



SEA Chairman's Report for BATF AGM 2022 Highlights since the last AGM

1 – UK REACH Regulations

We are working very closely with both HSE & DEFRA to ensure that chromium trioxide can continue to be used safely in the UK in our sector. We have formed a REACH Consortium to assist members to gain authorisation to continue to use chromium trioxide. Chromium trioxide is used to produce chromium coatings that are used across many sectors and are a vital part of the UK manufacturing supply chain.

As a result of forming the consortium, we have attracted the highest number of new members in a 12-month period in the past 20+ years. To gain authorisation is costly, complex and time-consuming, so we are continuing our efforts to get the UK Government to amend these regulations that we transferred across from the EU at the end of the transition period, particularly as the EU had already identified that REACH was the most burdensome piece of legislation for SMEs.

2 – Energy Prices

The extraordinary rises in energy prices is of great concern to our sector as most businesses are classed as energy intensive. We have formed a small working party to liaise with our President, Lord Whitby, to ensure that the UK Government understands the catastrophic impact that energy prices will have on both our sector and the UK manufacturing sector as a whole.

Companies in our sector that were making reasonable profits are now in a loss-making situation as a direct result of the astronomical increase in energy prices. The only way they can now survive without Government support is to increase prices significantly by either a straightforward price increase or the imposition of an energy surcharge. This will subsequently increase UK Manufacturing costs and make the UK uncompetitive in the global marketplace.

3 – Training

We have a small group of members working on developing a video that can be used as initial induction training for new starters. We are working closely with the NAJ Education department and hope that they will be able to assist in the further development of training for our sector.

4 – SEA Awards Evening

The SEA Awards Evening took place on Friday 8th October 2021 at the Park Regis Hotel, Birmingham. Although the attendance was slightly down on previous events (predominately due to Covid worries), it was a great evening of entertainment hosted by John Simonett, one of Britain’s most entertaining and original corporate speakers. There were numerous Awards presented on the night including this one:



OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION AWARD WINNER CBE+, SPONSORED BY BRITISH JEWELLERY & GIFTWARE INTERNATIONAL.

5 – Advanced Engineering Show

The SEA once again had a pavilion stand at the exhibition and were showcasing 20 of our member companies.



Feedback from companies that exhibited this year in the SEA pavilion has been extremely positive and the general commentary highlighted the decent footfall (post pandemic), the quality of conversations had with relevant people and exhibitors' willingness to book again due to the cost-effective exhibiting and in-show support provided by SEA. More than a quarter of those who exhibited last year, have already rebooked for the November 2022 show.

Thank you

I would like to express my thanks to the National Committee for its support to me in my role as Chair, and to the volunteers that help the SEA punch above its weight in the political arena.

I would also like to express my special thanks to my fellow Officers, Tom Stokes and Godfrey Evans, for their work and support throughout the past 12 months.

Thanks also go to you to the members, without whom the SEA would not be where it is today. We continue to listen to you and put you at the centre of everything we do. I look forward to being able to thank you in person, soon.

Best wishes and good luck.

Robert Sawyer
SEA Chair
Serfilco International Ltd Director & General Manager