

Inside . . .

Page



- Celebrating CHTA's 50th Anniversary 3
- Campaigning on energy costs 5
- News 6
- Advertising in *Hotline* 6
- Diary 8
- Market movements 8

CHTA Secretariat

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

Contract Heat Treatment Association

c/o SEA / BATF,
Federation House, 10 Vyse Street,
Birmingham B18 6LT
Tel: 0121 329 2970 (or 0121 237 1123)
Fax: 0121 237 1124
E-mail: mail@chta.co.uk
Website: www.chta.co.uk

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

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



CHTA is affiliated to the Surface Engineering Association

Contract heat treaters are a vital energy-intensive link in the UK supply chain



WITHOUT HEAT TREATMENT, THESE WOULD NOT WORK



Most metal items are heat treated during manufacture



The Contract Heat Treatment Association

Government support sought on energy costs

SEE PAGE 5



PERFORMANCE REVIEW INSTITUTE

Since being established as a not-for-profit trade association in 1990, *Hotline* sponsor PRI has become the global authority in facilitating industry-managed programs and administering critical process accreditation programs, as well as developing web-based audit management software. (<https://p-r-i.org/>)

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- March 27-28 2023: **NADCAP AUDIT PREPARATION: HEAT TREATING** Sheffield
- March 29-30 2023: **HEAT TREATING: PROCESS OWNER** Sheffield
- May 15-16 2023: **ADVANCED PYROMETRY** Birmingham
- May 17-18 2023: **HEAT TREATING: PROCESS OWNER** Birmingham
- June 5-6 2023: **HEAT TREATING: PROCESS OWNER** Southampton

PRI heat treating webinars

For details go to PRI Training (pri-training.com); also see *Hotline*'s page-8 diary.



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Hotline Editor **Alan J Hick** urges members to support the event marking a major milestone in CHTA history.



When I was roped in to be Secretary at the inaugural meeting of The Contract Heat Treatment Group in 1973, little did I imagine that I'd still be involved to see the subsequently retitled Contract Heat Treatment Association reach 50 years of existence.

Neither did I envisage the landmark being celebrated at a gala dinner in conjunction with the Surface Engineering Association's prestigious awards event, which is always a great night out.

The 2023 get-together, on October 20th, will be a very special occasion in which I hope all CHTA members will share, in spite of the challenges that our sector is currently enduring.

Please mark next year's date in your diary and plan to bring along your company colleagues.

Whilst you're at it, why not apply for an award to show what a fine industry CHTA represents?

Celebrating CHTA's 50th Anniversary



Hosted by



Sponsored by



Friday 20 October 2023
The Grand Hotel, Birmingham



An event too good to miss

Held biennially, SEA Awards recognise, reward and celebrate excellence within the UK surface engineering and heat treatment sectors. The award ceremony is eagerly anticipated as a chance for companies to showcase their hard work and achievements during the previous 24 months.

Does your company deserve an award?

Marketing award?

For best demonstrating an outstanding planned approach to marketing products/services.

Quality award?

For best demonstrating a successful approach to achieving excellence in quality of products/services.

Environmental award?

For best demonstrating a successful approach to good practice and excellence in environmental responsibility.

Process innovation award?

For best demonstrating success in introducing new or modified technology.

Outstanding company achievement award?

For clearly demonstrating great success over one or more of the other categories.

JUDGED ON YOUR SUBMISSION

Deadline:
4.00pm, 17th July 2023

To book to attend, enter for awards, view sponsorship opportunities and more, go to:

