

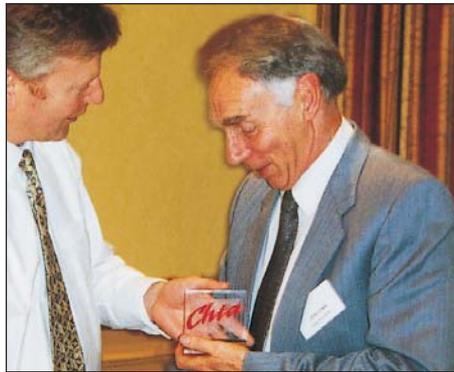
John Cowie, CHTA's founding Chairman

It is with deep regret that we record the death of John Cowie, CHTA's sterling leader during the Association's formative period.

John Cowie was elected CHTA's founding Chairman, at the first formal meeting of what was initially called the Contract Heat Treatment Group, on May 8th 1973 at Aston University in Birmingham. There it was agreed that "the objective of the Group is to serve as a central organisation to represent the interests and upgrade the status of the contract heat treatment industry in the United Kingdom".

John made a major contribution to

achieving this aim as CHTA's longest-serving Chairman (1973-82) and a member of the Management Committee for 22 years, during most of which time he was also a much-valued participant in CHTA's Publicity Subcommittee. His key role was recognised with the presentation of a special award at CHTA's 25th Anniversary Lunch in 1998.



John Cowie in 1998 receiving the special award from then CHTA Chairman Chris Baumann.

Born in Glasgow, John Cowie moved to Kilbirnie in Ayrshire at an early age. There he grew up in the shadow of a large steelworks which probably engendered in him his interest in metallurgy.

Educated at Spiers School, Beith, John joined Wm. Beadmore & Co. Ltd, Glasgow as a student apprentice in metallurgy, participating in possibly one of the earliest sandwich courses for students in industry. His studies of metallurgy, at the Royal Technical College Glasgow (now the University of Strathclyde), and applied physics, at Paisley Technical College, led to qualifications in both subjects. He subsequently became a member of the Institution of Metallurgists.

For some years, John was manager of roll production at Beardmore's, responsible for the manufacture of fully-hardened forged

steel rolls which were a specialised product in considerable demand both at home and abroad.

In 1959, he left his native land to become Chief Metallurgist at Manchester-based EVA Bros. Ltd (Forgemasters & Engineers). In 1964, he was appointed Managing Director of Midland Heat Treatments, Wolverhampton, a subsidiary company of the EVA Industries Group. In 1971, he also became a director of Abbey Heat Treatments of London, a sister company within EVA Industries.

John was responsible for numerous innovations at Midland Heat Treatments, including the building of a new department for induction hardening. This was to become the core activity when, at the end of 1983, in a management buy-out, he purchased all the share capital of the company from EVA Industries plc, by then a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Anglo Indonesia Corporation plc.

During his time as CHTA Chairman, John Cowie also served on the Advisory Committee of the Wolfson Heat Treatment Centre, then based at the University of Aston in Birmingham. He was also a member of the Convocation of the University.

John retired as Managing Director of Midland Heat Treatments on 31st July 1990 after 26 successful years of service. He continued as Chairman of the company thereafter, enjoying time for caravanning and golf.

Aged 80, John Cowie passed away on April 18th after a long fight against cancer. He is survived by his partner Lily, his three children (one of whom, Alistair, is now Managing Director of Midland Heat Treatments Ltd) and seven grandchildren.

Our sincere condolences go out to all of John's family.

CHTA Secretariat

Items for inclusion in *Hotline* and enquiries about CHTA activities should be addressed to:

Contract Heat Treatment Association

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Website: www.chta.co.uk

CHTA Secretary and *Hotline* Editor:
Alan J. Hick B.Sc., C. Eng., FIMMM

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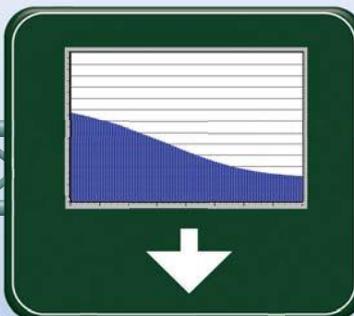
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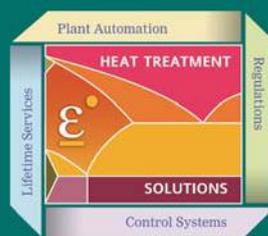
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David Wilkins retires

Former CHTA Chairman **David Wilkins** retired from Bodycote in April. Here he reflects on a career that has encompassed some 35 years in heat treatment.

