The BPF and Key Membership

About the BPF

The British Plastics Federation (BPF) is the leading trade association of the UK Plastics Industry, representing approximately 70 per cent of its turnover. The Federation is a platform for Industry Action that exists to exploit common opportunities and resolve shared issues.

Set up by UK Plastics manufacturers in 1933, as the world’s first plastics Federation, to provide a voice for the industry, the BPF has evolved the service offering to members to be far more than simply a voice. Members themselves are increasingly seeing the BPF as a much broader, proactive organisation that delivers on a range of Group-driven objectives supporting the industry and providing value through commercial opportunities.

Key membership benefits

1. Information essential to helping companies adapt to new and changing legislation and commercial pressures is made available to the membership. This is supplemented by unique Business Trends information and Benchmarking data.

   Members receive weekly updates and quarterly roundups on key commercial and regulatory issues impacting on the plastics sector. Detail can be accessed 24/7 through the Extranet.

2. Group Activity – The Group network, bringing together different sectors of the industry and activity, each chaired by an industry representative.

3. A Lobbying Voice – the BPF is the Members’ collective voice to the Media, Government and other Decision Makers and Stakeholders across the UK and the EU, working to protect and promote the interests and views of Members in a range of areas including energy costs, unjust discrimination of plastics, emerging legislation, and training.

The BPF employs 16 specialist staff and engages a number of consultants to meet the needs of the membership.

When I was Director-General of the CBI many Trade Associations were a waste of space. The BPF is one of the best, with distinct issues to pursue, and well placed to advance them.

Sir Howard Davies, Director of the London School of Economics, Speaker at the BPF Annual Dinner 2005
Benefits

4 The BPF Website, receiving 3,000-4,000 visits per day (ranks number one out of about 80 million sites on Google.com and Google.co.uk for “plastics”).

2006 saw a new revamped directory providing sales leads from customers with specific requirements. In 2007 the site is being redeveloped to increase its high profile, growth and value for members.

5 International Business Development – In addition to organising participation and grants for companies visiting overseas exhibitions and markets, BPF Members have access to an extensive database of international information and BPF experts are on hand to support Members’ strategic development into new markets.

6 Sales leads delivered by Email to Members’ desks through the BPF’s Plastics and Rubber Advisory Service (PRAS) linking International customers with UK manufacturers.

7 Health and Safety – Industry professionals collaborate to ensure members receive regular Health & Safety updates and the basic tools essential for developing and maintaining a safe factory environment and complying with existing and upcoming legislation. Safety alerts and case studies are exchanged.

8 Legal Support Helpline. All BPF Members can access FREE Legal Support covering Tax, VAT, PAYE, Payroll, Employment and Personnel, Health and Safety and Commercial legal issues.

9 Kompass Database. The Kompass website is a powerful sales and marketing tool that can save time and make money with the following activities:

- Sourcing new sales leads
- Creating targeted marketing lists
- Researching new suppliers
- Investigating competitors
- Identifying potential business partners
- Assessing a company’s financial status.

10 Grant finding Support – Members can access support finding appropriate Grants, Awards and Venture Capital, through the BPF’s Grant-finding software.

The BPF Council of Members supervises the Federation’s activity, and is made up of 25 senior level Member representatives elected from the Membership.

The BPF remains “non-profit”, distributing and all income is ultimately directed to support the UK Plastics sector’s aims and objectives.
BPF Key Achievements in 2006

- The BPF held a high profile meeting with David Cameron to discuss the role of plastics in society and the economy;
- The BPF EPS Group held a major public event in Trafalgar Square which involved distributing free EPS chairs to the public designed by the renowned Tom Dixon;
- The BPF engaged immediately with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) who is responsible for delivering the 2012 London Olympics. A meeting was held with Dr Peter Bonfield, head of construction at the ODA;
- BPF takes responsibility for Events and Communications of the DTI’s Faraday Plastics;
- Offering members a ground breaking energy procurement service with Inenco to help them manage and reduce risk in a highly volatile energy market;
- Meeting held with Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks to voice industry concerns over the UK energy market;
- Supported the industry export markets by taking stands at ‘Chinaplas’ in Shanghai, ‘Plastex’ in the Czech Republic and ‘Plastindia’ in Delhi;
- Accession to membership of 4 UK PET Bottle manufacturers;
- BPF lobbied hard on REACH, directly to DTI and DEFRA, to secure a reasonable approach from the UK government which has taken a robust line throughout the EU discussions;
- Held the 2006 World distinguished Flame Retardants conference in association with InterScience. The event at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, Westminster was attended by delegates from as far away as America and China;
- Strong progress made by the BPF in European projects to benefit the industry;
- RecoVinyl, the industry backed PVC recycling scheme, coordinated by the BPF, recycled over 20,000 tonnes of post consumer PVC in the UK in 2006. This

