

# Bearing Up

GLOBAL DEMAND FOR BALL, ROLLER AND PLAIN BEARINGS WILL CLIMB BY 6.4% A YEAR TO REACH \$66BN BY 2012, ACCORDING TO A NEW FORECAST FROM THE US MARKET ANALYST, THE FREEDONIA GROUP.

Although the bearings aftermarket will be limited to some extent by increases in bearing life, it will be counterbalanced by a growing demand for more expensive, better performing bearings, driven in part by high energy prices which are making efficient bearings a more attractive investment.

China recently overtook the US to become the world's largest national market for bearings, and will account for 48% of all additional demand in the period to 2012. India and Russia will also record strong gains. Mature markets such as the US, Western Europe and Japan will remain the most intensive users of bearing products because of the advanced industrial and technological

nature of their economies. Demand for bearings for use in industrial machinery is expected to be healthy, stimulated by increases in global manufacturing activity which is helping to spur fixed investment expenditures. Unmounted roller bearings will register the strongest market gains through 2012, driven by increased output of products such as construction and mining machinery, conveyors, machine tools and wind turbines. Demand for mounted and combined ball/roller bearings is also expected to climb at an above-average rate, fuelled by world economic and manufacturing sector growth, bolstering both OEM and MRO product demand. Sales of unmounted ball and plain bearings will

expand at a somewhat slower pace, although suppliers will benefit from increased output of items such as electrical and electronic equipment, motor vehicles and aerospace equipment.

Bearings used in non-automotive, non-industrial machinery settings will post the most robust sales gains through 2012, benefitting from the healthy outlook for a number of products included here, such as aerospace equipment, electronic devices and medical instruments. Growth in industrial machinery bearing demand is also expected to be healthy, stimulated by increases in global manufacturing activity, helping to spur associated fixed investment expenditures. Demand for bearings used in motor vehicle applications will rise at a slower rate, constrained by a shift in the product mix towards smaller cars and the greater longevity of newer bearing products.

Are energy prices making you think twice about your bearing specification? Email the editor at: [knowhoweditor@eriks.co.uk](mailto:knowhoweditor@eriks.co.uk) to have your say about bearings.

directly subordinate to them, and persons directly appointed by a board of directors.

TUC general secretary, Brendan Barber, said: "Britain's workers will still be working hard to get the British economy back on its feet, but they will now be protected from the stress, heart disease, and accidents that result from persistent long hours. And their families will get their Mums and Dads back."

But business leaders called the amendments misguided. John Cridland, deputy director-general of the CBI, said: "Trying to ban people from choosing to work more than 48 hours a week is a mistake, and would replace opportunity with obstruction. In the current downturn, a family might depend on one parent being able to work extra hours if the other loses their job."

"Many people want to work longer hours, in professions from manufacturing to medical research. They do so to further their careers or earn extra money, or to help their firm through difficulties. They should be able to do so if they choose."

What's your view, is the 48-hour week a useful instrument to prevent over-working or a barrier to productivity and profitability? Email the editor at: [knowhoweditor@eriks.co.uk](mailto:knowhoweditor@eriks.co.uk) to have your say.

## UK's top manufacturing awards

The Manufacturing Excellence Awards (The MX Awards) is the premier annual award scheme for the UK manufacturing industry run by The Institution of Mechanical Engineers [www.imeche.org](http://www.imeche.org). The MX Awards programme attracts entries from manufacturing businesses in all sectors and official sponsors for 2009 include companies such as BP, PricewaterhouseCoopers and ERIKS.

The winners can gain high profile coverage in national newspapers and on television and every entrant receives a customised benchmark report rating their performance against best practice and highlighting areas for improvement.

Categories for the awards include the Arup Award for Sustainable Manufacturing and the Autodesk Award for Product Innovation while the overall prizes are the BERR Manufacturing Advisory Service Award for Manufacturing Excellence and the National Skills Academy for Manufacturing Award for Manufacturing Excellence Best Small or Medium Enterprise.

Find out more about the MX Awards visit [www.mxawards.org](http://www.mxawards.org)

## Knowledge Transfer Networks are re-focused

As a result of a major review, The Technology Strategy Board will refocus the work of its Knowledge Transfer Networks (KTNs), which bring together businesses, universities and research organisations. The review confirmed the value of the networks as seventy-five per cent of business respondents rated KTN services as 'effective' or 'highly effective'.