Reflection, no doubt a common experience for those who reach retirement, has been my companion for some time. I count myself fortunate to have trained as a metallurgist via a student apprenticeship in the steel industry at English Steel Corporation, part of the Vickers Group, later moving into contract heat treatment at the formative stage of our industry.

It has been a privilege to work with many innovators and experience at first hand the many changes, in technology, methods and management systems, which have enlightened all of us whose livelihoods depend upon them.

What changes there have been! Dewpoint meters to oxygen probes, clockwork process timers to real-time programmable logic controllers and networked computers. Metallographic plate cameras, lit by carbon arc, to digital cameras. Exhibition posters and magazines to websites, e-mail, e-zines, intranets and blogs for communication.

Who could have predicted, forty years ago, real-time communications worldwide via the 'web' or temperature control to $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, at temperatures in the range 1300 to 1400°C, in a vacuum furnace with working dimensions of 1m x 1m x 1.5m? Or holding case depths specified as 0.75 to 1.1mm to within a $\pm 0.05\text{mm}$ range, with guaranteed reproducibility batch to batch, providing steel casts are the same.

Although on occasion challenging, I have always found my work to have been interesting. I've yet to meet a bored heat treater and consider our fraternity to be a special breed, showing more than the normal degree of dedication in what, after all, is a job of work, not a calling, although at times it may appear to be such.

I rejoice that many colleagues and customers have become friends and only regret that so many of them are no longer with us. Amongst them, the late Felix Norton of Henry Simon, Derek Clack of Nemo, Peter Bates of Blandburgh, Ron Fair of Rolls-Royce, Iain Smith of Bodycote and Roy McGavin of Exors of James Mills, to all of whom I owe special debts of gratitude for lessons they cheerfully imparted.

My joining the heat treatment industry, at Henry Simon Ltd, was a direct result of a former ESC colleague, Frank Cherry, observing my situation in the steel industry and recognising my ambition to move from



Sporting the hat at the behest of his American colleagues, David Wilkins addresses the many industry friends present at his retirement party in Macclesfield on April 13th.

laboratory work and gain sales and commercial experience. As a result, we were also to work together subsequently at Nemo Heat Treatments. It seems like only yesterday that he, Prof. Tom Bell, Brian Birch and I were first discussing controlled nitrocarburising and Tom's new 'baby' – 'Surface Engineering'.

Others who have been and continue to be examples to me and advanced my career in many ways include Joe Dwek and John Chesworth of Bodycote, Chris Stokoe of Nemo, who always combined his accountancy skills with a flair for engineering, and Brian Ellis, who has been one step ahead of me ever since our apprenticeships at ESC. Younger colleagues, such as Simon Blantern, David Donnelly and David Boscoe, have also helped to keep me on my toes over many years.

Not being a confrontational sort of person, the trend to supply chain empowerment, and development of a 'partnership' culture in the purchase/sales relationship, helped me develop a role in technical sales and marketing. Involvement in the outsourcing revolution has also been a key element in my being able to pursue a holistic



David flanked at his retirement celebration by former CHTA Management Committee colleagues Terry Elliott (left) and Association Secretary Alan J Hick.

selling approach.

I am grateful for the willingness of my colleagues over many years to allow me the time to participate in the activities of the Contract Heat Treatment Association, as a member of the Management Committee for seventeen years and Chairman twice (1991/1992 and 2002).

It has been an honour to contribute, albeit in a small way, to the progress of the Association and, in particular, to have had the opportunity to get to know as friends my fellow directors of competitor companies. I think particularly of the late John Cowie of Midland Heat Treatments, who first encouraged me to take an active part in the Association, and Terry Elliott of Senior Heat Treatment, who later became a valued colleague at Bodycote. In CHTA Secretary Alan J. Hick of course I have a fellow 'blue', although in his case Birmingham City FC rather than my Manchester City FC, a fault for which I forgave him many years ago. We cannot choose our birthplace!