As I know from my own engagement with the plastics sector, the British Plastics Federation is a powerful advocate on behalf of the industry. But more than that, it has also been a promoter and supporter of change within the industry.

Lord Sainsbury
was the highest volume in Europe, a staggering achievement for the UK considering its recycling track record for types of assets;

- A successful PR campaign was conducted by the BPF Windows Group to target specifiers in local authorities and housing associations in the South East. The ‘Clear Choice for Windows’ campaign informed specifiers of the benefits of PVC-U windows and doors. The campaign furnished 113 specifiers with comprehensive information on the sustainability credentials of PVC;

- The BPF Vinyls Group held their most successful annual seminar ever in 2006. The seminar titled ‘PVC Sustainability: Selling the New PVC Message’ attracted 160 delegates from across the UK to learn how best to communicate the benefits of PVC as a material;

- The BPF Vinyls Group, Windows Group and Cellular Group commissioned a lifecycle analysis study with the Building Research Establishment (BRE) for PVC-U windows and PVC-UE cellular products. The initial part of the study ‘service life’ of the product proved to be very successful, with both products being awarded a service life of at least 35 years; 10 years more than the previous service life. It is hoped this will have a significant impact on the sustainability credentials of the products, and help to improve the products ratings in the BRE Green Guide for construction products;
2006 was the year in which after intensive lobbying the EU’s REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) legislation was agreed. The BPF played its part particularly in influencing UK officials prior to the UK Presidency of the EU in 2005. I am really concerned that despite the guidance and help available from the BPF and others that many companies in our industry simply are not prepared. REACH will require businesses to prove that their products are safe in respect of chemical ingredients, before they can be placed on the market. Better to be prepared than get in a panic when approached by a customer.

The BPF holds Chemicals Policy Seminars and EuPC has an excellent Help desk. However, Government, who are inflicting this extra bureaucracy and cost on our companies have a responsibility to publicise what is required to all companies.

Our concerns about the high cost of energy for our companies was a top priority throughout the year. The BPF made a detailed submission to the Government’s “Energy Challenge” review. We supported modernising our nuclear capacity and greatly increasing our Energy from Waste capacity so that unrecyclable waste can provide home grown energy and avoid expensive imports. The BPF’s prediction of 7,000 jobs being lost through energy price increases over 50% was mentioned in the House of Commons and publicised in the FT and Sunday Times.

The BPF met with the then Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks MP in May and attended an industry lobby of MPs and meetings with the regulator OFGEM. In October our survey showed an average 20% increase for the next twelve months. Energy prices have been falling due in part to a mild winter and competition law enquiries. However, the UK’s inherent problems of: being an energy importer; lack of gas storage and ageing nuclear capacity have not gone away.

Late in the year with a consultancy called Inenco we launched an Energy Purchase scheme for members of all sizes, who will be able to enjoy the benefits of expert, bulk purchasing.

Linked to energy is the unfair and unpopular Climate Change Levy which so badly harms the Plastic Industry’s competitiveness at home and abroad. Despite our objections the Chancellor is increasing this tax in April 2007, on top of the highest energy prices in Europe.

On a more positive note I was pleased to hear that the Government had given the go-ahead to the National Skills Academy for the Process Industries to write a Business Plan. If all goes to plan this Academy should do...
much to tackle the serious skills shortages in our industry. It cannot be right that while we are short of staff 702,000 young people are unemployed, some lacking basic literacy and numeracy skills.

In July the BPF and Plastics Europe saved two playing fields from development in Hertfordshire. If we want to improve our performance in future World Cup football, our children must have playing fields. I was very pleased to present the cheque and would urge all members to discuss similar initiatives with the National Playing Fields Association.

