgement validates our efforts."

Echoing his sentiments, President, Ben McIvor, reflected on the company's vision that led to this success, stating, "Our greatest asset is, without doubt, our people. We wholeheartedly believe in investing in them, fostering an environment where talent can truly thrive. Our win today is a testament to our commitment to skills development and continuous learning, and this award offers powerful recognition of that."



The Made in the UK Awards is a prestigious event, bringing together the most innovative businesses from across the UK, ranging from small and medium enterprises to multinationals. This platform recognises and celebrates the manufacturing industry's ability to innovate and adapt, attributes that are at the very heart of Forged Solutions Group.

Our success at the Made in the UK Awards 2023 is not just a triumph for us as a company, but it's also a beacon of inspiration for the entire manufacturing industry. The commitment to our team, fostering skills, and promoting continuous learning is a winning strategy that can drive industry forward.



## Special Forged Eye Bolts in ASTM A320 Grade L7 For Petrochemical Pressure Vessels

**Brooks Forgings Ltd is one of the world's leading manufacturers of eye bolts primarily focusing on the production of non-standards in special materials. Eyebolt blanks in common materials are held in stock for rapid conversion to customer requirements.**

The petrochemical sector demands the use of exotic materials as they are commonly developed to withstand harsh environmental conditions. Brooks Forgings was approached by a client requiring a fully bespoke eye bolt produced from ASTM A320 L7 material. The thread diameter was 3/4" inch UNC over 75mm and the overall length was 205mm. The eye was 62mm outer diameter and 40mm thick, drilled to 28.5mm inner diameter.

A total of 14 units were required for 2 special pressure vessels being constructed and installed by the end user. The eyebolts were phosphate and xylan coated as per customer-specified requirements.

If you have any requirements for forged, machined, or fabricated eyebolts please contact our experts today with your drawings and full requirements.



**BROOKS** forgings  
THE NON STANDARD SPECIALISTS

## Reasons To Be Cheerful? By Steve Hardeman, Managing Director of Clevedon Fasteners LTD

I run an SME, based in Sutton Coldfield in the West Midlands, manufacturing fasteners. Back in June 2021 I wrote a blog on my company website suggesting that we were about to be hit by the inflation tsunami we have all subsequently suffered from.

All of us in business have been through a pretty traumatic time in the last 4 years. The Covid pandemic, shut downs, social distancing, re-starts, broken supply chains, inflation spikes, energy increases, lack of employees, interest rate hikes and I could go on with more.

The commentariat are suggesting a recession would be a good thing?

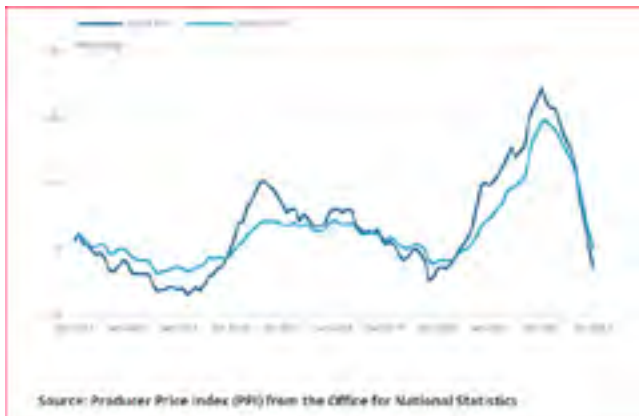
So, time for some good news?

Firstly, well done to all the workers, business owners, companies and organisations that have navigated through this tumultuous time. You are all to be congratulated for surviving and hopefully flourishing. We are all so busy doing our "day job" that we don't stand back and realise what we have cumulatively achieved.

Secondly, whilst we are not yet out of the woods, in my opinion, the worst is over.

Supply chains have recovered to pre-pandemic levels, shipping and container costs are almost back to normal and raw material shortages are in the main resolved. Even microchip shortages have eased.

A figure crucial to all businesses is the annual inflation rate of producer input price (the rate of change of cost of inputs). In June 2023 this fell by 2.7%, from a peak increase of 24.4% in June 2022.



Most economic commentators are predicting that the next interest rate rise, if it happens at all will be the last before they start to fall. Companies that have managed to carry the current interest rate burden will see it fall over the next few months with its obvious effect on cash availability.



Wages have also been contained to an average 7.1% in the private sector. (Source: Statista July 2023, public sector averaged 5.9%)



Inflation is now matching private sector wage increases at 7.9% in June 2023. (Source: ONS)



Companies that have managed to track inflation (Peak: 11.1% June 2022) with price increases will see their margins increase in the 2024. (Source: BDO/Make UK)



In the Q2 2023 report Make UK states:

"Businesses now expect this modest level of growth to continue into Q3 2023 as falling energy prices should enable businesses to produce more efficiently and result in a lower rate of inflation."

In my own business we have seen an uptick in enquiries and orders from customers we haven't dealt with for over 10 years and new customers from the UK, Europe and US asking us to quote on work previously supplied to them by companies in Asia. This move towards re-shoring or near shoring is only anecdotal but appears to be a trend which is very welcome

I recognise that we all still have issues have to face, particularly SMEs but the worst is over in my opinion and this is in spite of, not because of, government action.

The above are my personal views and not the views of any company or organisation, with which I am associated.



## £2m press investment for SDE Technology

**A Shropshire-based pressings and assemblies specialist has invested more than £2m in acquiring its largest ever progression press.**

SDE Technology has installed the impressive 1000-tonne Chin Fong press and coil handling line at its Brixton Way factory in Shrewsbury, an installation that will allow larger die usage and help create larger products for use in the automotive sector.

The press, which has a bed size of 4.5metres x 1.8metres, has capacity for over £2m of new revenue, with the management team already in discussions with larger OEMs and tier 1s looking for security of supply and opportunities to de-risk the supply chain.

Eight new jobs have been created and tens safeguarded because of the investment.

"This is our largest ever progression press and one of the largest in the UK automotive supply chain," explained Richard Homden, Managing Director of SDE Technology.

"It is a fantastic time to invest in this new capability. Yes, there are current headwinds, but for the bold there are also opportunities, with lots of reshoring, electrification and carbon reduction projects currently being discussed.

"The £2m investment will be a game-changer for our business and the West Midlands as a whole."

SDE Technology is one of the largest manufacturers of pressings and assemblies in the UK, employing more than 130 people across its core production business and at Salop Haulage Ltd.

