

Climate Change Levy: the saga continues...

SEA's CEO **Dave Elliott** provides another update on the Surface Engineering Association's campaign to render CHTA members eligible for CCL rebates via negotiated climate change agreements.

Since the last issue of *Hotline*, data have been received from the majority of CHTA member sites, as requested by DEFRA; so many thanks to those that responded. Unfortunately, the information was not received in time to meet the original deadline set by DEFRA. This means that if the CHTA scheme is given the go-ahead, it is unlikely that it will come into operation on 1st January 2005 as originally hoped for.

If members have not sent their input, then it would be greatly appreciated if this could be forwarded by e-mail to dave.elliott@sea.org.uk (using the spreadsheet first circulated by CHTA's Secretary in early August). We need to be able to show DEFRA and HM Customs & Excise that the data we present are representative of the sector as a whole.

The SEA met recently with Marie Pender, Head of the CCL section at DEFRA. Marie

stated that the competition criteria had been introduced by HM Customs & Excise; it was for them to decide whether a sector met the criteria or not.

We have requested the attendance of Mr Phil Wilson, from the Environmental Taxation Development Department of HM Customs & Excise, at our next House of Lords briefing on 12th October. Marie Pender has already agreed to be present, along with Bill Olnier, MP and member of the All-Party Engineering Group, and Bill O'Brien, MP and member of the All-Party Manufacturing Industry Group.

The SEA have continued to lobby on behalf of the CHTA. We are pleased to report that Andrew Stunell, MP and Chief Whip of the Liberal Democrat Party, has written to both the Chancellor and the Secretary of State at the DTI regarding the new eligibility criteria and the continuing "moving goalposts".

Andrew attended the last SEA briefing lunch at the House of Lords and was pleased to receive a copy of *Hotline 96* containing the article entitled 'A healthy future for contract heat treatment?' He will keep the SEA informed of any developments in this area.

Lord Hoyle will also be following up on the question asked in the house before the summer recess:

"To ask HM Government why they have chosen to introduce various competition criteria to the proposed extension of the eligibility criteria for climate change agreements, which is entirely inconsistent with the approach applied to existing agreements".

"... if the CHTA scheme is given the go-ahead, it is unlikely that it will come into operation on 1st January 2005 as originally hoped for."

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CHTA's Secretariat: the future

A statement from Alan J. Hick . . .

Following Aston University's decision to close Wolfson Heat Treatment Centre on December 31st, the question is raised, elsewhere in this issue of *Hotline*, about the continuity of CHTA's Secretariat thereafter.

Following Management Committee approval of my proposals, I am pleased to report that it is my intention to remain CHTA Secretary and *Hotline* Editor for the foreseeable future. The registered office address of CHTA, as a company limited by guarantee, will change at the end of the year.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

CHTA AGM

This year's 26th CHTA Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday **December 16th** at the Surface Engineering Association's headquarters in Birmingham. Full details will be circulated to members in November.



Guido Plicht
Senior Research Engineer

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Leaving our industry with mixed feelings

On retiring, after a long and illustrious career in contract heat treatment, the ever-outspoken former CHTA Chairman Ian Brown offers a few thoughts ...

It was with mixed feelings that I approached retirement from Wallwork Heat Treatment Ltd at the end of August, after almost 35 year's service.

On the one hand, there is a feeling of regret – it is difficult to walk away from an organisation which I helped build up, almost from “scratch”, and with which I have been so heavily involved for so many years.

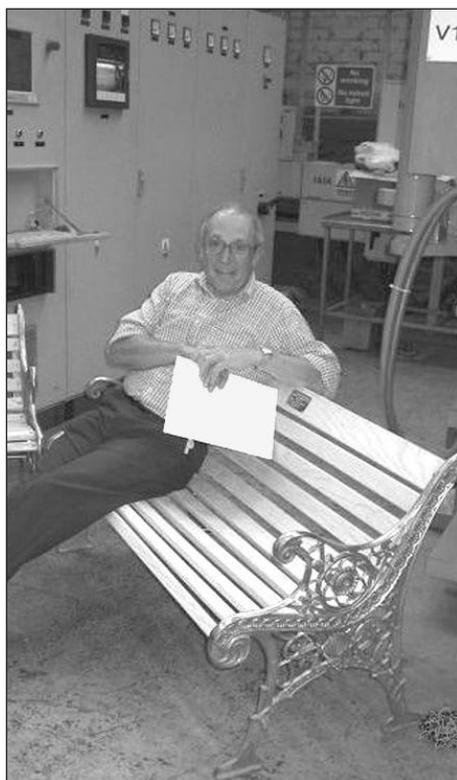
On the other hand, there is a sense of relief since, for the past few years, I have spent most of my time either on the road or dealing with the mountain of senseless, boring, procedural rubbish pouring out of Whitehall, rather than being involved in “hands-on” heat treatment, which is what I enjoy. Those of you who know me will also be aware how difficult it is for me to tolerate so-called “political correctness” and a customer base whose sole topic of conversation is “price-down”. On balance, therefore, I am happy to be getting out.