Over the years, our industry has experienced more than its fair share of trials, from the 'oil shock' of 1973 onwards, but the good times have thankfully been plentiful as well. I believe that the industry will continue to provide opportunities for the development of niche businesses, as well as further expansion of major 'players'. We will see increasingly energy-efficient processes, further developments in nanotechnology-based surface engineering, more integrated in-line processing and further outsourcing by major manufacturers.

Here I am, a grammar-school boy from a Manchester council estate, with a career that has spanned the development of the world's largest provider of heat treatment services - Bodycote. In my most recent role, I have been privileged to travel farther afield, see our industry at work in many countries and make new friends amongst colleagues of many nationalities. I will always be grateful to John Hubbard, CEO of Bodycote International, for giving me this opportunity so late in my career.

Although our developed economies face many challenges, including those related to climate change, we as heat treaters have a key role to play in the efficient use of resources and making a positive contribution to the 'carbon economy'. I wish all members success in their future endeavours.

I hope that I will be excused from naming some names and for the omissions that limited space has forced upon me.

CHTA thanks David sincerely for his major input into the Association's activities and wishes him a long and happy retirement.



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PROFIT FROM OUR EXPERIENCE



CHTA members were to the fore amongst some 35 participants in the "Active-screen Plasma Processing Workshop" staged at Birmingham University on May 1st. Organised by the University's Surface Engineering Group and co-sponsored by Advantage West Midlands and AdSurfEng Ltd, the event, hosted by Professor Tom Bell, examined the perceived advantages of active-screen approach, particularly for plasma nitriding (see Heat Treatment of Metals, 2003.1, pages 1-7). Seen here (l. to r.) are Michael Emmott (Keighley Laboratories), Keith Laing (TTI Group), Kevin Bannister and Alan Whitehouse (both Tamworth Heat Treatment), Patrick Robinson (Bodycote Heat Treatments), Tom Bell, Mehrdad Esfandiari (TTI Group), Andrew Corless (Bodycote Heat Treatments) and Tony Staines (TTI Group).

INDUCTION HARDENING CAPACITY SAVED FOR UK!

CHTA member Meltham Mills Engineering has purchased a high-capacity induction hardening line from GKN Sintered Metals

after the closure of the Lichfield site. MME will refurbish and expand the capacity and capability of the equipment which will include in-line tempering and crack detection. This new facility will be able to offer a



complete subcontract service with high capacity at low production costs. Active-screen plasma nitriding also features in the first issue of International Heat Treatment and Surface Engineering incorporating Heat Treatment of Metals, the world-renowned former Wolfson Heat Treatment Centre publication. At the May Workshop, Joint Editor Tom Bell examined the new journal with CHTA Secretary Alan J. Hick, proud Editor of Heat Treatment of Metals for 31 of his Wolfson years.

ISO/TS 16949 ACCREDITATION FOR HHT (MIDLANDS)

Darlaston-based HHT (Midlands) Ltd secured accreditation to ISO/TS 16949:2002 in March this year, following months of preparation based on the existing ISO 9001:2000 registration.

Assessed and registered by NQA, the approval includes heat treatment processes listed as carburising, carbonitriding, nitrocarburising, carbon restoration, direct hardening, induction hardening and austempering.

ISO/TS 16949 is the additional requirement for the application of ISO 9001:2000 for automotive production. Continual measurement of performance indicators in process and supply sectors has helped HHTM to achieve this important milestone to provide contract heat treatment to its customers.

Not standing still, HHTM is now well advanced towards compliance with the customer-specific CQI-9, the self-assessment quality-assurance system for heat-treated automotive parts prepared by AIAG, representing global automotive manufacturing.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Smoke-free heat treatment shops

The Health Act 2006 dictates that smoking in all enclosed public spaces and workplaces is banned from 2 April 2007 in Wales and will be outlawed from 1 July 2007 in England.

The smoking ban has been in force in Scotland since March 2006. *Hotline* asked CHTA members north of the border to share their experience of implementing the legislation:

Tony Hey, Induction Heat Treatment Services Ltd, Airdrie:

"Yes the smoking ban has been in force in Scotland for some time, but we do not have a problem with it as very few of our employees actually smoke (4 out of a total workforce of 30). The four smokers simply go outside to smoke and they do not abuse this concession by staying out too

long or too often. Common sense prevails."

Jim Bridges, British Heat Treatments, East Kilbride:

"Our men now accept this and we don't have a problem but the first few months were the worst. We thought of giving the men a five-minute break over and above the set breaks, but the non-smokers said why should they have less break time than the smokers. We now allow the smokers to go out to a designated area only in their breaks."