The company has overcome tough trading conditions, the pandemic, chip shortages and energy costs to secure several



new opportunities in the automotive sector and is now planning on maximising its latest Hot Form Quench (HFQ®) process.

This is a revolutionary hot forming process for producing high strength aluminium parts for use in the automotive, aerospace, and renewable sectors and gives designers the freedom to create parts that offer significant weight savings, yet still deliver higher structural strength.

It also delivers improved formability in six and seven thousand series alloys that cannot be formed cold. In some instances, it can also reduce the part counts from multiple components to just one.

Chris Greenough, Commercial Director at SDE Technology, concluded: "The Chin Fong investment comes off the back of two earlier press installations, offering 100 and 200-tonne capabilities.

"These have been put in initially to deliver pressings for the white goods industry, but they could also be used to support other tooling projects going forward."

For further information, please visit [www.sde.technology](http://www.sde.technology) or follow @sde\_technology on twitter.

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- Energy



# To Reshore or not to Reshore...that is the question?

**Metal Matters catches-up with Brandauer, an SME manufacturer who is leading the reshoring charge, yet are insistent that the Government must step up to make the most of this once-in-a-generation opportunity.**

There's something exciting happening in UK manufacturing. And, for goodness sake, don't whisper it...shout it out loud.



That's the message Rowan Crozier, CEO of metal stamping specialist Brandauer, wants Government to hear when it comes to reshoring.

His business - nestled in the industrial heartland of Birmingham - has sealed over £500,000 of new tooling projects in the past twelve months, projects that were previously carried out in the Far East and in the EU.

Better still, the business has a further £1m of potential opportunities in the pipeline and, with an increasing number of companies looking for security of supply, it is a trend that Crozier believes is just beginning.

"We've been talking about reshoring for some time, but the good news is we're finally seeing the hyperbole turn into real orders," commented Rowan.



"Despite the challenges and complications of Brexit, there has been a definite shift towards more UK sourcing of precision tooling and that has certainly been driven by an overwhelming desire to shorten supply chains."

Rowan, who has invested more than £1m into new Yamada and Bruderer presses to cope with an increase in demand, went on to add: "De-risking supply is high on the list of priorities after the disruption we've seen because of geopolitical pressures, Covid-19 and, more recently, a global lack of materials.

"However, the interesting conversation that we haven't had before is that domestic manufacturing is now as competitive as our international rivals.

"And this is all about the price of the landing part - so the total cost of a product on its journey from the factory floor to the customer. When you take this overall picture into the equation, there is no reason UK manufacturers can't be bolder when going after international opportunities."

Brandauer is a members of the Manufacturing Assembly Network (MAN) and a key signatory to the MANifesto, a blueprint for making the UK globally competitive and a direct response to a lack of a coherent industrial strategy from our Government.



The collective launched the plan of action last month and is lobbying the powers at Whitehall to provide additional support towards the four key pillars of investment, people, sustainability and international trade.

"We have seen the damage offshoring has done to UK manufacturing, now is the time for us to reverse the trend," explained Rowan.

"There's a lot of things we can do ourselves as manufacturers, but we also believe it is important that the Government understands the situation. Yes, reshoring is happening, but if we are going to sustain it then there needs to be a concerted push to support sectors that are growing.

"This could be by building OEM presence in the UK or ensuring that there is more domestic content in the development of products for electrification for example. Encouragingly, we do have a model to follow in the defence industry, where we lead the world. There's no reason why a similar approach couldn't be easily replicated for other markets."

Another important element of the MANifesto is a unified call for a replacement to the business support programmes that have closed due to EU funding ending.

This leaves a significant void for SME manufacturers who previously have been able to access grants or specialist industrial advice to help them overcome challenges and maximise growth opportunities.

Rowan, who is also Chair of the National Advisory Board at Make UK, has been banging the drum for swift action.

"We're sorely missing structured business support and the way in which the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is being delivered at a local authority level could lead to a postcode lottery at best, and at worst, assistance that is too general and doesn't really understand or get industry.

"Action must be sooner rather than later. We've got some existing schemes, such as the Manufacturing Growth Programme, that have a proven track record in successfully supporting businesses like ours grow. There's no need to reinvent the wheel."

He concluded: "It's simple. We've got a once-in-a-generation opportunity when it comes to reshoring, let's not follow the same course of action we did in the 1990s and 2000. Now is the time to write the most positive chapter in our industrial history."

W: [man-group.co.uk/brandauer.co.uk](http://man-group.co.uk/brandauer.co.uk)

## G-TEKT announces expansion of solar array to 4MW

**As the success of G-TEKT Europe Manufacturing Ltd's (G-TEM) solar array expansion reverberated across the industry, the company embraced their newfound role as pioneers of sustainable manufacturing practices.**

With Phase 1 and Phase 2 completed in 2022, the Gloucester facilities were now able to harness 2MW of renewable energy, with the excess power generated contributing to the community's clean energy supply. This allowed the newest facility, constructed in 2019, to run on 100% renewable energy.



Buoyed by the positive response and eager to continue their commitment to sustainability, G-TEM made an exciting announcement: they are embarking on Phase 3 of their solar array project. This ambitious phase aims to double their total generation capacity, bringing it up to an impressive 4MW.

The anticipation within the company is palpable. Engineers, project managers, and employees are rallying behind the cause, fuelled by a shared passion for creating a better, cleaner future. The next phase requires careful planning and coordination, as it involves installing an additional 2MW of solar panels on their largest Gloucester facility. The expansion would allow the facility, originally constructed in 1997, to be capable of running on 100% renewable energy.



The project is not without its challenges. G-TEM's dedication to quality and efficiency demanded meticulous attention to detail, ensuring the new arrays seamlessly integrated with the existing infrastructure. Moreover, the company sought to optimize energy storage and management systems, ensuring they maximized their use of renewable energy and minimized any wastage.

As the months rolled by, progress on Phase 3 remained steady. Construction teams worked diligently to bring the vision to life, adhering to strict safety measures and sustainability protocols. The Gloucester facilities have become a hive of activity, showcasing the dedication of G-TEM and their partners towards building a greener future.



Throughout the expansion, G-TEM's commitment to transparency and sustainability resonated with their stakeholders. Customers, suppliers, and investors applauded the company's proactive approach, recognizing that sustainable business practices are not only ethical but also essential for long-term success in a changing world.

As the end of August 2023 draws near, the final touches are being added to the expanded solar array. The combined 4MW generation capacity is an impressive testament to the company's unwavering commitment to renewable energy.



