

Machinery safety

A machinery safety zone has been added to the attractions at the 'Health and Safety 10 – North' exhibition and conference which takes place at the Reebok Stadium in Bolton on 13-14th October 2010. As well as the ever-changing educational programme, which is put together by the British Safety Council, the machinery safety zone will incorporate more than a dozen companies and will offer free theoretical and practical seminars about the latest legislation, technology and continuing issues surrounding PUWER and CE marking.

There is more information on the Health and Safety 10 programme of events at www.healthandsafetyevents.co.uk

Managing your energy and carbon future – today

The Energy Saving and Technology Association (ESTA) is encouraging maintenance engineers with responsibility for energy use or who are budget holders for energy use to attend its series of one-day 2020 Vision events. Between now and 2020, many policies, schemes and initiatives must be implemented for the UK to have any chance of meeting its 34% carbon savings target enshrined in the Committee on Climate Change legally binding budgets. These activities are evident now with the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, roll-out of smart and advanced meters, new Part L Building Regulations very soon, and Feed-in tariffs to name but a few.

The aim of the ESTA conferences is to provide delegates with information about these national policies and initiatives and encourage them to actively plan and implement a strategy to ensure their organisation protects its future. Delegates will gain: an understanding of current legislation and how to react; application experience covering energy saving equipment; management experience of applying new systems and regimes to operating plant and equipment, managing responsibly, and maintenance. They will also have the opportunity to see and discuss the latest equipment and techniques available to reduce energy costs.

There is full information on the events at www.esta.org.uk

Manufacturers publish tax manifesto to drive rebalanced economy

The UK's tax system is tilted against manufacturing, stands in the way of growing a more balanced economy and needs major reform, according to a major report published today by EEF, the manufacturers' organisation.

The report 'Tax reform for a balanced economy' lays down the gauntlet to the Chancellor and his Shadow counterparts. It sets out reforms which would provide an immediate boost to high-tech investment and innovation and create an internationally competitive tax system that helps to repair the public finances in the medium term.

EEF warned that a failure to tackle a tax system that not only makes the UK uncompetitive but doesn't support manufacturing, will fail to help rebalance the economy and will lead to some companies moving their headquarters out of the UK.

You can download a copy of the report at www.eef.org.uk

MTA survey shows uplift in orders

Results from the Manufacturing Technologies Association (MTA) monthly survey for March show significant increases in order intake and invoiced sales amongst member companies. In addition, the survey reports a higher level of business confidence, an increase in new business enquiries and reveals that compared to February, more companies are employing staff than making redundancies.

The feedback from the March 2010 survey is the most positive since the survey began in July 2009; a real indication that engineering based manufacturers are optimistic and that improved economic conditions are building towards a strong second half of 2010.

Net order intake was very positive and March invoiced sales were also higher than in February, with the majority of respondents reporting a rise in sales. In addition, no respondents reported that business confidence was down, or that the



levels of business enquiries were down; March 2010 was the first MTA Flash Survey in which zero respondents felt this way. The survey also indicated that, for the first time in a year, the industry is recruiting, rather than shedding, staff.

Grants to help you cut costs and improve efficiency

'Low Carbon' is the new currency for manufacturers – to remain competitive you need to consider not only the carbon footprint of your products, but also your processes, equipment, materials and resources. The Business Resource Efficiency Improvement Grants (BREIG) scheme can help you take a positive step towards sustainable manufacturing.

A grant from BREIG can deliver immediate savings to your bottom line, improve your resource efficiency now and in the future, AND reduce your impact on the environment. Through BREIG, your business could be entitled to capital equipment grants of up to £8,000, a consultancy grant of up to £2,000 and a training grant of up to £500.

To find out more about the application process, visit www.breig.co.uk



Economic recovery taking hold in manufacturing

Further evidence of the economic recovery taking hold in the UK manufacturing sector comes in the latest KPMG Global Business Outlook survey. The data, compiled by Markit for KPMG, shows strong levels of optimism around key measures such as business activity, revenues and profits. In fact, 68% of UK manufacturers expect to be busier in the next 12 months compared to just over one in ten who forecast a drop in activity levels.

Commenting on the findings, Gautam Dalal, KPMG's head of Diversified Industrials, says, "The UK manufacturing numbers are as

reassuring as we could have hoped for at this stage of the recovery. The continuing competitiveness of the pound has doubtlessly aided this export led sector and contributed to the optimism present."

But he adds, "We need to ask longer term questions about where manufacturing will figure in the government's efforts to rebalance the economy and reduce our dependency on the financial services sector. If we assume that manufacturing is going to be part of that rebalancing, are we in a suitably fit state to take advantage?"



Gautam Dalal, KPMG's head of Diversified Industrials

Hands are the main vehicle for transmitting germs



Tests prove Deb® InstantFOAM® is 10 TIMES more effective than the equivalent alcohol gel product

deb InstantFOAM® Instant hand sanitiser

Kills 99.999% of many germs and bacteria
Use anywhere, no water required

Providing a higher level of hand hygiene for your workplace

Visit www.debgroup.com for FREE product trial and site survey