Guidance on the smoking-ban aspects of the Health Act 2006 and its implementation can be found at:

- www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/resources;
- www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=696;
- www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1262.

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MOVE FOR THERMAL HIRE

Thermal Hire have moved their Wigan operations and Head Office to: Unit 12, Pagefield Industrial Estate, Miry Lane, Wigan WN6 7LA. The new premises have enhanced the company's capabilities in the North-West, offering larger facilities and craneage up to 70 tonne.

Along with its North-East facilities, the group has a total of 28 furnaces, ranging from 1.2m cube to 15.5m x 5m x 3.2m. The range is totally versatile, from harden and temper to homogenising at 1300°C for very large products.

Thermal Hire Ltd have just been successful with approval to quality management standard AS9100. This gives the company an excellent opportunity to expand its portfolio of industries in which it operates.

The company offers a full range of processes to most industries, backed up by a full-time technical/QA department. Contact Jim Riley on for further information (e-mail: jimriley@thermalhire.com; tel: 01942 620062).

ISO 14001 FOR WALLWORK BURY

Wallwork Heat Treatment has received full registration to the international environmental standard ISO 14001. This applies to all the thermal processing, heat treatment and foundry operations at the three sites in Bury, Greater Manchester. The new ISO 14001 registration is a



(L. to r.): Wallwork Heat Treatment's Nick Olpin (quality team leader), Peter Carpenter (director) and Mike Jarvis (environmental co-ordinator) after receiving accreditation to ISO 14001.

significant addition to the company's other standards, which include ISO 9001:2000 and BS EN ISO 9100, reflecting Wallwork's commitment to the high-quality area of manufacturing. Last year, the company also joined the select few UK businesses that are accredited to Nadcap, the quality-approval approach required by many international aerospace businesses, including Boeing, Rolls Royce and BAE Systems.

"This is a significant milestone for us," said Wallwork director Peter Carpenter. "Over the last decade we have steadily moved to vacuum heat treatment and other high-tech coating and heat treatment processes that both reduce our energy requirements and give us greater control over the processes. The ISO 14001 registration confirms our continuing moves towards cleaner technology, in line with customer requirements in the aerospace and automotive industry."

Work is continuing towards ISO 14001 registration at the other Wallwork group sites in Birmingham and Cambridge.

Please send your news items for **Hotline 109** by e-mail to: mail@chta.co.uk **Deadline: August 31st**

Diary

June 26 2007
SURFACE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS
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www.tssea.co.uk

July 26 2007
CHTA PUBLICITY SUBCOMMITTEE*
Birmingham, England

August 2 2007
CHTA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE*
Birmingham, England

September 16-20 2007
24TH ASM HEAT TREATING SOCIETY
CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION
Detroit, USA
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www.asminternational.org/heatreat

September 17-20 2007
FURNACES AND ATMOSPHERES FOR TODAY'S
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Meadville, PA, USA
www.secowarwick.com/seminar/seminar.html

October 1-3 2007
CONTROLLED ATMOSPHERE ALUMINIUM
BRAZING SEMINAR
Erie, PA, USA
www.secowarwick.com/seminar/seminar.html

October 3 2007
BIFCA Technical Series:
BURNER TECHNOLOGY & SELECTION
West Bromwich, England
www.bifca.org.uk

October 10-12 2007
63RD HÄRTEREI-KOLLOQUIUM
Wiesbaden, Germany
German-language heat treatment conference and exhibition: www.awt-online.org

October 15-18 2007
VACUUM COATING AND PLASMA SURFACE
TECHNOLOGY
Dresden, Germany
Trade fair and conference: www.efds.org/V2007.pdf

October 16-18 2007
UNDERSTANDING HEAT TREATMENT
Birmingham, England
72nd repeat of Wolfson's well-established course. Details from Derek Close, Wolfson Heat Treatment Centre, Federation House, 10 Vyse Street, Birmingham B18 6LT (tel: 0121 237 1122; fax: 0121 237 1124; e-mail: derek.close@sea.org.uk; www.sea.org.uk/whtc)

October 16-18 2007
MATERIALICA 2007
Munich, Germany
www.materialica.com

October 22-25 2007
ALUMINIUM PROCESS FURNACE SEMINAR
Meadville, PA, USA
www.secowarwick.com/seminar/seminar.html