One thing that I will remember with great affection is the time I spent on the Management Committee of CHTA (1992-2001), including two terms as Chairman. Quite a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since 2001, when changes in the structure of the Wallwork group resulted in my resignation from active involvement with CHTA. Others have since followed – names such as David Wilkins and Chris Baumann – and it now seems that Alan J Hick might be joining me in retirement, although I understand that he hopes to stay on as Secretary to CHTA.

I am sure you were all as shocked as I was to hear of Aston University's decision to close the Wolfson Heat Treatment Centre. I sincerely hope that Alan is able to continue as our Secretary since, to many people, he is the CHTA. The Association's survival has been due in no small measure to the stability that Alan brought to it – he has been, to paraphrase the words of a very famous book, the rock on which we have built.

I deserted CHTA at a time of great change, having just helped steer it into affiliation with the SEA. I am confident that most of the membership now accepts that this was a good move although, at the time, there was much debate. My own view remains unchanged – we could not have continued to function without aligning ourselves with a larger organisation, and SEA offered (and still does) the best “fit” available.

I understand that Terry Littlewood and David Elliot are still working hard to get us a fair deal with the Climate Change Levy, and that there is now a real possibility that they will succeed. Without SEA, we would not even have been given a hearing.



To mark his retirement, two benches were presented to Ian Brown at an informal gathering of Wallwork staff on 31 August. The bench ends were cast from 37/18 nickel/chrome in Wallwork's own foundry. The wood is ash, from the company's vehicle building department – the same as goes on Wallwork truck bodies. Group company Tecvac provided TiN-coated fittings and an engraved plaque commemorating the event.

Good times

It is customary, in an article dealing with someone's retirement, to include a brief résumé of that person's career and future plans, and who am I to break with tradition?

Dealing with my future plans first, I will continue to “make music” as long as my fingers can press the keys, to spend enough time each year in France to ensure that my circulation runs on red wine rather than red corpuscles, and to work on house and garden until my back gives way. Beyond that, your guess is as good as mine!

As for my CV, I was born near Derby, and educated at an excellent Grammar School in Northamptonshire, where the opportunities for sport and music were

abundant, and the incentives for hard work on my A-Levels insufficient! In 1959, therefore, I joined Stewarts and Lloyds, Corby, as a Trainee Metallurgist, and eventually ended up with an “AIM” from what is now Manchester Metropolitan University. Later I acquired an M.Eng, a C.Eng, and my AIM was updated first to MIM, then to something which has too many M's in it to bother with!

From 1963 to 1969, I was a Research Assistant, for Prof. Derek Hull at Liverpool University, before returning to the steel industry with GKN at Bredbury, Stockport, where I worked with Mike Hallas and David Wilkins, both now Bodycote Directors (and still friends!). It is often said that every heat treater worth his salt worked for GKN at some stage, so I guess I qualify!

I joined Wallwork Heat Treatment in 1970 as Technical Manager and assistant to Robert Wallwork, its founder. Our first project was to rebuild some second-hand sealed-quench furnaces, using second-hand everything. We even suspended pipework from the roof trusses using salt-bath wire! It was great fun, and we learned a lot.

In 1990, I moved to South Staffs to supervise setting up our plant in the West Midlands. Shortly afterwards, Robert Wallwork decided to retire and I was appointed MD. Other than a year spent in Cambridge, following our acquisition of Tecvac Ltd., I remained based at the Small Heath plant until two years ago, when the wheel turned full circle and I returned to Wallwork's head office in Bury.

Best wishes

Despite my side-swipes at bureaucracy and the state of British industry, I have enjoyed working in this unique and challenging sector. I certainly relished the chance to meet so many like-minded people whilst involved with CHTA.

Despite the general exodus to “the Eastern block”, UK engineering can still have a future, probably biased more towards the high-tech end of the sector, and almost certainly involving some radical changes. Whatever the case, heat treatment and surface engineering undoubtedly have a major role to play, and CHTA/SEA will continue to flourish. I wish you all every success.

With Ian Brown's retirement, the UK heat treatment industry loses one of its most colourful personalities. CHTA thanks him sincerely for his major input into the Association's activities and wishes him a long and happy “afterlife”.

Lance Miller's article, "NADCAP after ten years – from America's perspective", featured in our previous edition, prompted the following letter from the Director of PRI/Nadcap European Operations ...

Dear Mr Hick,

Update on Nadcap

Following your recent article on Nadcap in *Hotline 96* in June 2004, please find below and enclosed information that will provide you with an accurate overview of the program.