It is pleasing to report that the BPF has struck up a good relationship, with the London 2012 Olympics Delivery Authority. There is no discrimination against plastics. On the contrary we have made them aware of the importance of our material and its innovation possibilities in construction, sports equipment, surface and catering.

We had a very rich year for events. The international Flame Retardants conference was a great success and we took UK companies to Plastindia in New Delhi in February and to Chinaplas in Shanghai in June. Record number of visitors went to Chinaplas and the BPF signed a new Memorandum of Agreement with the China Plastic Processing Industry Association. Late in the year we began to plan for the BPF’s 75th Anniversary in 2008. The BPF was the world’s first Plastics organisation.

I was particularly pleased that two important European meetings were held in the UK. ECVM’s General Assembly was held in Edinburgh and the European National Plastics Associations meeting was held in BPF’s offices. There was a very good attendance and it was significant that this was the first NPA meeting jointly organised by EuPC and Plastics Europe, which we welcome. Representing our industry effectively is too important for it to be compartmentalised.

You will see in the pages ahead the value of the BPF’s work on our behalf and the achievements of our Business Groups and Committees. It is excellent value because our members’ subscriptions only meet half the BPF’s costs. On your behalf I would like to thank Peter Davis and his team for all their hard work in a challenging year.

Paul Turner
President
One of the most pleasurable experiences for me last year was walking into Trafalgar Square on a sunny September morning, to see 470 EPS chairs being used by tourists and commuters as if they’d always been there! As part of London Design Week, furniture designer Tom Dixon and our EPS Packaging Group had filled the Square with attractive EPS chairs and gave them all away later on.

This, in one of the World’s best known public spaces was undoubtedly the most successful plastics event in Europe in 2006 showing the versatility of our material.

Competitiveness under threat
Not quite so pleasurable is the UK economic situation which in 2006 saw a further loss of 100,000 manufacturing jobs and a record Trade Deficit in goods of £84bn. Nearly 25% of UK manufactured plastic products are exported but we do need the cutbacks in UK Trade & Investment support reversed to increase exports. We need Government to demonstrate support for the manufacturing sector with more generous capital allowances for investment in new equipment and improved and simpler R&D Tax Credits. Investment by UK companies was 8.3% lower than a year ago and has only averaged 1.6% growth a year since 2000.

Despite Ministers regular promises to reduce regulation on companies nothing has happened. We have the most complex corporate tax system in Europe and the Government plans to increase paid maternity leave from six to nine months in 2006 and then to twelve months in 2008. As the President has written, we are set to be engulfed by more cost and bureaucracy when REACH is implemented.

We discussed much of this with the Conservative Leader David Cameron MP in November, who has two of our member companies, Meech and Data Plastics in his constituency. He acknowledged the importance of the plastics industry to the economy and the meeting received coverage in the ‘Times’.

Review of the DTI
With press rumours that the next Prime Minister might do away with the DTI or its resources switched away from manufacturing, the BPF led a coalition of fifteen manufacturing associations calling on the Secretary of State Alastair Darling MP to ensure the continuance of a strong DTI to authoritatively pursue pro-manufacturing policies across Government.

In December it was announced that the DTI’s Business Relations Division would be cut back by 25% but at least Plastics has retained its contacts within that division. David Cameron told us in his opinion a re-focussed and strong DTI was essential to protect industry’s interests.

Plastics Innovation
A great strength our UK industry has is: the immense potential of our plastic materials; a world class design sector; centres of excellence in plastics technology coupled with the pioneering capabilities of our member companies. During the year we saw the Airbus A380 double deck airliner land for the first time at Heathrow. 22% of the aircraft is made of glass fibre reinforced plastic composites to save precious weight.

We have worked closely for years with the DTI’s Faraday Plastics, which encourages joint R&D projects between...
companies and universities. From November, under a re-structured Faraday Plastics, after Rapra went into administration, the BPF has agreed to take responsibility for communications and events. This will allow us to play a bigger role in encouraging members to invest in innovation.

Attacks on plastic packaging
Much time during the year was taken up responding to ill considered attacks on ‘over-packaging’ by bodies such as the Women’s Institute and various newspapers. This was not helped by the ‘green store wars’ between major food retailers and Philip Law outlines what action we shall be taking. The facts are that in order to feed 60 million people safe, healthy food three times a day – from field to kitchen – plastics packaging is essential. Consumers would really be upset by decayed foods and damaged goods, due to inadequate packaging.

