



SEA Report for BATF AGM 2020

Highlights since the last AGM

1 – Business Readiness Fund

The Business Readiness Fund (BRF) was launched by the Government and aims to help businesses prepare for the UK's exit from the EU on 31st October 2019. The fund was administered by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). BEIS recognised that REACH is one of the most burdensome pieces of legislation for SMEs and when combined with the uncertainties of BREXIT, it has the potential to cause chaos across manufacturing supply chains. BEIS through the BRF are supporting the SEA with just under £30k to provide advice to the Surface Engineering Sector and to limit the impact of a no-deal BREXIT.

BREASE (BREXIT, REACH & Surface Engineering) will deliver 4 work packages: 1 – the development of an advice pack for members, 2 – the development of a BREASE dedicated email brease@sea.org.uk and web presence, 3 – a dedicated BREASE session at our Industry Conference and 4 – BREASE stand at the Advanced Engineering Show. All of the work packages will be completed by 31st October 2019

2 – Industry Conference

We held our Industry Conference at Chesford Grange Hotel in October and the programme featured 13 presentations:-

- 1 Businesswise – How to manage your energy costs-
- 2 SAFECHEM – SMART SERVICES APP and the digitalisation of our industry (in-line with 4.0)
- 3 HSE – HSE Priorities for 2020
- 4 HSE – Plating Controls for nickel plating
- 5 Cranfield University – Materials Processing Apprenticeship
- 6 BEIS - Industrial Heat Recovery Support (IHRS)
- 7 CARLM Consultancy Services – Industrial Flooring
- 8 University of Warwick – Coatings manufacture for the battery energy storage industry
- 9 Veolia Water Technologies – Evaporation Technology
- 10 Croner – Essential Employment Law Update
- 11 The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO)
- 12 UKRI INNOVATEUK – Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. Introducing transforming foundation industries
- 13 Surface Engineering Association - BREASE (BREXIT, REACH & Surface Engineering)



3 – Advanced Engineering Show

The SEA took a 120m² pavilion stand at the Advanced Engineering Show in order to showcase our members' services and to promote the vital importance of the surface engineering sector to UK Manufacturing. It was a great success and will be repeated in 2020.



4 – International Chromium Development Association

Discussions have been held with the ICDA, based in Paris, and a memorandum of understanding has been reached in which it is agreed to work together on advocacy matters at an EU and to try and ensure the continued use of chromium substances in a safe manner.

5 – National Association of Surface Finishers USA

A meeting was held with our US counterparts to explore the setting up of a global surface engineering network to exchange information regarding legislation and process developments. The aim would be to ensure similar health & safety and environmental compliance across the globe. Discussions were also held regarding the potential adoption of the NASF online training scheme.

6 – European Precious Metals Federation

We have been working closely with the EPMF because KEMI (the Swedish Chemicals Agency) has proposed to classify silver metal as:
Skin Sens. 1, H317 - Muta. 2, H341 - Repr. 1B, H360FD

This classification has been proposed in the context of the Biocidal Products Regulation but will apply to other regulations (e.g.: REACH) and other applications (e.g.: jewellery, electronics, solar energy etc.) as well. Skin sensitization cat 1 could trigger a restriction for skin contact materials like jewels. A classification as reprotoxicant category 1B can trigger a fast track restriction process banning all the consumer uses of silver and silver compounds (e.g.: no silver jewellery). This classification will also qualify these substances for the authorisation process under REACH which could require an authorisation for each industrial and professional use. The final aim of these regulatory measures is the substitution of the classified substances by safer alternatives.

7 – SEA Members rise to Covid-19 challenge

Many SEA members rose to the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. Here are just a few examples:

Riley Surface World is proud to have supported the VentilatorChallengeUK Consortium with the delivery of two machines critical to the manufacture of ventilators for the fight against Covid-19. Rolls Royce PLC and GKN Aerospace each have a Kerry Microsolve 250M Ultrasonic Cleaning Machine delivered to their design & manufacturing plants in Filton (Bristol, UK) and Cowes (Isle of Wight, UK), supplied by Riley Surface World.

The Amphenol Invotec team have answered UK Government “Call for businesses to help make NHS ventilators” and are now actively engaged in producing accelerated, and volume production of 180,000 PCBs, equivalent to 30,000 ventilators.

Poeton Industries remain fully operational at all three of its production sites and has increased its support for customers working on vital medical equipment required for the UK during these challenging times.

South West Metal Finishing are working on a rapid turnaround of the surface finishing of parts being produced for the UK Ventilator Challenge, working with 7 companies across all 4 of their sites on a variety of processes.

8 – ISO Recertification

The SEA was recently audited against ISO9001, ISO14001 and OHSAS18001 over a period of a day and a half. The result was a resounding recertification against all three standards with only 1 minor non-conformance being recorded.