Nadcap is no longer an acronym (National Aerospace Defence Contractors Accreditation Program) because recently it was changed in recognition of the increasing internationalisation of the program. There is a European Regional Advisory Body (EURAB), which consists of representatives from European aerospace primes, including Rolls-Royce plc and Airbus amongst others, contributing the regional perspective to Nadcap's global progress.

Nadcap auditors are all highly qualified individuals with an average of thirty years relevant experience. 80-100% have BS degrees in Metallurgy/Material Science or other relevant fields and 30-50% typically have advanced degrees (MS and PhD) in relevant areas. They undergo an extensive screening process that includes a "team interview" by special process experts from Nadcap subscribing primes.



Nadcap members

Nadcap has strict procedures regarding the issuing of certificates and we are obliged to issue them within five days of accreditation. Delays occur when suppliers are ill-prepared for their Nadcap audit, resulting in excessive and severe nonconformances that require a significant amount of time for them to close.

Regarding cost, a four-day audit does not cost an average of \$8,000-\$10,000: in fact, a four-day Nadcap audit costs \$5,850.

The inflexibility of Nadcap is deliberate in this sense – this is how it has to be because design responsibility is maintained by aerospace primes, and we do not anticipate this to change. We are concerned by the suggestion that the contract heat treater technically knows best, and should be allowed to work away from specification "so long as the material properties come out correct" without customer authorisation.

We include for your reference some background information on Nadcap – please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

- Heat Treatment Staff Engineer: Jerry Aston (+44 207 483 9010)
- Heat Treatment Task Group Chair: John Gourley, Honeywell (+1 602 231 4609)
- Director, European Operations: Seema Saleem (+ 44 207 483 9010)

Yours sincerely

Seema Saleem

Director, European Operations,
PRI/Nadcap

Enclosures with this letter: summary of Nadcap members; overview of Nadcap (see panel below); and the listing "Government Agencies and Contractor Positions on PRI Qualification Programs" which can be found at www.pri-network.org/Nadcap/subscriber/Primematrix.

OVERVIEW OF Nadcap

Nadcap is an unprecedented co-operative industry effort to improve quality, while reducing costs, for quality assurance throughout the aerospace and defence industries. Nadcap is an industry-managed approach to conformity assessment that brings together technical experts from both industry and government in the Nadcap organisation. Prime contractors, suppliers and representatives from the government work together to establish requirements for accreditation, approve suppliers and define operational program requirements. Unlike traditional third-party programs, Nadcap is an industry-managed program. This process results in a standardised approach to quality assurance and a reduction in redundant auditing throughout the aerospace industry because industry has joined forces to develop a program that:

- establishes stringent industry consensus standards that satisfy the requirements of all participants;
- replaces routine auditing of suppliers with one approved through a consensus decision-making process of members from the user community;
- conducts more in-depth, technically superior special process audits;
- improves supplier quality throughout industry through stringent requirements;
- reduces costs through improved standardisation;
- utilises technically-expert auditors to assure process familiarity;
- provides more frequent audits for primes, fewer audits for suppliers.

Beneficiaries of improvements resulting from Nadcap are as diverse as Nadcap's over 1300 customers. A participating prime contractor reports a saving of over \$1million annually while

achieving technically superior audits. An accredited Nadcap supplier has tracked a 97% reduction in rework resulting from improvements to his system stemming from Nadcap requirements. Surveys performed on the Nadcap accredited supplier base indicate an average 40% reduction in audits following Nadcap accreditation.

Nadcap Facts

- Nadcap has over 1350 accredited suppliers of special processes listings on the Nadcap Qualified Manufacturers List (QML)
- Nadcap has conducted over 11800 audits with 2700 audits expected in 2004
- Subscribing prime contractor/government bodies now number 23
- Associate prime subscriptions number 9
- Total Nadcap subscriptions number 112

Statutory Dispute Resolution Procedures

The Employment Act 2002 (Dispute Resolution) Regulations come into force next month. **Tim Lang** of George Green Solicitors provides guidance ...

From October 1st 2004, all employers and employees will be required to follow statutory minimum dismissal and disciplinary procedures and statutory minimum grievance procedures.

The aim of the new procedures is to encourage employers and employees to resolve disputes internally rather than take them to an Employment Tribunal.

Dismissal and disciplinary procedures

The standard dismissal and disciplinary procedures, set out below, should be used when dismissing or taking disciplinary action against employees. However, this excludes the issue of oral or written warnings. This procedure should be followed for *all* dismissals, including dismissals on the grounds of capability, conduct, redundancy and expiry of a fixed-term contract.