Climate Change and the Stern Review
Sir Nicholas Stern’s review published in October stated that there is now overwhelming evidence that ‘climate change is a serious and urgent issue’. The BPF has pointed out that plastics are part of the solution. We only use 4% of the world’s oil production as feedstock and plastic products play a major role in saving and conserving energy. Plastics material is durable and lightweight, saving fuel and lowering operating costs in vehicles and aircraft. 25% of energy loss is through domestic housing. EPS insulation, PVC-U double glazed windows and doors are essential for energy efficient buildings. A plastic carrier bag, which can be re-used, weighs six times less than alternative materials. As this debate intensifies we shall publicly show our plastics industry can provide some answers.

Staff and Premises
This was an important year because we decided to buy out the Full Salary Pension Scheme. Like most other organisations we have been hit by increasing actuarial valuations leading to a growing deficit. The buy out was secured with a long term loan secured on our valuable property. It removes the financial uncertainty and of course meets our obligations to the affected members of staff.

May I thank our wise President Paul Turner for all his advice and support and all the members, who for the benefit of our industry give up time to serve on our Council, Committees and Groups.

Peter Davis
Director General
**Joining the Momentum!**

2006 saw a further solid increase in the BPF’s membership base. 39 new companies joined and most sectors of the BPF benefited from this. Particularly important was the accession to membership of 4 UK PET Bottle manufacturers.

This continuing growth can be attributed to the BPF’s first rate industrial marketing platform, notably the publicly accessed website, [www.bpf.co.uk](http://www.bpf.co.uk), with its highly successful Industry Directory. The website attracts over 1 million visitors per annum worldwide and the Directory is a major attraction at BPF exhibitions stands in export markets.

There is also a recognition of the BPF as a highly effective forum for the cross fertilisation of experience between companies as manifested in our participation in a number of third-party funded Research and Development projects.

The BPF is also recognised as the key nexus and negotiator between the industry and the stakeholders who shape the business environment in which the UK plastics industry operates, namely Government, the Media, Environmental and Consumer interest groups.

We have a programme of continuous improvement of membership benefits and in developing innovative approaches to our membership offering. One example in 2006 was the introduction of the small firms category of membership offered jointly by the BPF and the PMMDA.

Our programme of seminars offering cost effective access for members to topical issues and market developments continued apace and events were mounted covering such diverse subjects as flame retardants, chemicals policy, design, working at heights legislation, plastics in construction and a conference on business trends timed to assist chief Executives and Finance Directors with their company budget preparations. All were a great success and exceeded attendance expectations. This programme will be exploited further in 2007.

The BPF was extremely active in pressing the credentials of the UK plastics industry manufacturers throughout the world. In the UK, our stand at the PDM fair in September enabled us to connect with the both the customer and the design communities whilst our support for the industry export markets centred on taking stands at ‘Chinaplas’ in Shanghai, ‘Plastpol’ in Kielce and ‘Plastindia’ in Delhi.

A Key theme of the marketing effort is to present the UK plastics industry as a world leader and source of innovation. This was reinforced in 2007 by the expansion of our portfolio of third party funded research and development projects often in partnership with other UK R & D organisations such as PERA and RAPRA. Our involvement in projects such as Micro-melt, PEPT Flow, FlowFree and PolyCond are delivering real results and moving towards commercialisation. Additionally the BPF plays key role in the re-launch of Faraday plastics, part of the DTI – funded Knowledge Transfer Network, which facilitates the exploitation of research and developments in polymers in the UK and for which the BPF will provide the communications and dissemination function. Peter Davis, BPF’s Director General, will be a Board member of Faraday plastics.

**Key Issues Management** – One of the BPF’s traditional core skills is the management of critical issues on behalf of the industry and it has developed an international reputation for this. The key issue areas in which we were active in 2007 included:

**The competitiveness of UK manufacturers.**

The BPF was one of the first organisations to identify the increasingly isolated position of manufacturing in the UK economy. It maintained the pressure on government throughout 2007 through communications from the BPF itself and from the 9 Associations Alliance of cognate industry sectors which the BPF co-ordinates, particularly in the periods prior to the budget and the pre-budget statement. We also participated in the EEF co-ordinated Manufacturing Alliance and rejoined EAMA, the Engineering and Machinery Alliance.