www.sea.org.uk/2023-awards/



Previous award winners from CHTA member companies

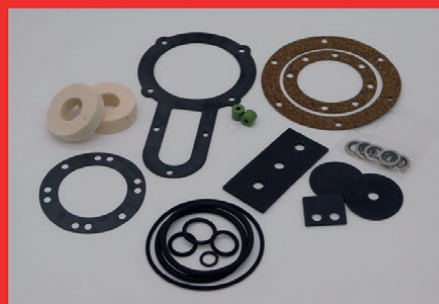
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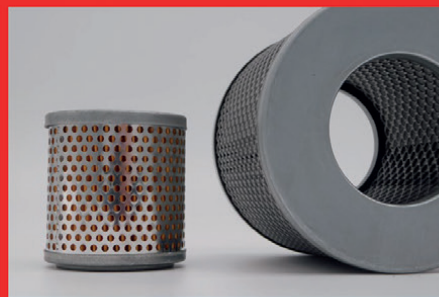
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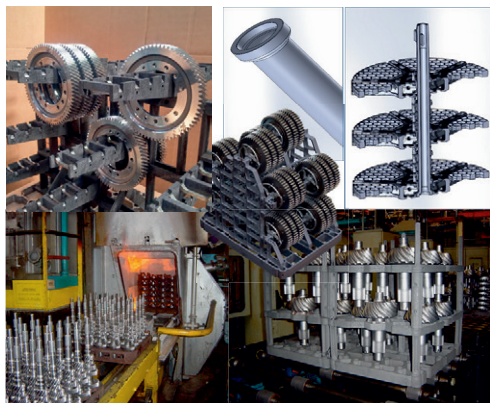


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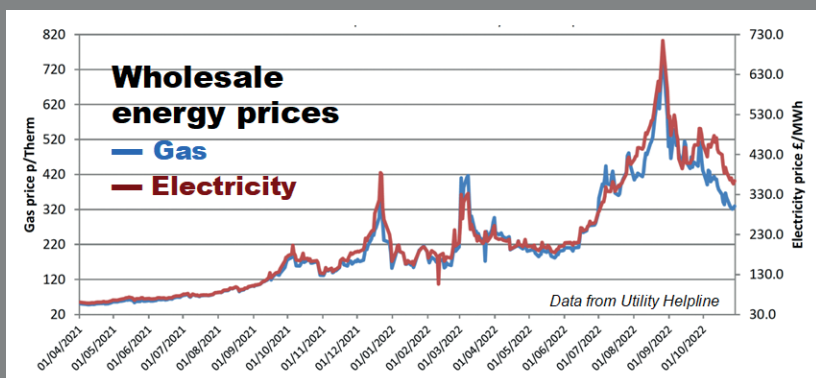


ECM
TECHNOLOGIES



Will this man be our saviour?

Grant Shapps,
Secretary of State
for Business,
Energy and
Industrial Strategy



Campaigning on energy costs

Hotline Editor **Alan J Hick** reports...

On behalf of its constituent metal finishers and contract heat treaters, SEA continues to make representations to Government on energy costs. In an August letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's office, SEA CEO Dave Elliott said:

"The surface engineering sector plays a vital role in the UK manufacturing sector with virtually every manufactured product requiring some form of surface engineering to allow it to function and perform as intended. Also, achieving net-zero will be impossible without the use of surface engineering."

Unfortunately, the sector is very energy intensive and the astronomical energy prices we are currently seeing are threatening the survival of many companies. A recent survey of our members showed that almost 75% reported that they would no longer be financially viable if they had to pay the restrictive prices at present.

To give you an example, one of our members is currently paying around £250,000 per annum for energy and this will rise to anywhere between £550,000 to £650,000 and this with a turnover of just over £3million. Overnight, they will go from being profitable to loss-making unless they take drastic action, such as passing on the costs which will make UK manufacturing even less competitive in the global market. The sector needs immediate Government support to avoid factory closures and significant job losses and there are a number of ways that the Government can help:

1 - funding should be made available, via our trade association, to assist these companies in the immediate future and help towards the transition to net zero.

2 - a temporary suspension of the collection of the non-commodity policy costs on energy bills, particularly electricity.

3 - the inclusion of our sector's SIC Code 25610 (surface coating / treatment) in the Energy Intensive Industries compensation scheme.

We are more than happy to meet with you to discuss this matter further and any assistance you can give in this matter would be greatly appreciated."

Energy Bill Relief Scheme

Announced in September and operational from 1 October to 31 March 2023 (initially), the Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS) offers some solace. Mid-October saw CHTA urge members to respond to the survey in the Government's three month review that will inform its decision on extending EBRS. ("Any support for businesses will be targeted to those most affected" said our latest Chancellor in his 17 October statement).