Step 1: statement of grounds for action and invitation to meeting

- (1) *The employer must set out in writing the employee's alleged conduct or characteristics, or other circumstances, which lead him to contemplate dismissing or taking disciplinary action against the employee.*
- (2) *The employer must send the statement or a copy of it to the employee and invite the employee to attend a meeting to discuss the matter.*

Step 2: meeting

- (1) *The meeting must take place before action is taken, except in the case where the disciplinary action consists of suspension.*
- (2) *The meeting must not take place unless:*
 - (a) *the employer has informed the employee what the basis was for including in the statement under step 1(1) the ground or grounds given in it, and*
 - (b) *the employee has had a reasonable opportunity to consider his response to that information.*
- (3) *The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting.*

- (4) *After the meeting, the employer must inform the employee of his decision and notify him of the right to appeal against the decision if he is not satisfied with it.*

Step 3: appeal

- (1) *If the employee does wish to appeal, he must inform the employer.*
- (2) *If the employee informs the employer of his wish to appeal, the employer must invite him to attend a further meeting.*
- (3) *The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting.*
- (4) *The appeal meeting need not take place before the dismissal or disciplinary action takes effect.*
- (5) *After the appeal meeting, the employer must inform the employee of his final decision.*

Even where an employer dismisses an employee by going through the relevant minimum procedure, it will not necessarily ensure that dismissal will be fair. Employers should obtain a copy of the ACAS Code of Practice on disciplinary and grievance procedures and follow this.

The consequence of not following the new procedure is that, if an employee is dismissed, this will be an automatically unfair dismissal and the Tribunal may increase the compensation awarded by up to 50%.

Grievance procedure

The standard grievance procedure is set out below.

Step 1: statement of grievance

The employee must set out the grievance in writing and send the statement or a copy of it to the employer.

Step 2: meeting

- (1) *The employer must invite the employee to attend a meeting to discuss the grievance.*
- (2) *The meeting must not take place unless:*
 - (a) *the employee has informed the employer what the basis for the grievance was when he made the statement under step 1, and*
 - (b) *the employer has had a reasonable opportunity to consider his response to that information.*
- (3) *The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting.*
- (4) *After the meeting, the employer must inform the employee of his decision as to his response to the grievance and notify him of the right to appeal against the decision if he is not satisfied with it.*

Step 3: appeal

- (1) *If the employee does wish to appeal, he must inform the employer.*
- (2) *If the employee informs the employer of his wish to appeal, the employer*

must invite him to attend a further meeting.

- (3) *The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting.*
- (4) *After the appeal meeting, the employer must inform the employee of his final decision.*

This procedure applies where an employee wishes to complain about any action by an employer. A grievance is defined as a complaint by an employee about action that his employer has taken or is contemplating taking in relation to him.

Employees will be barred from bringing Tribunal complaints where they have failed to comply with the requirement, in the statutory grievance procedure, to set out their grievance in writing and send this to the employer.

The Government propose adjusting the time limit for bringing Employment Tribunal complaints (normally three months) to enable employees to pursue grievances. If an employee attempts to present a Tribunal complaint without having written the step 1 grievance letter, the Tribunal will decline to register the application but will automatically extend the time limit for three months.

Additionally, where an employee does send a stage 1 letter to the employer within the normal time limit, an automatic three-month extension to the time limit will be triggered without either of the parties needing to contact the Tribunal.

Terms and conditions of employment

There are also three main changes to the rules relating to written statements of terms and conditions of employment which the Employment Rights Act 1996 requires employers to provide to employees within two months of the commencement of employment.

- (1) All statements of terms and conditions of employment (which includes contracts) will need to include written details of the employer's disciplinary procedure.
- (2) The requirement to provide written details of the disciplinary procedure will apply to all employers (at present it just applies to employers with more than 20 employees).
- (3) A financial penalty is to be introduced for non-compliance with the obligation to provide written particulars of employment. The penalty is either two or four weeks' pay. However, this is not a free-standing right to compensation. It is an increase in compensation if, and only if, a Tribunal finds in favour of an employee under another type of claim (such as unfair dismissal or underpayment of wages).

All employers should therefore ensure that they have statements of terms and conditions of employment/written contracts in place prior to 1 October 2004 and that they have written disciplinary and grievance procedures in place that comply with the new statutory provisions.