The Gloucester facilities are now capable of being self-sufficient in terms of electricity and continuing to contribute excess energy back to the community. This made G-TEM not just an exemplary manufacturer but also a net positive contributor to the broader sustainable energy landscape.

Word of their accomplishments continued to spread far and wide, inspiring other companies to follow suit. G-TEM aims to become a model for sustainable business practices, drawing the admiration of industry peers and recognition from environmental organizations. Their hard work has already been recognised throughout the industry, with the project winning the "Energy Efficiency Initiative of the Year" from the CBM.

G-TEKT Europe Manufacturing Ltd know that this was just the beginning of their journey towards a greener tomorrow. These solar arrays remain just a part of their plan towards net zero, with additional projects already completed or in the pipeline. They remained steadfast in their commitment to innovation, sustainability, and a vision of a world powered by clean, renewable energy. Their story was no longer just about the success of a solar array expansion; it is a testament to the boundless possibilities of sustainable business practices and the collective effort required to build a brighter, cleaner future for all.

# G-TEM



# WHY MANUFACTURING APPRENTICES ARE CRITICAL FOR THE INDUSTRY

By Howard Boswell

**The manufacturing sector is driven by innovation, technological advancements, and skilled professionals, and it's evident that nurturing a new generation of talent is vital for its continued success. This is where manufacturing apprenticeships come into the picture.**

At European Springs & Pressings, we understand the significance of apprenticeships in shaping the future of manufacturing. With decades of experience as one of Europe's leading spring and pressings manufacturers, we have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of apprenticeship programs on individuals and the industry.

So, we'd like to shed light on the critical role manufacturing apprentices play in driving innovation, meeting industry demands, ensuring a sustainable workforce and hopefully encouraging a new generation of spring manufacturers to join this exciting industry.



## ADDRESSING THE SKILLS GAP

The skills gap refers to the disparity between the current workforce's skills and the skills required by modern manufacturing industries. Manufacturing apprenticeships play a crucial role in addressing this skills gap within the sector. This is because, as technology advances and new processes emerge, there is an increasing need for a highly skilled workforce that can adapt to these changes and drive innovation.

For example, apprenticeship schemes provide hands-on, practical training that equips individuals with the skills and knowledge needed in the manufacturing industry. Rather than relying solely on theoretical education, apprentices gain valuable experience by working alongside experienced professionals, operating machinery, and participating in real-world projects. This practical training ensures that apprentices develop the necessary skills to meet the industry's evolving demands.

Two manufacturing engineers working together on a practical project



In addition, these training programs aren't limited to entry-level positions and can be used to upskill and reskill existing workers. By offering apprenticeship programs to existing employees, companies can address skill gaps within their own workforce and ensure that their employees remain updated with the latest technologies and processes.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

As mentioned, apprenticeships aren't limited to those beginning their career in the manufacturing industry but are often used to nurture a skilled and adaptable workforce. This is because these programs allow individuals to gain practical, industry-specific training and experience, enabling them to develop the essential skills needed to excel in the manufacturing sector. By combining on-the-job training with classroom instruction, apprenticeships create a seamless pathway for individuals to acquire the technical competencies, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork skills necessary for success.

Manufacturing apprenticeships are often favoured over degrees in the same subject because of the practical knowledge and experience trainees get. Of course, this hands-on experience is fantastic for new starters, but it's also necessary for those already years into their careers, as it reminds them not to fall into bad habits and keeps their knowledge fresh.

## IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY

It may come as a surprise, but manufacturing apprenticeships can actually have a positive impact on workplace productivity in several ways, for example:

**Skill Development.** Apprenticeships focus on providing practical, hands-on training that directly relates to the specific needs of the manufacturing industry. This training enables them to contribute effectively and efficiently to various tasks and projects, enhancing overall productivity.

**Knowledge Transfer.** Apprenticeships promote the transfer of knowledge from experienced professionals to apprentices. As a result, apprentices quickly become proficient in their roles, accelerating the learning curve and improving productivity.

**Fresh Perspectives and Innovation.** Manufacturing apprenticeships often attract young and enthusiastic individuals who bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the workplace. Their exposure to the latest technologies, methodologies, and industry trends during their training allows them to offer unique insights and creative solutions that can help streamline operations and embrace technological advancements. Senior engineer tutoring a manufacturing engineer

## BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

As discussed, there are many benefits of manufacturing apprenticeships, but one of the primary reasons they're so popular for companies in this sector is because of the strong communities they help to build. Manufacturing apprenticeships play a vital role in building strong communities by fostering economic growth, creating job opportunities, and empowering individuals within the local workforce. These training programs provide valuable pathways for individuals to enter the manufacturing industry, allowing them to develop in-demand skills and secure stable employment. When companies invest in apprenticeships, they contribute to local job creation, stimulating the economy and reducing unemployment rates.



### APPRENTICESHIPS AT EUROPEAN SPRINGS

Here at European Springs, we're committed to helping the wider industry by investing in the younger generation and developing our apprenticeship schemes. We offer a range of apprenticeships that provide valuable training and career opportunities within the manufacturing industry. We have designed these programs carefully, ensuring they equip individuals with the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to excel in various roles within the company.

If you're interested in working with leading spring manufacturers in this ever-changing industry, we'd love to hear from you. Please take a look at our apprenticeship vacancies and don't hesitate to get in touch for more information; a member of our team will be more than happy to help.

In addition, as apprentices gain practical experience and knowledge, they become valuable assets to the community, both socially and economically. This is because their newly acquired skills benefit the manufacturing sector and extend to related industries, further bolstering the local economy.

## Gestamp forecasts that over 50% of its revenues in five years will come from Electric Vehicle

>The company held its second Capital Markets Day in Berlin today, where their 2023-2027 strategic business plan was unveiled

>The strategy defined by the company is based on profitable growth and financial discipline supported by technology and operational excellence, in order to become the Partner Supplier in the transition towards sustainable mobility

>Among the objectives, Gestamp maintains a shareholder remuneration based on a 30% pay-out ratio

**Berlin, June 20th, 2023.** Gestamp, a multinational company specialized in the design, development and manufacturing of highly engineered metal components for the automotive industry, held today its second Capital Markets Day. The company presented its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan to investors to continue leading, together with the main OEM's, the path towards a more sustainable mobility.