A member acts

Meantime, CHTA member Heat Treatments (Northampton) Ltd (HTN) has been extremely busy running its own campaign, with the hope that it will benefit our sector, a vital link in the supply chain, as a whole. Highly-committed Director Nichola Mitchell outlined her strategy when I visited in

late October.

HTN is on two-year fixed contracts for electricity and gas, renewable on 1st October and 1st January respectively. Annual electricity costs have increased by 434.5% and the new gas contract had been quoted at 1544% higher than previously (reduced to 813% higher after negotiation via an energy broker).

Before EBRS, Nichola first wrote to some nine local MPs plus Jacob Rees-Mogg, the then Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, quoting the above enormous increases and stressing that our industry faces its "biggest challenge yet".

She noted that the combined coming costs of electricity and gas amounted to more than HTN's annual turnover. "Not only will this mean that we will be forced to significantly increase charges to over 1000 of our customers, to stand any chance of survival, but it also increases the danger of recession in the coming months."

Nichola's letter concluded: "Energy contracts for large users are extremely restrictive and companies like ourselves have little option other than to sign contracts before the end of current ones. Once signed, there is no going back".

Her plea to MPs: "We respectfully implore you to use all the influence you have within parliament to seek urgent help for our industry, to survive this devastating situation we find forced on us, before it's too late."

A subsequent live interview on BBC Radio Northampton, in which Nichola explained the support needed, was followed by a visit to HTN by Northampton South MP Andrew Lewer. The latter's sympathetic Head of Office, Art Conaghan, undertook to pursue the matter at Westminster, welcoming any SEA/CHTA support. "You not only need to be heard; you need action". A meeting at the House of Commons was in the offing.



Nichola summarises the main targeted outcomes of HTN's extensive efforts as:

- extension of the EBRs for a minimum of two years;
- inclusion of our sector's SIC code in the Energy Intensive Industries compensation scheme;
- the capping or scraping of the invidious fixed daily charges for metering costs.

Nichola is very determined and proclaims: "I want to keep this place open so we've got to push and be heard on energy prices. I hope other CHTA members are also shouting; I'd be surprised if they're not."

On Nichola's desk as we speak is *Hotline* 169, focusing on the almighty challenge to UK heat treaters of achieving net zero by 2050. Fire-fighting the consequences of Covid and the spiralling costs of energy and other resources, and with the possibility of winter energy shortages and imminent recession, some will be more concerned about *surviving* within a much shorter time frame!

SEA/CHTA support

Shortly after my HTN visit, a meeting was proposed, involving Art Conaghan, Nichola Mitchell and SEA/CHTA, with Grant Shapps, the new Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. I alerted SEA's Dave Elliott (already lobbying via SEA President Lord Whitby and Shaun Bailey, MP for Wednesbury, Oldbury and Tipton) and CHTA's Management Committee. They are co-ordinating their approach and, as I write (30 November), await the call.

Energy costs were discussed when local MP Shaun Bailey visited West Bromwich-based CHTA member Alpha-Rowen Ltd on 10 November. He had been invited by Alpha-Rowen MD Mike Leach, a member of the Industry Advisory Board which is working with Repowering the Black Country, one of the seven industrial clusters set up by BEIS to work towards achieving net zero. Shaun wanted to find out more of the company's difficult situation, which is typical of many smaller businesses in his constituency and throughout the country.

Acknowledging a useful meeting, the MP's office said: "Shaun will carry on fighting for you and other businesses like yours in Westminster".



Shaun Bailey MP flanked by Alpha-Rowen MD Mike Leach, a former CHTA Chairman, and the company's Chairman, Kevin Rowen (right).

KEIGHLEY LABORATORIES CONTINUE WITH METALLURGICAL TESTING

Following closure of its heat treatment division in October, long-time CHTA member Keighley Laboratories Ltd (KLL) is returning to its roots. After 96 years of carrying out heat treatment, the business is now focusing on its core skills of metallurgical testing, inspection and analysis. Says MD Debbie Mellor: "We are in a unique position as a materials testing facility, in that we have practical knowledge of heat treatment, and can use this to support the CHTA membership."