October 25 2007
CHTA ENERGY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
WORKSHOP /CHTA AGM*
Birmingham, England
(Details TBA in Hotline 109)

October 30 - November 2 2007
16TH IFHTSE CONGRESS
Brisbane, Australia
www.materialsaustralia.com.au/IFHTSE2007

November 1 2007
CHTA PUBLICITY SUBCOMMITTEE*
Birmingham, England

November 6-8 2007
SURFACE WORLD
Birmingham, England
Surface finishing exhibition:
www.surfaceworldshow.com

November 15 2007
CHTA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE*
Birmingham, England

November 20-21 2007
INDUSTRIAL FURNACE TECHNOLOGY COURSE
West Bromwich, England
www.bifca.org.uk

January 31 2008
CHTA PUBLICITY SUBCOMMITTEE*
Birmingham, England

February 7 2008
CHTA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE*
Birmingham, England

March 31- April 4 2008
THERMIC 2008
Paris, France
France's thermal processing exhibition is one of ten trade shows at *Industrie Paris 2008*:
www.industrie-expo.com

May 1 2008
CHTA PUBLICITY SUBCOMMITTEE*
Birmingham, England

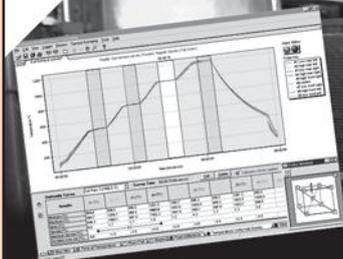
May 7-9 2008
INNOVATION IN HEAT TREATMENT FOR
INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS
Verona, Italy
www.aimnet.it/echt2008.htm

May 8 2008
CHTA AGM / CHTA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE*
Solihull, England (Details TBA in Hotline 109)

May 25-28 2008
2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEAT
TREATMENT AND SURFACE ENGINEERING OF
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Bled, Slovenia
www.imt.si/icht/

*Members wishing issues to be raised at CHTA meetings should notify CHTA's Secretary at mail@chta.co.uk.

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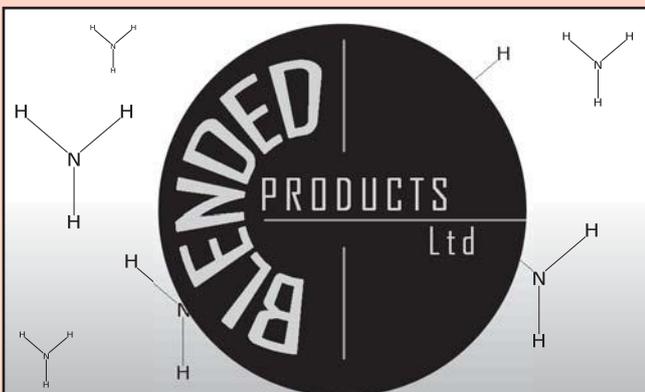
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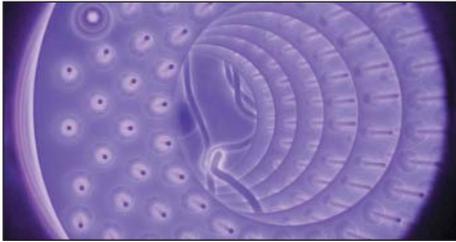


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Eltro (GB) Ltd

Managing Director Jeremy Cockrem outlines the activities of a CHTA member specialising in plasma processing.

Eltro (GB) Limited was founded in 1995 to promote the *ELTROPULS* plasma nitriding process, developed and patented by Eltro GmbH, Baesweiler, Germany. Based in Farnborough, Hampshire, the company offers a subcontract surface engineering service – not just for nitriding but also for nitrocarburising, oxy-black finishing and hard coating – in addition to equipment sales and service support for the United Kingdom.

There are further Eltro treatment shops in Chemnitz, Germany and Oxford, Michigan, USA as well as in Baesweiler where the head office and equipment-manufacturing facility is situated. Eltro also has a sales office in Russia.

Originally, all research and development was carried out in Baesweiler. However, the market in the UK has some very demanding and often unique applications; so, over time, Eltro (GB) Ltd formed and expanded its own research and development department. We now have extensive laboratory facilities including metallurgical sample preparation, optical microscopy, hardness testing, fatigue testing and component test rigs. We still work closely with Eltro GmbH who also have facilities for GDOES, EDAX and SEM analysis.