In this Strategic Plan, Gestamp sets out the steps to follow in order to maintain its current growth path, building on the opportunities presented by the mobility industry transformation and its position as a global company. The plan seeks to take the multinational to new growth levels as the ones registered between 2017 and 2022, where the components produced by Gestamp per vehicle manufactured globally increased by over 30%.

In the current scenario, Gestamp wants to support its customers as a Partner Supplier, whose contribution, in addition to the design and production of parts, provides value by reducing the weight of components, CO2 emissions generated and cost, thanks to its geographical diversification and its industrial and technological scalable capabilities.

Francisco J. Riberas, Executive Chairman of Gestamp: "We are ready to take the challenge which means sustainable mobility for future generations. Our short-term objective is to support our clients in the transition towards a more sustainable mobility. Furthermore, that is why we acquired a stake in Gescrap, which contributes to the long-term global goal of net-zero car. Our key strengths will allow us to leverage on the mobility electrification and become the Partner Supplier to our customers, as well as to increase our value proposition to investors, suppliers, and our employees".



Overall vehicle market growth, electric vehicle penetration, the increase of outsourcing and gaining market share due to strategic positioning, are the key levers on which Gestamp leverages its future growth forecasts. It's expected that the electric vehicle production market will fourfold in size over the next four years. Gestamp expects that by 2027, more than 50% of its revenues will come from this business cluster. Moreover, the specialisation required by customers in the design and manufacturing of electric vehicles represents an opportunity to increase its market share. Likewise, the Strategic Plan foresees Gestamp's trend of geographical diversification to be very close to its customers.

### Financial discipline and shareholder remuneration

The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan includes a clear path to generate value for all stakeholders: clients, suppliers, investors and employees. Gestamp is committing to medium-term objectives, with a four-year horizon, which highlights management team commitment and capacity to deliver as well as the business prospects and profitability. Gestamp maintains a shareholder remuneration based on a 30% pay-out ratio.



Likewise, the company has a clear focus on improving return on invested capital as a metric that guarantees profitable growth, which also serves as a strategic lever in the remuneration of senior management to ensure its execution. Gestamp plans to increase ROCE (Return on Capital Employed) from the current 14% to 17.5% in 2027, reflecting the commitment to increase the company's capacity to generate profitability with capital efficiency. Therefore, Gestamp has a clear and defined strategy based on financial discipline to be the Partner Supplier in the new mobility.

### Innovation and operational excellence

The strategy outlined in Berlin will allow Gestamp to meet the industrial demands in the coming years, improving its profitability and maintaining the high level of quality of its products. In this regard, Gestamp has emphasized its character as a technological partner in processes, technologies and products. The company currently has the capabilities to offer a product portfolio that will be key in future vehicles' new architecture, combining weight efficiency, passenger safety and cost competitiveness. To this end, it has a series of differential levers, including a R&D team based in 13 R&D facilities around the world, specialized in the product development that will become benchmark solutions in the mobility revolution.

In addition, Gestamp seeks to capitalize on new market opportunities and continues to be Partner Supplier to its clients, by providing operational excellence that aims to constantly improve efficiency in operations management, flexibility and digitization of its business by the development of Industry 4.0.



### Circular economy and ESG

Gestamp has also provided visibility on the roadmap to promote and extend the business circular economy model, focusing on the use of recycled steel. The quality of recycled steel allows for an increase usage in the parts production, which reduces CO2 emissions throughout the production process. In addition, the integration of scrap management into Gestamp's business strategy allows for a life cycle complete traceability. The acquisition of Gescrap has strengthened its position by integrating the collection, sorting, and reuse of quality steel scrap into its production chain, in an environment where this secondary raw material is scarce.

Additionally, the ESG Strategic Plan, recently announced at the General Shareholders' Meeting held in May, was presented. The proposal includes the objectives in these areas, which will position Gestamp at the forefront of sustainability and circular economy.

This Plan creates the framework for action that will make it possible to achieve full decarbonization targets in Scopes 1 and 2 by 2045, working with the supply chain to guarantee

alignment, without forgetting social commitments. To ensure its execution and commitment, part of the Group's variable salary program will be linked to the achievement of said targets.

### The future of mobility

According to the International Energy Association (IEA), mobility is responsible for 8% of annual CO2 emissions. Therefore, the industry faces the challenge of addressing the future in a sustainable and responsible way. To address this trend, it is estimated that 41% of the vehicles produced in 2027 will be electric, reaching a volume of 38 million electric vehicles by that date.

As a result, mobility trends of the future bring new needs and demands, and to meet them, operational excellence, technology, geographic diversification and trust with its clients, will be highly competitive advantages to lead the transformation of the sector.

With the Strategic Plan presented today, Gestamp sets out the roadmap to take another step forward in its growth, accompanying the industry in the mobility revolution that is already underway.

### 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 BiW, chassis and mechanisms.

The Company is present in 24 countries with more than 115 production plants (5 under construction), 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.



# The EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is heading your way!

By Phil Matten

The details of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) are coalescing rapidly, ahead of the implementation of its transitional phase from 1st October 2023. Meanwhile the UK Government closed its initial consultation on 'Addressing carbon leakage risk to support decarbonisation' on 22 June. The CBM has surveyed members to assess their attitudes to the EU CBAM and the potential for a similar regime in the UK.



## EU CBAM development

The European Union begins the transitional period for its CBAM from 1st October 2023, requiring importers to report, within one month of the end of each quarter, on emissions embedded in goods subject to CBAM. The transitional period ends on 31 December 2025. Thereafter, importers will be required to purchase CBAM certificates, holding sufficient in a CBAM account to cover at least 80% of the embedded emissions in imports during each quarter.

The EU CBAM will initially apply to imports of:

- Cement
- Iron and Steel
- Aluminium
- Fertilisers
- Hydrogen
- Electricity

These sectors were selected as having a particularly high risk of carbon leakage and high emission intensity, which – once CBAM is phased in – will represent more than 50% of the emissions of the industry sectors currently covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Imports originating from all 'third countries', except EEA countries fully applying the EU ETS, will be subject to CBAM. Crucially, that includes imports from the United Kingdom.

Following intense lobbying last year by several European trade bodies, the CBAM iron and steel scope was extended to include some downstream products, on the grounds their primary constituent was steel. These are fasteners (tariff heading 7318) and certain forged products (tariff heading 7326).

At time of writing the final implementation regulation for the EU CBAM has not been published. However, the draft versions of the regulation, and its detailed annex, make it clear that importers will have to report embedded emissions in detail, completing an extensive report template, and adhering to complex calculation requirements. The report will include:

- The total quantity of each type of goods;
- The actual total embedded emissions;
- The total indirect emissions;
- The carbon price due in a country of origin for the embedded emissions in the imported goods, taking into account any rebate or other form of compensation available.