Debbie observes: "No matter what heat treatment process is being performed, guaranteeing the result can take many forms. Often a simple statement of conformity will suffice, but where quality assurance is required to the highest level, KLL offers UKAS 17025 and Nadcap MTL accredited testing to meet the most stringent quality control measures. Current approvals include Airbus, Bombardier Aerospace, Safran, Augusta Westland, Rolls-Royce, BAE Systems (Civil and Military), Pall Corporation, Meggit, Cobham, Collins Aerospace and Magellan Aerospace, with more on the horizon". In order to meet national, international and customer standards and specifications, physical testing can be performed, including tensile, impact and hardness testing. For more details: www.keighleylabs.co.uk.

ANOTHER LOW-COST OPPORTUNITY FOR CHTA MEMBERS TO EXHIBIT



Following the success at this year's show, SEA has again booked its pavilion at 2023's *Advanced Engineering* exhibition which takes place on 1-2 November at Birmingham's NEC. The cost of the pods will again be subsidised for SEA/CHTA members. For details, contact SEA on 0121 237 1123 or at info@sea.org.uk.

CHTA 2023 MEMBERSHIP FEES

In these hard times, our loyal members will be pleased to learn that subscriptions are not being increased next year.

The annual CHTA membership fee for a single-site company remains at £622+VAT for 2023. For multi-site companies, the additional fee stays at £158+VAT per extra division. The 2023 fees are being invoiced on behalf of CHTA by SEA/BATF.

If you supply to heat treaters, advertising in *Hotline* is a no-brainer

2023 ADVERTISING RATES

Single-insertion charges for **black-and-white** ads:

Size	Dimensions	Charge
Quarter page	121mm high x 86mm wide	£199 +VAT
Half page	121mm high x 178mm wide or 254mm high x 86mm wide	£352 +VAT
Full page	254mm high x 178mm wide	£630 +VAT

For full-colour ads, add an extra £265+VAT to each of the above charges.

Advertisers in four consecutive quarterly editions of *Hotline* are entitled to a series rate where all of the above prices are discounted by 20% per insertion.

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As well as enjoying a 20% discount on the rates listed, advertisers in four consecutive editions of *Hotline* are, at no additional charge, entitled to:

Feature in a one-off "advertiser profile" in *Hotline*.

Appear on the Suppliers page of CHTA's website (www.chta.co.uk/suppliers/).

Post regular items in *Hotline*'s "advertiser news".

2023 DEADLINES

Issue	Publication month	Order deadline	Copy deadline
<i>Hotline</i> 171	March	3 February	10 February
<i>Hotline</i> 172	June	5 May	12 May
<i>Hotline</i> 173	September	4 August	11 August
<i>Hotline</i> 174	December	3 November	10 November

COPY REQUIREMENTS

High-resolution PDFs are preferred.

Hotline does not accept recruitment advertising.

For further details, contact *Hotline* Editor Alan J. Hick.

Tel: 0121 329 2970; e-mail: mail@chta.co.uk

Devoted exclusively to the UK heat treatment community

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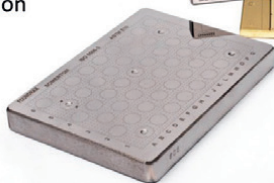
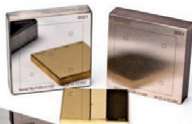
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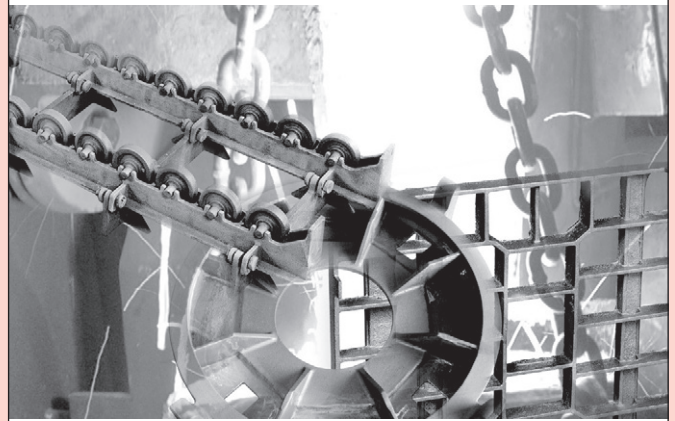