Market Movements

ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES RELATING TO 35 CHTA MEMBER SITES

“THIS QUARTER” =

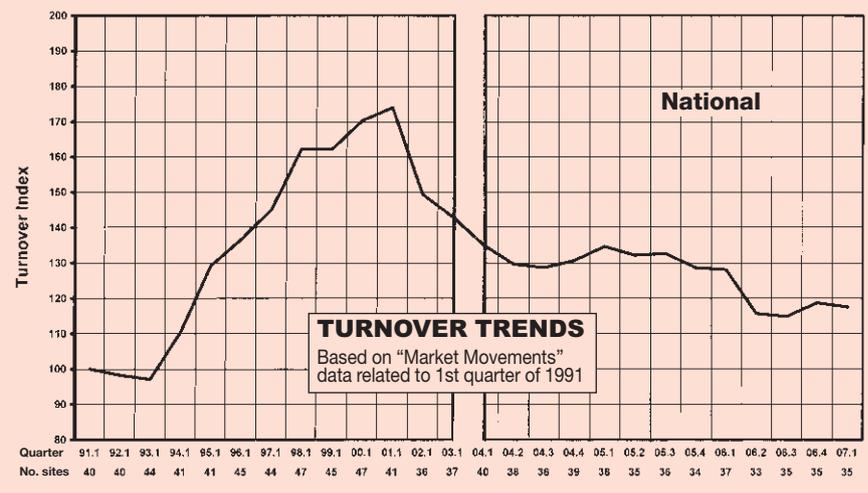
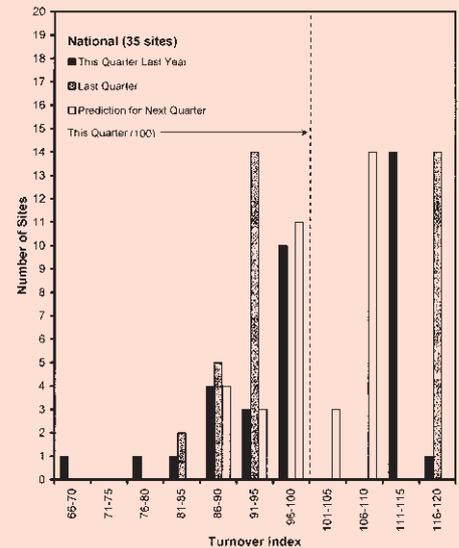
**1 JANUARY –
31 MARCH
2007**

= **TURNOVER INDEX 100**

National

**OVERALL ANALYSIS
(35 SITES)**

	Mean index
This quarter last year	102.1
Last quarter	101.0
Predicted next quarter	101.5



Due to their different local markets, the various Eltro treatment shops tend to specialise in different fields. Whereas Eltro Chemnitz has extensive experience in treating stainless steel parts, Eltro USA in the treatment of tooling, and Eltro GmbH in processing high-volume automotive parts (as well as building equipment from one-off furnaces to completely automated and integrated plant), Eltro (GB) Ltd has been particularly successful in the autosport, aerospace and off-shore markets.

We work closely with our customers – preferably right from the design stage – in order to ensure the best solution for their application.

In the autosport market, we have supplied an *ELTROPULS* furnace to G & S Valves for the treatment of valves and two furnaces to Mercedes-Benz High Performance Engines for treating race-engine parts. Triumph motorcycles have also purchased three furnaces from us for the treatment of crankshafts. Many constructors use our subcontract service for the treatment of

steel and titanium race-engine and chassis parts.

For the aerospace market, we have supplied two furnaces to Goodrich for treating aircraft actuator parts and four to Rolls Royce for treating gas turbine engine parts. Our subcontract treatment shop has many manufacturers' approvals and we treat parts such as actuator gears, weapons release system parts and in-flight refuelling tubes.

STATESIDE STATS

NORTH-AMERICAN HEAT TREAT SALES STEADY

Participating members in the Metal Treating Institute's Monthly Sales Statistics Program reported sales of \$223.2million in the first quarter of 2007, just 0.1% down on the \$223.3million recorded in the same period of 2006.

March 2007 sales declined at \$79.8million, off 1.9% from March 2006's total of \$81.3million. The latest figure for April 2007, at \$72.3million, is 3.8% over last year's April billing of \$69.7 million.