A link1 to the European Commission's latest Q&A on CBAM (issued 14 July 2023) can be found at the end of this article.



## Where is the UK on CBAM?

The UK Government closed its consultation on 'Addressing carbon leakage risk to support decarbonisation' on 22nd June. Following a detail survey of members attitudes, the CBM made a detailed submission to the consultation.

So far, it is unclear where the Government will land in relation to a UK CBAM. British steel manufacturers are strongly committed to its introduction, not least seeing as a replacement protective mechanism for when, as is expected to comply with WTO rules, steel safeguarding measures are withdrawn from 2026. Conversely, the SMMT, representing vehicle manufacturers, has expressed deep concerns over the impact of a UK CBAM.

In recent weeks, the Government has retrenched on several environmental protection measures, including extending the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility to 2025. Following the narrow retention of the Uxbridge and South Ruislip constituency, the signs are that the Conservatives are looking to exploit consumer and business concerns over environmental measure costs as a key differentiator between the main political parties ahead of the General Election. Within Government there have also been indications of strongly differing viewpoints from Kemi Badenoch, and Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Grant Shapps, over a UK CBAM – the latter keen to see a CBAM introduced, the former concerned over its potential impact on UK trade levels.

On balance, it still appears probable the UK will opt for some form of CBAM but the electoral overtones make that less clear cut.



## Where is CBM on CBAM?

The survey of CBM members confirmed deep-rooted concerns over the impact of the EU CBAM and the potential for a similar mechanism in the UK.



The introduction of the EU CBAM is clearly seen as representing a significant disincentive for EU importers to continue or grow with UK exporters of metal products. The CBAM will further reinforce the complexities already generated by the UK's exit from the EU. As a result, members see a substantial risk that EU customers will actively re-source away from UK supply chains. Nor is this seen as a long-term risk – CBAM reporting from this October is seen as triggering supplier reviews very soon, with the trend accelerating as the EU approaches the requirement for importers to purchase CBAM certificates in 2026.

There are also major concerns, which the draft EU regulation supports, that providing data to meet EU customers reporting requirements will be complex, administratively burdensome and costly.

When it comes to the potential for a UK CBAM, the overwhelming majority of survey respondents did not believe the additional costs and administrative burden would be justified by gains in environmental protection or an accelerated transition towards greener UK steelmaking. A UK CBAM was seen as having a negative impact on downstream metal manufacturing businesses, many of which are reliant, directly or indirectly, on imported steel materials, since the required grades are not available from UK steelmakers.

While recognising the issue of carbon leakage, the CBM believes it is critical to recognise that the material supply chain for British metalforming is international and that domestic steel producers simply cannot fulfil most of the requirements of the

sector. A UK CBAM will, therefore, become another tax on the cost of production of British metalformers, undermining their competitiveness both at home and, critically, overseas.

Finally, CBM members are deeply concerned that, should the UK introduce a CBAM, an exemption agreement is reached with the EU, such that CBAM certificate costs and associated administrative burdens are avoided in trade in both directions. While this would not eliminate the cost and competitive disbenefits of UK CBAM but may go some way to mitigate those impacts.

CBM will continue to monitor developments in both the EU and UK, and to work actively to ensure UK Government understands the implications for its members. The CBM's full position paper on CBAM is available to members from the Members Area of the CBM website.

1. [https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/20230714%20Q%26A%20CBAM\\_0.pdf](https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/20230714%20Q%26A%20CBAM_0.pdf)

## Tighter EU sanction controls on imported steel products By Phil Matten

**From the end of September, the European Union will implement tighter sanctions on Russia, requiring detailed evidence of the origin of steel used to manufacture products imported from any country.**

EU Regulation 2023/1214 published in June this year, extensively amends the original EU sanctions imposed in 2014 following Russia's annexation of the Crimea.



Subsequently the European Commission has issued updated guidance on the sanctions regulations. For steel products imported to the EU from any third country, this confirms that customs authorities may require Mill Test Certificates identifying the country and facility in which the steel was originally melted and poured. For finished products evidence will also be required confirming the country and facility in which further processing operations (e.g. rolling, drawing, coating) were carried out.

The latest version of the FAQ Guidance<sup>1</sup>, issued on 2nd August 2023, provides detailed information on the evidence required for semi-finished and finished products (Section D5, Question 11 on page 167). This should be carefully checked by exporters to identify the evidence required for their product. Exporters also need to check the full list of affected tariff codes in the updated Annex VII of Regulation 2023/12142

This requirement comes into force on 30 September 2023, and will apply to products imported from the United Kingdom, now deemed by the EU to be a third country.

UK exporters should, therefore, be aware that in the absence of the required evidence EU customs authorities may hold consignments or deny clearance.

The UK Department of Business & Trade is currently consulting on what further sanctions measures it should introduce on UK imports of iron and steel products. The CBM has participated in these consultations, from which it appears the Department is gauging the implications of similar measures on steel product imports to the UK. The CBM will update members as soon as UK intentions are clarified.

1: [https://finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-08/faqs-sanctions-russia-consolidated\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-08/faqs-sanctions-russia-consolidated_en_0.pdf)

2: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2023:159I:FULL>

# Tool and Die Apprenticeship level 3 standard revision – progress report

By Howard Boswell

**Three trade associations (CBM, CMF and GTMA) are working together to ensure their Tool and Die members are fully involved in the revision of this important level 3 foundation stage apprenticeship.**



The content of the apprenticeship standard must be employer led and a Trail Blazer group of interested employers has been formed which is chaired and supported by Jaguar Land rover.

The Trailblazer group ensure the content of the standard and the end point assessment process meets the needs of today's and future manufacturing processes

The group are making good progress and the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to be successful are being fully reviewed. The next stage will be to create the end point assessment plan (EPA)

The end point assessment ensures the apprentice is competent, meets the requirements of the standard. Competence is assessed with employer involvement and an independent EPA organisation.

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfA&TE) are fully involved and target dates for submission have been agreed.

The Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA&TE) wish to retain this modernised Tool and Die level 3 standard provided there is sufficient demand from employers.

We need your help to prove employer demand and demonstrate industries support.

The group would welcome your support and input. This will ensure your business needs are included and you can influence the future content of both the standard and end point assesment

There is a cost in developing this apprenticeship and in addition to the three Trade Associations we have received support from contributing organisations such as Jaguar Landrover and the "Worshipful company of sheet metal workers".