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Dr. Shi

Tel: +49(0)173-481-5590

E-mail: info.shr@foxmail.com

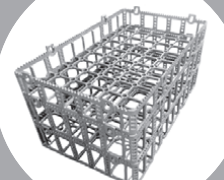
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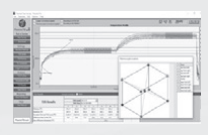
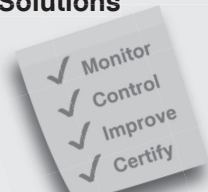
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Diary

January 18-19 2023

PRI WEBINAR: INTRODUCTION TO PYROMETRY
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January 24-26 2023

PRI WEBINAR: INTRODUCTION TO PYROMETRY
PRI Training (pri-training.com)

January 26 2023

CHTA PUBLICITY SUBCOMMITTEE*
Birmingham, England

January 31 2023

PRI WEBINAR: BASIC HEAT TREATMENT
PRI Training (pri-training.com)

February 7 2023

PRI WEBINAR: AMS2750 UPDATE:
CHANGES IN REV F & G
PRI Training (pri-training.com)

February 9 2023

CHTA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE*
Birmingham, England

February 9 2023

PRI WEBINAR: HEAT TREATING: NADCAP AUDIT
CRITERIA REVIEW PRI Training (pri-training.com)

February 14 2023

PRI WEBINAR: HEAT TREATMENT CONTROL &
INSPECTION PRI Training (pri-training.com)

February 16 2023

PRI WEBINAR: BASIC METALLURGY OF HEAT
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March 6-7 2023

ADVANCED PYROMETRY
Manchester, England PRI Training (pri-training.com)

March 8-9 2023

PRI WEBINAR: INTRODUCTION TO PYROMETRY
PRI Training (pri-training.com)

March 21 2023

PRI WEBINAR: HEAT TREATMENT OF NICKEL-BASED
ALLOYS PRI Training (pri-training.com)

March 23 2023

PRI WEBINAR: AMS2750 UPDATE: CHANGES IN REV F
PRI Training (pri-training.com)

March 27-28 2023

NADCAP AUDIT PREPARATION - HEAT TREATING
Sheffield, England PRI Training (pri-training.com)

March 28-30 2023

HEAT TREAT MEXICO
Monterrey, Mexico <https://www.asminternational.org/web/heat-treat-mexico-2023>

March 29-30 2023

HEAT TREATING: PROCESS OWNER
Sheffield, England PRI Training (pri-training.com)

April 4-5 2023

PRI WEBINAR: HEAT TREATING: PROCESS OWNER
PRI Training (pri-training.com)

April 24-27 2023

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TREATMENT AND SURFACE ENGINEERING OF
TOOLS AND DIES
Hangzhou, China
http://htse-td.allconfs.org/meeting/index_en.asp?id=6861

April 27 2023

CHTA PUBLICITY SUBCOMMITTEE*
Birmingham, England

May 2 2023

PRI WEBINAR: HEAT TREATMENT OF ALLOY STEELS
PRI Training (pri-training.com)

May 4-5 2023

PRI WEBINAR: INTRODUCTION TO PYROMETRY
PRI Training (pri-training.com)

May 15-16 2023

ADVANCED PYROMETRY
Birmingham, England PRI Training (pri-training.com)

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

Market Movements

ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES RELATING TO 22 CHTA MEMBER SITES