**Energy**

BPF carefully monitored the impact of the massive energy cost increases of member firms in a series of surveys, assisted EU Commissioner Neil Kroes in her investigation of the market behaviour of Europe’s energy companies and because of the profile the BPF managed to secure on the issue, we were invited to join the OFGEM Industrial Users Group. We provided a full contribution to the consultation on the DTI’s Energy Review, ‘Our Energy Challenge’.

To give practical assistance to member firms in managing the risk involved in energy purchases, the BPF entered into an agreement with INENCO, an energy consultancy firm, which will enable small and medium size firms to have access for the first time to the wholesale market for energy purchases in a way which will significantly reduce the risks.

**Chemicals Policy** – 2006 was a critical year for the development of the EU’s REACH Regulation which will have an enormous impact on the plastics supply chain in terms of cost, increases and additional bureaucracy, not to mention its impact on the availability of some chemical substances used in the industry.
BPF has lobbied hard, directly to DTI and DEFRA, to secure a reasonable approach and we have been heartened by the positive response from the UK government which has taken a robust line throughout the EU discussions. Key concerns to us have been maintaining the facility for companies to share data and make “one registration for one substance”, the exclusion of waste from the scope of REACH in order to ease burden on plastics recyclers and the import controls on EU frontiers. BPF developed a “Toolbox” to assist member firms in their compliance with REACH, a key part of which will be the access to the EUPC REACH help desk.

**Waste Management**

During 2007, we contributed to the UK Government’s Consultation on the revision of The Waste Framework Directive and the updating of The Waste Strategy for England. Our key points were to secure an indicative, rather than prescriptive, approach to the ‘Waste Management Hierarchy’ and to see a greater role for energy from waste for used products which cannot be beneficially recycled. We had high level meetings with DEFRA and the DTI to press these points.

Packaging - 2006 saw packaging thrust to the forefront of the UK’s media as organisations such as the Women’s institute raged against ‘over packaging’ and as the retailers vied with each other for supremacy in the environmental stakes. In different ways retailers stated a desire to reduce the amount of packaging being used, limit the number of polymers employed in their packaging, recycle more packaging and increase the use of compostable packaging. BPF is keen to assist member firms in their compliance with REACH, a key part of which will be the access to the EUPC REACH help desk.

The BPF manages a wide network of contacts throughout the world. There is regular contact with other national plastics industry trade associations and, more widely, highly valued contacts are maintained through the BPF’s international trade network, CIPIAD, and the Global PVC Network. Within the EU, the BPF maintains close co-operation with PlasticsEurope, the European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers (ECVM), the European Council for Plasticisers and Intermediates (ECPI), the European Stabilisers Producers Association (ESPA) and the European Flame Retardants Association (EFRRA).

The BPF is a member of a following organisations to which subscriptions were paid on behalf of its members or by specific Business Groups:

**EuPC (European Plastics Converters Association)**
Peter Davis (BPF)
Philip Law (BPF)

**EPPA (European Plastic Profiles Association)**
Philip Law (BPF)
Mercia Gick (BPF)

**TEPPFA (The European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association)**

**EUROMAP (European Committee of Machinery Manufacturers for the Plastics and Rubber Industries)**
Iain McIlwee (BPF)

**EUROPUR (European Association of Flexible Polyurethane Foam Blocks Manufacturers)**
Dr K Hillier (British Vita)
Dr David Waite

**EuCIA (European Composites Industry Association)**
Philip Law (BPF)
Anthony Roberts (BPF)

**EUMEPS (European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene Association)**
Gavin Birnie (Styropack)

**Tony Pruchniewicz (Linpac Moulded Foam)**

**Philosophy of the BPF**

To assist its members in the international plastics network, BPF has a broad range of specific Business Groups:

**EVA (European联合会 for the Plastic and Rubber Industries)**
Peter Davis continued to be a Board member of EuPC (the European Plastics Converters Association) and Philip Law as Chairman of its Communications Committee. In addition in 2006 we agreed with EUPC to draft their press releases and articles.