Next steps - please contact Geraldine Bolton via email [geraldine.bolton@theecbm.co.uk](mailto:geraldine.bolton@theecbm.co.uk) for more information, to register your interest and willingness to support the Trailblazer group.

## Higher level Tool Process Design Engineer Apprenticeship Now Ready for Autumn 2023 Recruitment - DONT MISS THE START DATE

**The CBM led the development of this higher-level apprenticeship to meet the specific requirements of the metalforming industry. The Tool Process Design Engineer level 6 (degree) apprenticeship is a way for companies to develop the workforce of the future.**

The cost to companies using this programme to develop their staff is offset by accessing apprenticeship levy funds.

Several organisations are ready to recruit and deliver this apprenticeship from Autumn 2023. It is vital we support them to fill the growing strategic skills gap in our sector.

What the apprenticeship offers metalforming businesses

The standard is now published on the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education website. There are three components:

- Nationally recognised level 6 Apprenticeship standard and an optional B Eng degree.
- Specialist tool process design engineering training in a purpose-built workshop.
- End-point assessment of the apprentice by an independent assessment organisation.

Details of the apprenticeship Standard and the end point assessment process can be found on the Institute of Apprenticeships website reference ST641.

The end-point assessment plan (EPA) is now complete. The EPA will allow apprentices to demonstrate both competence and job knowledge for this senior technical role. The assessment is rigorous and will meet the Institute's national quality requirements.

Next steps

Over the next few weeks, we will be contacting CBM members to understand the likely number of recruits for the first intake, which will start in late September 2023. All organisations delivering this apprenticeship will require a minimum number of participants to meet commercial viability targets.

CBM Members will be able to use the apprenticeship levy system, subject to eligibility, to access funding support. There is no age restriction, so the programme is ideal both for upskilling existing engineers and for new entrants.

Entry requirements are realistic and will not be a barrier for those less formally qualified.

Please see the advertisement from the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and promote the programme by raising interest within your organisation and encourage your people to enrol onto the programme.

For further information, and details of other providers please email [geraldine.bolton@theecbm.co.uk](mailto:geraldine.bolton@theecbm.co.uk).





# CBM supports call to improve faltering ‘Apprenticeship Levy system’ which is hampering industrial growth.

By Howard Boswell

**Manufacturing’s growth is being hamstrung by an out-of-date Apprenticeship Levy scheme that is failing to address key labour shortages in the workforce.**

The CBM has actively supported the UK Metals Council, who are calling on the Government to review the current system, tearing up the unnecessary bureaucracy and ensuring that entry level apprenticeships benefit from the same level of funding and importance as higher level qualifications.

Analysis suggests that more than 10,000 jobs are currently available across foundation industries in the UK and there is little sign that these positions will be filled as the complicated training landscape is putting off training providers, companies and young people looking to enter the metals sector for the first time.

After a freedom of Information request the government revealed that nearly £750m raised under the Apprenticeship Levy was unspent and went back to the Treasury. This is a travesty when so many firms are struggling to recruit and train for future skills.

A letter on behalf of the 12 trade associations, including the CBM, that the UK Metals Council represents has been sent to ministers and MPs in a bid to highlight the issue and what needs to be done.

“It is a preposterous situation where employer funds are not being used for the intended purpose of upskilling staff from Level 2 upwards, explained Geraldine Bolton CBM Chief executive.

“The Apprenticeship Levy should be an effective way of leveraging funds for the use of industry as a whole. Problems start when the money at the top of the tree does not trickle down or the funds are too difficult to access for manufacturers already struggling for time.” She went on to add: “We’re calling on the Government to urgently review the current system and look at four important improvements. Firstly, reduce the amount of bureaucracy involved, secondly widen the focus of the standards so they cover all engineering and manufacturing disciplines and thirdly ensure realistic funding levels

for Level 2/Level 3 apprentices and the foundation skills that employers are crying out for.

“Finally, we have to rebuild the engineering training provider capability in the UK. Giving them the funding they require to deliver the skills our sector needs now and in the future is vital.”

The CBM is a proactive member of the UK Metals Council which represents twelve industrial trade associations, including the Aluminium Federation, the Confederation of British Metalforming and the Cast Metals Federation.

Together, we represent over 11,000 companies, employing directly and indirectly nearly 1million people.

The aim is to enhance the UK Metals sector and to support the development of sector policy, lobbying Government for assistance in achieving Net Zero 2050, innovation, trade and supply chains.

Skills is a key issue and employers are frustrated at the fact that funding is more likely to be accessed for higher qualifications and not so readily available for the foundation entry levels skills that are in demand.

Since 2014, there has been a 34% drop in the number of engineering and manufacturing apprenticeship starts, with just 49,060 starting in 2021/22 according to a Fit for the Future report carried out by Engineering UK.

It also underlined a worrying dip in those starting at Level 2, with just 30,980 doing this – compared with 63,250 nine years ago.

## 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](mailto:xiaoyu.xi@curvextech.com) for more information.

# News from In-Comm Training

## Report reveals a lack of skills is holding back the UK's big reshoring drive

More than half of manufacturers in the UK feel they don't have the right skills to take advantage of the growing 'reshoring' trend according to the In-Comm Training Barometer out now.

53% of companies said they would need to invest in boosting the skills of the workforce if they are to bring work home, with just over a quarter saying they have successfully brought contracts back over the last twelve months.

A similar number (23%) have kickstarted reshoring strategies, with the majority holding back due to restraints with their current and future workforce.

The findings, which covered more than 100 manufacturers, hammered home the current labour shortage hitting industry and indicated changing perceptions towards 'growing your own' staff.

On a positive note, 82% of management teams have indicated they are planning to take on an apprentice in the next twelve months, citing developing future talent as the most popular reason followed closely by 'filling a skills gap'.

Just 12% said the latter was their reason for investing in vocational learning in 2022, compared to 46% this time around, highlighting what could be a real shift in how firms are taking a longer-term approach to overcoming 'people' shortages.

It appears industry has woken up to the fact that it needs to develop its own talent pools as outbidding rivals for staff is only going to be a short-term fix.

"It's a very complicated training and skills landscape out there at the moment," admitted Gareth Jones, Managing Director of In-Comm Training, which runs two state-of-the-art Technical Academies in Aldridge and Telford.