David Way, director of knowledge exchange and special projects at the Technology Strategy Board, said: "While the number of formal networks will reduce from the current 25 to around 15, all existing knowledge exchange communities will continue to be supported within the new structure. We are also planning to establish new KTNs in some areas, for example financial services and energy generation and supply."

What are your views on KTNs and the like? Are you a member of a KTN? Email the editor at: [knowhoweditor@eriks.co.uk](mailto:knowhoweditor@eriks.co.uk) to have your say.

## ENERGY FROM WASTE - A WASTED OPPORTUNITY?

A new report titled *A Wasted Opportunity* has outlined an action plan to prevent the UK turning into one big dumping ground. The plan, devised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) urges the government to adopt a series of measures and advanced technologies which could help reduce CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050 and produce a third of UK electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

The report highlights the benefits of creating an Energy-from-Waste (EfW) network, which would help power the nation and reduce the need for landfill. An EfW plant converts waste into usable energy. Sewage, domestic, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste (which currently accounts for 36% of waste) can all be used in the processes, as long as they are combustible or biodegradable. A thermal EfW plant treats waste in the same way that a coal-fired power station treats coal.

Accurate statistics for total waste are hard to come by in the UK, but latest figures show the country generates 307 million tonnes of waste annually, or enough to fill the Albert Hall every two hours. Defra estimates 46.4 million tonnes of that was 'household and similar waste', with 60% of this sent to landfill, 34% recycled and 6% incinerated. According to statistics, none of this resource was used as fuel in EfW plants.

Is your site generating Energy from Waste? What are your views on the best ways to reduce energy use?

Email the editor at: [knowhoweditor@eriks.co.uk](mailto:knowhoweditor@eriks.co.uk) to have your say.

## THE 48 HOUR WEEK

MEPs have voted to scrap the opt-out to the Working Time Directive, which could bring an end to the UK's exercise of the clause, which it won in 1993. Following a second-reading debate, the European Parliament voted in favour of ending the right to opt-out of the Directive, which would mean that workers could no longer work more than 48 hours a week. MEPs said the opt-out must end three years after the revised Directive is adopted. The new proposals state that the average 48-hour working week should be calculated over 12 months, and on-call time should count as working time.

For workers with more than one job, working time shall be the sum of the periods worked under each employment contract. The Directive will not apply to chief executive officers, senior managers

## New event for process industries

Process Engineering Live, taking place at Manchester Central, 10-11 March 2009, is a new event for the UK process sector.

Supported by the BPMA, the Pump Industry Association and the BVAA, the British Valve and Actuator Association the event includes a free conference programme that places emphasis on current topics and groundbreaking technologies. Session themes include Process Improvement, Asset Management, Energy and Environment and People and Skills. These sessions are free to attend, simply visit the website to reserve your place or to register. For more information about Process Engineering Live visit: [www.processengineeringlive.co.uk](http://www.processengineeringlive.co.uk)

## UK Manufacturing in strong position

UK manufacturers have entered this recession in a stronger position than in the past, having made innovative adaptations in response to the threat from emerging economies, according to a report published by EEF, the manufacturers' organisation and business advisers BDO Stoy Hayward LLP. *Manufacturing Advantage: Changing the ground rules of global competition* identifies two key strategies that UK manufacturers are implementing to enhance their competitive position: service provision and supply to niche markets.

To download the report from the EEF website visit: [www.eef.org.uk](http://www.eef.org.uk)

## ERIKS plucks £86,000 out of air

Cavaghan & Gray, a leading supplier of own-label chilled ready meals and a part of Northern Foods' Chilled Division, is making savings of £86,000 per year on the running costs of the compressed air installation at its factory in Carlisle as a direct result of an air-leak survey carried out by ERIKS UK. The ERIKS condition monitoring team completed the survey in just two days, without affecting the normal operations of the factory.

"With savings of £86,000 per year achieved, it might sound as if the compressed air installation in the factory was in poor condition," said Mark Eagling, "but the results are in fact fairly typical for a regularly maintained installation of this size."