George Green Solicitors are a modern innovative commercial law firm based in the West Midlands. They prepare a monthly e-mail newsletter on employment law issues which is available free of charge to businesses. It is a useful way to keep up to speed with changes in the law. If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter, send an e-mail to Tim Lang at George Green – tlang@georgegreen.co.uk – or visit the firm's website at www.georgegreen.co.uk

USED HEAT TREATMENT EQUIPMENT FOR SALE



Ipsen T5 sealed-quench furnace

- Base tray: 856 x 565mm approx.
- Load height: 550mm approx.
- Maximum temperature: 950°C
- Recuperative burners

Tempering furnace

- Base tray: 856 x 565mm approx.
- Load height: 550mm approx.
- Maximum temperature: 250°C

Stress-relieving furnace

- 890 x 1400mm x 685mm high
- Maximum temperature: 700°C

Endothermic gas generator

Analogue controllers/ chart recorders

Dawson Vickers wash tank

Carter no.6 cooling tower

For details, contact Richard Hicks at
Opperman Mastergear Ltd,
Newbury, Berkshire:
Tel: 01635 811540 Fax: 01635 811502
E-mail: richard.hicks@
opperman-mastergear.co.uk

NAMTEC shares concerns

Comment inspired by Hotline 96's feature "A healthy future for contract heat treatment?" and submitted by Martin Maples, a Senior Technologist at NAMTEC ...

The last edition of *Hotline* posed a number of questions about the future of the heat treatment industry: "What are the concerns of individual CHTA members?"; "How do they see the future of contract heat treatment?"; "What are the important obstacles to be overcome to ensure a healthy future?"; "What could Government do?"

The varied responses by well-known and respected representatives of four of the larger contract heat treatment companies illustrate some important themes that all manufacturing industry, not just CHTA members, can identify with.

The most obvious of these is the increase in 'off-shoring' to countries with lower-labour-cost structures, mainly in the Far East. Previously, it has been possible to compete with these countries in terms of quality, but this is becoming more difficult as major global manufacturers invest in those countries with technology infrastructure and training and support.

As Richard Burslem of Wallwork Heat Treatment points out, some manufacturing sectors are maintaining their strength in the current climate, notably aerospace, defence, nuclear, motor racing and medical devices. These sectors can all be defined as being high-value high-technology and quality-critical industries. As such, they are difficult to enter, but the rewards are worthwhile.

Unfortunately, as Mike Hallas of Bodycote Heat Treatments notes, there has been a decline in the number of suitably-qualified and experienced materials engineers and metallurgists and this produces a further barrier to entry into these markets.

Therefore there is a need for help in developing techniques and technology to exploit these sectors, using specialist knowledge where necessary to enhance the capabilities of companies and create a climate in which they can halt the decline in trade and potentially grow and flourish.

To this end, the Advanced Metals and Manufacturing division of the Department of Trade and Industry, along with Yorkshire Forward and Objective 1 South Yorkshire, launched the National Metals Technology Centre (NAMTEC) in October 2002.

A not-for-profit organisation, NAMTEC offers technical support for the manufacturing and engineering industries through the provision of single-solution metallurgical expertise, consultancy,

Advertising in *Hotline* – a bargain!

Readers are reminded that advertising in *Hotline* is open to both CHTA members and suppliers to the trade. A quarter-page ad, for example, is a bargain at a cost of only £100. For booking space or further details, contact CHTA's Secretariat.

business development, project management and research projects.

The level of support given to an organisation varies dependent on need, and could involve supplying data via the technical helpline, carrying out on-site process audits, providing longer-term in-house metallurgical support or writing, securing funding for and managing multi-partner multi-million-pound research and development projects.

NAMTEC is also providing valuable support to companies on environmental issues, helping them reduce energy costs and meet the accreditation standards required by the ever-increasing demands of environmental legislation.

Through the support given, NAMTEC hopes to assist companies in taking up the opportunities offered by niche markets and so help the country retain a capable and competitive manufacturing sector.

As part of a network of support organisations available, such as Manufacturing Advisory Service, Metal Industry Competitive Enterprise and MetSkill, NAMTEC can be seen to be an important national partner in the future of manufacturing in the UK.

CHTA Secretariat

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

Contract Heat Treatment Association

c/o WHTC, Aston University,
Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET.
Tel: 0121 359 3611, ext.5212
Fax: 0121 359 8910
E-mail: mail@chta.co.uk
Website: www.chta.co.uk

CHTA Secretary: Alan J. Hick

The Contract Heat Treatment Association is not responsible for the statements made or opinions expressed by contributors to *Hotline*.

The Contract Heat Treatment Association is affiliated to the Surface Engineering Association.

HIGH-TECH CAST IRONS REVEALED

The origin and properties of advanced cast iron materials are unveiled at www.ADItreatments.com, a new website launched last month by CHTA member ADI Treatments Ltd. The site also showcases the application of austempered ductile iron (ADI) in the marketplace.

ADI provides high-performance cost-effective solutions to component design and manufacture. While it is often regarded as a "new" material, ADI has an established presence in many industries, particularly for light vehicles, heavy trucks and ground-engaging equipment. More recently, ADI castings have been used to replace more expensive steel forgings and fabrications in renewable energy systems. The company offers customers assistance with all aspects of engineering with ADI, including alloy selection, heat treatment, foundry practice, dimensional stability and machining. Located at West Bromwich, the factory operates under ISO9001:2000 certification and carries out prototype development as well as volume production services.