"Engineering and manufacturing seem very buoyant and we're constantly hearing stories of growth and new opportunities, especially around future mobility and a resurgent aerospace sector. Our Barometer echoes this in part, but also paints a picture of a sector that is massively hamstrung by a lack of skills.

"An already huge gap has been accentuated due to Brexit and effects of the pandemic, not to mention the fact that businesses are fishing in a jobs market that is favouring the candidate more than the employer for the first time in years."

He continued: "So how are manufacturers responding? This is where things get very complicated."

Although more than three quarters are worried about retirement causing an even bigger drain on skills, this is not directly reflected in the number of firms planning to upskill their existing workforce to fill some of the gaps that are appearing.

Only 55% of companies plan to boost the skills of their existing staff, a figure expected to be much higher considering the lack of ready-made options and the benefits of flexible upskilling courses that give the ability to boost the skills of the workforce whilst minimising disruption to production.



Gareth went on to add: "This is where we need to engage the disengaged businesses. There are too many owner-managed companies not looking to grow or develop succession plans, resulting in some really good manufacturers failing due to a lack of planning.

"One of the barriers is often losing staff for a significant length of time when they are training, which leads me to think we need to explore more modular, shorter courses rather than longer, wider qualifications. Firms want employees that have a specific skill set and that sometimes doesn't fit an apprentice framework for example.

"In reality, industry wants the old EITB model back where it becomes a levy for all types of training and not just for apprenticeships. We're certain that would be the holy grail for employers."

Whilst a lot of the skills issues for manufacturers have been long running, the next industrial revolution has developed the need for a new set of skills, predominantly around Industry 4.0 and Digital Manufacturing.

These were identified in this year's In-Comm Training barometer as being key requirements, with 48% and 54% respectively saying they want to invest in these areas. They have also risen in importance from 2022, whereas electrification has remained constant, hovering around the 20% of respondents mark.

Gareth concluded: "I believe this trend can be directly attributed to how more and more manufacturers are engaged in data capture and digital transformation projects, meaning there is an immediate need for skills to support these efforts.

"The potential for electrification is huge, but maybe we are yet to see it permeate down all tiers of the supply chain? These figures tend to reinforce that notion."

All the intelligence generated from the In-Comm Training Barometer will be shared with key industry stakeholders, technical partners and with Ministers to accelerate positive change when it comes to future skills funding.

The findings are also used to support industry, and this could be through the delivery of more modular programmes (both inside and outside of conventional working hours) and by creating more unique offerings like the recently launched Precision Tooling Academy with Brandauer.

For further information or to download the report, please visit <https://in-comm.co.uk/training-barometer/> or follow @incomm\_training on twitter.



# Global hyperdrive for wind and solar generation

New data published in the Global Electricity Review from energy analyst, Ember, reveals that May 2023 was the first full month on record to see wind and solar electricity overtake fossil fuel generation in the EU.

Wind and solar accounted for 31% of electricity, while fossil fuels generated a record low of 27%.

This hyperdrive of renewable transition marks a significant turning point for the fight against climate change. It's also the first time ever that an annual drop in fossil fuels has occurred without the influence of other factors such as the recession and the pandemic.

Ember believes that this is due to a culmination of growth in solar power, strong wind performance and low electricity demand.

## Major milestones in the UK

In the first three months of 2023, renewable sources (wind, solar, biomass, and hydro) contributed 42% of UK electricity, while fossil fuels supplied 33%.

Drax Electric Insights released findings from an Imperial College London report in June 2023, which revealed that 32.4% of UK electricity was supplied from wind power during the first quarter of 2023, the first time in 100 years that the UK has not been primarily reliant on fossil fuels.



It is also the first time that wind has provided the largest share of power in any quarter in the history of the country's electricity grid.

## The future looks green

To find out how your business can get onboard with the renewable transition, visit our Carbon Solutions Hub - [cec.uk.com/services/carbon-solutions-hub](https://cec.uk.com/services/carbon-solutions-hub).



## Take advantage of wholesale market prices

Flexible contracts can help your business take advantage of wholesale market prices and spread risk when the markets are high. To find out more, you can download our free flexible energy eBook by visiting [cec.uk.com/flex](https://cec.uk.com/flex)



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01737 556631

# Could waste heat recovery and storage provide the solution to decarbonising the forging industry? By Derek Bond

The UK forging industry has seen more than its fair share of challenges during many years of decline, due to fierce global low-cost competition, high investment costs to maintain plant and equipment and energy costs which make the UK less competitive. So, could climate change and the demands for industrial decarbonisation provide an opportunity for a more level playing field by both improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions?



Energy has always been a significant cost to forgers, but in the past 12 months this has now climbed from around 5% of spend to typically more than 15%. Forging would be considered a high energy intensive industry if it wasn't for the fact that raw material costs are also a significant spend (often the highest single cost on the P&L account).

Globally around one third of heat generated is used in the Industrial sector, and it is estimated that around 50% of this is lost as waste heat. The UK Industrial sector accounts for 17% of the overall UK energy consumption (BEIS 2017) and this generates 32% of heat related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Furthermore, thermal processes account for almost three quarters of the UK Industrial energy demand, of which one fifth produces high grade heat, and it is this high-grade heat which is now attracting significant interest for waste heat recovery and storage.

With funding support provided by IETF, the CBM has been working with a leading UK Forger to conduct a feasibility study into recovering waste heat from large industrial gas furnaces using a thermal energy storage system based on a formulation of composite phase change materials, (cPCM's), that are capable of working with exhaust flue temperatures around 1200 DegC. The process design simulations have been conducted by Professor Yulong Ding, a world leading authority on waste heat recovery using cPCM's. Mass flow rates have been calculated and different solutions considered for various scenarios of high-grade heat to identify the optimal solution for maximum heat recovery of high-grade heat. One of the larger furnaces, used to preheat steel and titanium ingots weighing up to 45tonnes each has been the main focus of the study. This furnace consumes 180 m<sup>3</sup>/hr of gas, with less than 20% consumed to heat the steel ingots and more than 50% heating the air which is subsequently lost as it exits via flue ducts, with the balance being lost to the furnace infrastructure and leakage through door seals etc. When the furnace is heating cold ingots around 30% of the heat input goes into the product. However, during the stabilisation period, required to homogeneously soak the ingot to a uniform temperature for forging, the demand for heat is lower and gas consumption is required to balance the heat losses, which reduces the thermally efficiency to less than 10%. Hence the maximum heat recovery can be achieved during the longest part of the heating cycle, indicating that at least 50% of the waste heat could potentially be recovered via a suitable waste heat recovery system. The real challenge is now beginning to understand whether a multi-tiered system would be required to capture both high and medium grade heat and what this system would like look, the size of the storage vessel(s) and the optimal way to re-use the waste heat.