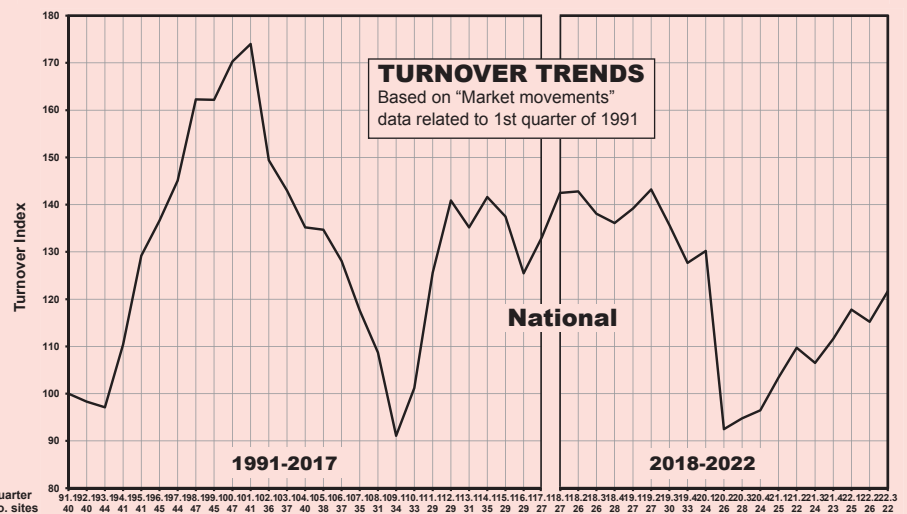
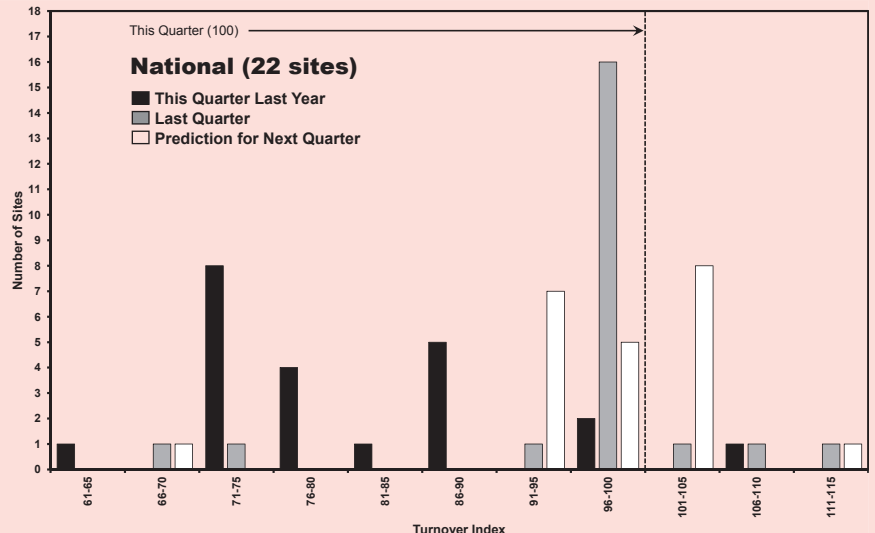
"THIS QUARTER" =

1 JULY -

30 SEPTEMBER 2022

= TURNOVER INDEX 100

OVERALL ANALYSIS (22 SITES)	Mean index
This quarter last year	80.4
Last quarter	94.9
Predicted next quarter	98.2



May 17 2023

MEXICO HEAT TREATMENT CONGRESS 2023
Queretaro, Mexico www.metalspain.com/mexico.htm

May 17-18 2023

HEAT TREATING: PROCESS OWNER
Birmingham, England PRI Training (pri-training.com)

May 18 2023

CHTA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE / AGM*
Birmingham, England

May 23 2023

PRI WEBINAR: AMS2750 UPDATE:
CHANGES IN REV F & G
PRI Training (pri-training.com)

May 29-31 2023

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON HEAT TREATMENT
Genoa, Italy www.aimnet.it/echt2023.htm

June 5-6 2023

HEAT TREATING: PROCESS OWNER
Southampton, England PRI Training (pri-training.com)

June 7-8 2023

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Please send comment and
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Hotline 171 to: mail@chta.co.uk
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