Further information: ADI Treatments Ltd, Doranda Way, West Bromwich B71 4LE (tel: 0121 525 0303; fax: 0121 525 0404; e-mail: arron.rimmer@ADItreatments.com; www.ADItreatments.com).

News for Hotline 98 should be sent to CHTA's Secretariat by no later than November 30th.



One of the furnaces at ADI Treatments Ltd.

NEW MAN AT WALLWORK HEAT TREATMENT

Tony Gibbs has joined Wallwork Heat Treatment as area sales manager. He will be responsible for key accounts covering the full range of Wallwork Group services, which include diamond-like coatings (DLC), PVD hard coatings, advanced heat treatment techniques, such as plasma nitriding and vacuum carburising, and metallurgical advisory services.

One of Tony's prime responsibilities will be

developing sales in the areas of plasma nitriding and vacuum carburising, following Wallwork's investment in two state-of-the-art furnaces at Bury and Birmingham.

Tony joins Wallwork from Huyton Heat Treatment Ltd, where he was operations manager responsible for all aspects of customer service, including technical and commercial liaison. His early experience with Huyton was in the metallurgical laboratory and he subsequently managed laboratory quality, moving on to become

MEMBER PROFILE

Wednesfield Shotblasting

New CHTA member Wednesfield Shotblasting Limited is a family-run company specialising in heat treatment, shotblasting and paint spraying. Starting life in 1947, it was launched by Managing Director John Green Jnr's grandfather on Planetary Road, Willenhall, West Midlands, where it is still sited.

Stress relieving of metal fabrications was introduced in 1965 when an oil-fired furnace was installed. In 1980, £60,000 was invested in an electric furnace that is still in use today. Employed for the heat treatment of items measuring up to 7.1 x 3.2 x 2.4 metres, the furnace is heated by electric elements situated on all four sides and top and bottom of the chamber. Electronically controlled and alarmed, it can operate at treatment temperatures up to 850°C. Cranage up to 20tonne is available.

Temperature is recorded onto a Eurotherm 5100V Chessell DAQ 100mm chart



recorder, using K-type thermocouples attached directly onto work being heat treated, thus measuring metal temperature and not zone or air temperature. A thermocouple positioned in the centre of the furnace roof records the air temperature of the furnace onto a Taylor circular chart recorder. Two further thermocouples, at front and back of the furnace roof, monitor and control the furnace temperature.

In the 1960's, a shotblast room and paint

area were introduced so that all work that is heat treated can be shotblasted and painted according to customer requirements. In the last four years, investments have been made in a section clean machine, three tumblast machines and a hand-blast cabinet. So, says Director Michele Green, "whatever the work, if we can heat treat it – we can blast it – thus keeping down the transport costs of our customers".

Michele notes: "Our experienced staff pride themselves on giving a quality service at a competitive rate within the promised delivery time. Customers come to us from as far a field as Poland and recommend us as the company of choice. Situated in the heart of the Black Country, we are easily accessible from all major routes".

Customer enquiries should be addressed to: Craig Nicklin, General Manager, Wednesfield Shotblasting Ltd, Planetary Road, Willenhall, West Midlands (e-mail: sales@wednesfieldshot.com; tel: 01902 731781).



Tony
Gibbs

production manager. Later he was technical sales and marketing manager with responsibility for managing technical development and R&D, working with leading engineering companies, before becoming operations manager.

With Wallwork, Tony adds to a UK sales team of twelve, headed by group sales manager Simeon Collins. "We are pleased to welcome Tony," said Simeon. "His strong technical background, in low-temperature and thermochemical processing, will be a major advantage in our work with leading engineering businesses who require a full service supplier approach, backed by excellent logistics and technical support."

SURFING FOR SAFETY

A new website for the surface engineering industry has been launched by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The site, which can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/surfaceengineering, is designed to give everyone working in the industry access to free up-to-date advice on health and safety.

Principal Inspector John Powell from HSE's Manufacturing Sector said: "I am so pleased to launch the surface engineering webpages. Sadly, the industry has seen incident rates increase over the last six years, whilst rates for the manufacturing industry have dropped. By bookmarking this new site as a 'favourite', people who work in the industry will be a 'click away' from sensible health and safety advice which will help them protect themselves and their business."

David Elliott, Chief Executive of the Surface Engineering Association (SEA) representing the industry, said: "The HSE and SEA have been working together to publish best practices within the industry. This site will be a prime source of easy-to-understand and current information. We represent a diverse range of industries many of which are small businesses. Access via the internet enables the health and safety message to be disseminated quickly and effectively."

HSE's central contact with the industry is mainly through the SEA's Health Safety and Environment Committee which, for over ten years, has co-ordinated the interests and activities of all those involved with health and safety in the industry.