Fig 1 Shows concept for recycling high, medium and low-grade waste heat.

A secondary consideration of this study was to model the potential recovery of waste heat post the final forging stage when large ingots will cool to room temperature before moving on to subsequent post-forge operations. Modelling of this cooling process has identified that it is feasible to capture medium grade heat by controlled recirculatory air flow in a closed chamber/hood over a 24hr period. Whilst the temperature of the heat loss continually falls, the potential for recovered waste heat diminishes, but nevertheless, this lower grade heat would be suitable to heat water systems for space heating and process water. Further studies are required to develop this concept, but indications are that as the forging process repeats and cool parts are replaced with hot ingots then the waste heat recovery process would be continual. Phase change materials operating at lower temperatures would be required, but extensive work at lower temperatures has already identified numerous formulations that would work effectively.

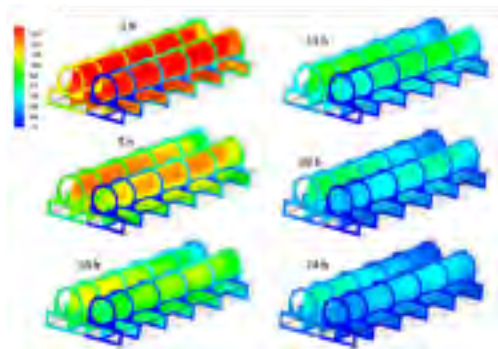


Fig 2 Shows the temperature gradient over time with heat recovery from 1300 – 400 DegC

Whilst there is still a lot of work to be done to take this concept from its current TRL of 8 into the deployment stage, the potential for large volumes of waste heat recovery is clear so it is now a matter of scoping a full cost model and understanding the financial viability of such systems. With the potential to save circa 50% of the input energy, this concept must be further explored and developed to give the forging industry a glimmer of hope in terms of improving global competitiveness and a leap forward in industrial decarbonisation. IETF funding will now support the final feasibility stage of the study, which will complete in Summer 2024.

For further information on this subject, please contact derek.bond@thecbm.co.uk





## ENERGY SAVINGS OPPORTUNITY SCHEME (ESOS) PHASE 3 COMPLIANCE HAS STARTED.

### 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.

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](mailto:louise.campbell@thebcm.co.uk)



## 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](mailto:louise.campbell@thebcm.co.uk) for more information, or to receive a copy of the CBM eligibility criteria.

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## What's on at Advanced Engineering 2023?

Registration is open for Advanced Engineering, the UK's largest annual gathering of engineering and manufacturing professionals, held at the NEC, Birmingham on November 1 and 2.

Now in its 14th year, this year's show comes with a fresh and future-focused rebrand, removing the previous show zones from its exhibition floor and introducing a main stage for the event's well-attended forums. This year, the long-established composite zone will remain, but the automotive, aerospace and connected manufacturing zones will be removed. However, these sectors will still have a strong presence at the event, with the industry-specific forums remaining. There will also be a main, central stage on this year's floor plan where discussions about key challenges in the industry will be discussed.

To ensure that visitors and exhibitors can still easily find relevant contacts, Advanced Engineering exhibitors will now be categorised by the services, products and solutions offered. They will have the opportunity to highlight all of the sectors they work in, removing any limitations created by the specific show zones.

In 2023, Advanced Engineering will welcome back a full speaker programme with representatives from some of the leading companies in UK manufacturing. Last year, attendees were treated to talks from leading industry figures from companies like Siemens, Ford, Jaguar Land Rover, Make UK, Rolls-Royce and Airbus.

To secure your visitor pass, see a current exhibitor list and check out the growing list of confirmed speakers, visit the Advanced Engineering website — [advancedengineeringuk.com](https://advancedengineeringuk.com).



## UK will continue to recognise CE mark longer term - but lack of clarity on construction products

**The Department of Business & Trade has announced that the UK Government intends to extend recognition of the CE marking for placing many goods on the market in Great Britain, indefinitely, beyond December 2024.**

The announcement applies to the eighteen manufactured goods regulations that fall under the DBT.

The DBT said, “the Business Secretary acted urgently on this issue, to prevent a cliff-edge moment in December 2024 when UKCA was set for entry. This intervention will ensure businesses no longer face uncertainty over the regulations and can cut back on unnecessary costs freeing them up to focus on innovation and growth.”

The announcement means British firms will be able to continue the use of CE Marking alongside UKCA.

The move has been widely welcomed as a pragmatic and common-sense decision, that will help safeguard the competitiveness of UK manufacturers.

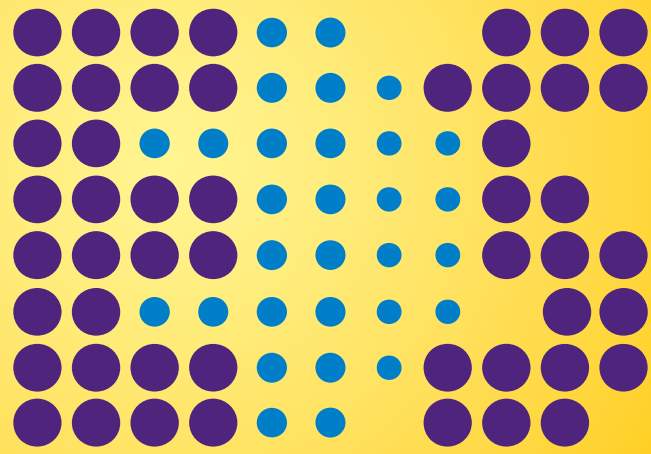
However, the DBT has emphasised that its decision, while applying to some construction machinery, does not apply to construction products. The regulation of these continues to be the responsibility of the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, which is yet to comment on the DBT announcement. In December 2022, the DLUHC said it would end recognition of the CE mark on construction products on 30th June 2025. This requires legislation to be put in place, which has not so far happened.

The differing departmental positions, once again, creates uncertainty. Many companies in the UK construction supply chain have already invested heavily to place the UKCA mark on their

products. However, some British manufacturers and more overseas ones have held off committing to the UKCA mark because the UK represents a relatively small market, making investment in UK-based assessment and testing unattractive.

Check the CBM Website for further updates.





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