NEW CEO GUIDE AIMS TO MINIMISE HAZARDOUS WASTE HEADACHE

A new business-friendly guide, published by DTI/DEFRA-funded Envirowise, aims to assist chief executives and management teams across the UK in dealing with the new hazardous waste rules that came into force in July this year.

The publication, *Hazardous Waste Management - essential information for business* (GG469), alerts senior managers to the opportunities and risks posed by the Landfill Directive and the forthcoming implementation of the European Hazardous Waste List.

On 16 July 2004, a ban on the co-disposal, or mixing, of hazardous wastes with other waste destined for landfill came into effect, resulting in the requirement for waste pre-treatment before disposal. As a consequence, the number of landfill operators able to accept hazardous waste is anticipated to fall sharply, with only a dozen or so sites expected to remain in England - and none in Wales. This is set to

SPREADING THE WORD

Sourcing quality heat treatment

This brief article, by CHTA Secretary Alan J. Hick, appears in this month's issue of Engineering Capacity.

Nowadays, the contract heat treater is the preferred source of metal heat treatment for a large section of industry. Entrusting this vital aspect of the manufacturing cycle to the specialists enables engineering companies to:

- reduce capital plant requirements;
- release valuable space for more of their core activity;
- avoid the cost of providing the highly-skilled supervision needed to manage today's sophisticated heat treatments;
- achieve greater flexibility in selecting the best treatment for each job;
- access new treatments and procedures immediately they become available, without capital cost.

Representing the majority of the UK subcontractors in this field, the Contract Heat Treatment Association (CHTA) has introduced a unique website recently. This is intended not only as a guide to quality services but as an aid to engineers, designers, buyers and other non-specialists looking to specify the various processes and optimise the benefits.

Click on "Specifying heat treatment" on the home page of www.chta.co.uk and you'll find CHTA's series of downloadable "Datasheets for Non-heat-treaters". These are compiled to aid sensible specification of contract heat treatment and to avoid common problems. They cover a

wide range of processes including: stress relieving, normalising, annealing, hardening, tempering, carburising, carbonitriding, nitriding, nitrocarburising, and induction and flame hardening.

Couched in layman's terms, the data-sheets answer the questions;

- what are the treatments?
- what are the benefits?
- what materials can be treated?
- what are the limitations?
- what problems could arise?
- how do I specify?
- where do I go?

In response to the last question, the recommendation is that best use be made of CHTA member companies located at over 70 sites nationwide. They have a wealth of experience that can make a positive contribution in the selection of the most appropriate treatment, warn of possible pitfalls, and help in the avoidance of costly mistakes. Clicking on "Buyers Guide" at www.chta.co.uk permits easy identification of those offering any of over 40 different heat treatment processes in the North, Midlands or South.

Pledged to maintain the highest standards of quality and service, most CHTA members are now accredited to ISO 9001:2000. Many hold a variety of additional approvals, such as Nadcap, that are especially relevant in particular market sectors. Ever at the forefront in technological innovation, their advances are recorded in CHTA's quarterly *Hotline* newsletter, also available at www.chta.co.uk.

For the best in subcontract heat treatment services, go to . . .

www.chta.co.uk

. . . your guide to sourcing from over 70 UK-wide heat treatment specialists



**The
Contract
Heat
Treatment
Association**

result in an increase in disposal and associated haulage costs. There will be a similar reduction in landfill capacity in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and associated cost implications.

The need to change waste management practice will be further compounded, as a broader range of waste-types will be reclassified as hazardous under European Hazardous Waste regulations being implemented in each of the four countries of the UK.

Envirowise director, Martin Gibson, points out that for many businesses, this will mean becoming a hazardous waste producer for the first time, as everyday items such as cars, fluorescent tubes, computers and batteries are all expected to be reclassified.

Hazardous Waste Management – essential information for business outlines the nature and aim of the legislation; what counts as hazardous waste and those who will be affected by the new law; and implications and costs for UK businesses, including the advantages of acting now and planning ahead to reduce the impact of the legislation.

Further advice is also available from an independent Envirowise resource efficiency advisor. These advisors conduct free, confidential on-site FastTrack hazardous waste reviews and provide practical help to evaluate all site business activities and the associated costs of hazardous waste. Their objective is to identify avoidable waste and the potential cost savings that it represents to the host company.

Geraint Day, Institute of Directors, said: "These amendments to the Landfill Directive have implications for almost all businesses. To keep ahead of changes to regulations expected in the near future, it is a highly advisable to take action now. This should help you avoid litigation and the associated costs as well as making further savings."

To order a copy of the new Envirowise publication, or request a free on-site FastTrack hazardous waste review, call the Environment and Energy Helpline on 0800 585794 or visit the website www.envirowise.gov.uk/hazwaste.

Spread the word by proclaiming your CHTA membership



For use on company letterheads, literature, websites and advertisements, members can download CHTA's logo from the Members Area of the Association's website.

Market Movements

ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES RELATING TO 38 CHTA MEMBER SITES

"THIS QUARTER" =

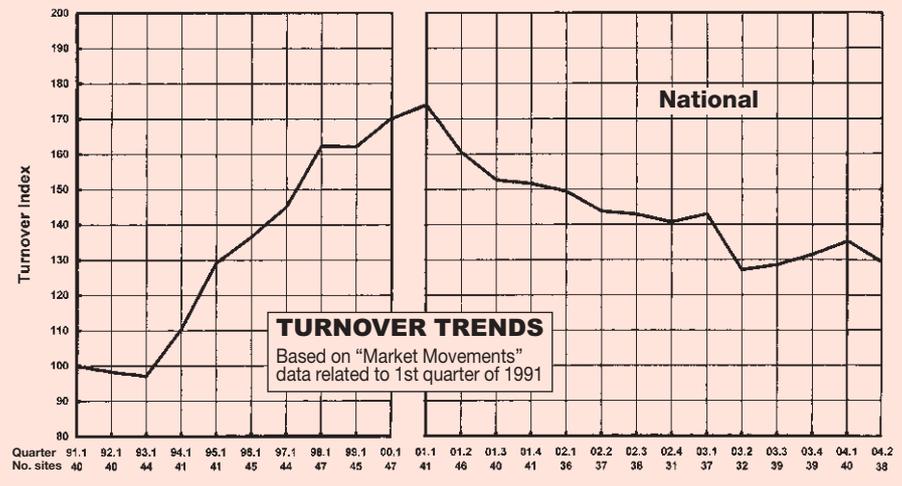
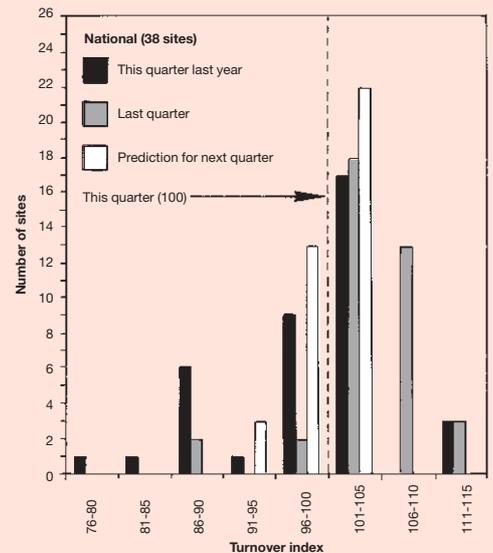
1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2004

= **TURNOVER INDEX 100**

National

OVERALL ANALYSIS (38 SITES)

	Mean index
This quarter last year	99.5
Last quarter	104.2
Predicted next quarter	101.0



Market Movements – 50 not out

The latest Market Movements report above is the 50th since this feature was first published in *Hotline 51*, way back in 1992. CHTA thanks all those members who continue to support this helpful exercise (even when trends are following a downward path!).

STATESIDE STATS

AMERICAN HEAT TREATING CONTINUES RECOVERY

According to returns from participating members of MTI, Stateside heat treatment sales reached \$462.2million in the first half of 2004, a gain of 11.3% over 2003 first-half sales of \$415.2million. June 2004 billings were \$82.3million, a growth of 19.8% over those for the same month last year (\$68.7million).

The latest figures for July 2004 show sales totalled \$72.5million, an increase of 15.5% over July 2003's \$62.7million.

WASTE NOT ...

Dear Editor,
It occurred to me recently that many of your readers will have an old mobile phone or printer cartridge tucked away in a drawer at home or at work. What they may not realise is that their unwanted items can benefit the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

Old mobiles and empty printer cartridges can be recycled and the proceeds will be used to help fund vital research into the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer as well as providing support for sufferers and their families. With 38000 new cases of lung cancer being diagnosed each year and 80% of those diagnosed not surviving longer than 12 months, lung cancer is the biggest cancer killer in the UK.

But that's not all. Recycling is environmentally friendly too (mobile phones and printer cartridges take hundreds of years to biodegrade). So you can help the Earth and support a very worthwhile cause too!

Please help us continue our vital work with lung cancer sufferers and their families by donating old printer cartridges and mobile phones from home and work. For details just call 08712 50 50 50, visit our website www.recyclingappeal.com/roycastle or simply drop your unwanted items in the post to: Roy Castle Recycling Appeal (EL), 31-37 Etna Road, Falkirk FK2 9EG.

Janine Drew, Fundraising Manager,
Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation,
200 London Road, Liverpool L3 9TA