We have have continued to enjoy good working relationships with the resin producers’ organisation PlasticsEurope and in 2007 we pursued a programme to secure greater awareness of energy from waste in governmental organisations and at the time of the World Cup in Germany, we jointly sponsored the National Playing Fields Association to save in perpetuity for community use a playing field in Harpenden where PlasticsEurope donated football kits to local youth teams.

The BPF continues to develop strong working relationships with the resin producers’ organisation PlasticsEurope and we were delighted to host the first joint meeting of the national networks of both organisations.

The BPF is a member of six other European-level associations (see right)

The BPF continued to play a strong part, as the UK platform for Vinyl 2010 and the Voluntary Commitment of the European PVC Industry, to address sustainable development challenges.

Visit our website www.bpf.co.uk
In 2006 the BPF took an increasingly proactive stance on media communications for the plastics industry. The BPF gained a wide range of coverage in trade, regional, national and international press throughout the year, increasing its strong links with the media.

The key issue of the year was the energy problems faced by the UK. The BPF were extremely proactive in tackling this issue on behalf of our members, holding a meeting with Malcolm Wicks the Energy Minister. We gained coverage across all media, most notably in the Financial Times and Sunday Times.

2006 also saw Environmental issues top the public agenda, becoming a political football for the leading politicians. Again the BPF had predicted this ‘hot potato’ taking a proactive stance on promoting the sustainability of plastics and there benefits to the environment. This key message was feed through a number of channels including print, email, meetings and seminars to target key stakeholders.

Strong media coverage was received for the wide array of BPF events, international trade development and exhibitions.
the Benefits of Plastics

Key BPF Messages in 2006

First Quarter:
- BBC Radio reveals that ‘The Future’s Plastic’
- BPF launches new Masterbatch Group
- BPF to highlight the value of plastics in Government’s energy review
- Energy Crisis Hits Plastics Industry Hard
- BPF tackles waste issue on Radio 5 Live
- Plastindia 2006: UK and Indian Companies Collaborating to Succeed
- BPF puts gas price predicament in the media spotlight ahead of letter to Energy Minister
- Nine Associations lobby Chancellor on industry’s plight
- BPF hosts historic European and National Plastics Associations Meeting - 27-28 March 2006
- BPF response to the Budget Statement: BPF challenges Chancellor to emulate Olympic attitude to manufacturing

Second Quarter:
- The BPF Business Support Network launches new brands
- BPF at Chinaplas: Record numbers visit Shanghai show
- BPF highlights plastics’ role in the Government’s ‘Energy Challenge’
- Trade bodies unite to support small plastics processors
- Plastics Industry tells Minister: Rising Energy Costs Fuelling Industrial Decline and Unemployment
- Vinyl 2010 Progress Report Shows Recycling Of PVC Waste Doubled In 2005
- BPF welcomes London Energy-from-Waste Plant Go-Ahead
- BPF wins important right of reply on plastics’ image
- Press Statement: Women’s Institutes’ Campaign on Packaging – The Facts
- Williams re-elected as EuPC’s President

Third Quarter:
- BPF calls for action plan following Energy Review
- Plastics Industry brings the World Cup Closer to home
- BPF leads UK Group to Middle Eastern trade show
- BPF launch www.plasticsacquisitions.com
- BPF seeks dialogue with Sainsbury’s following biodegradables move
- BPF Exhibiting at Composites Europe
- A win in plastics innovation for healthcare
- EPS Packaging Group Triumphant
- EPS strengths stack up for the future

Fourth Quarter:
- BPF deal offers stability for energy prices
- BPF Reiterates Proposals for Government Action on energy
- BPF Group celebrates 10th Birthday
- BPF expresses support as Manufacturing skills academy gets go-ahead
- BPF praises Nancy Russotto’s contribution to the Plastics Industry
- BPF teams up with OFGEM on energy prices
- UK PVC Industry Urged To Go On To The Front Foot
- BPF seeks meeting with Government on plastic packaging
- Cameron signals importance of plastics manufacturing to the UK
- Kompass Deal to Benefit BPF Membership
- Nine Associations tell Gordon Brown: “work with us on greater sustainability for manufacturing”

BPF tackles waste issue on Radio 5 Live, February ‘06
British Plastics Federation’s (BPF) Public and Industrial Affairs Director, Philip Law participated in a live discussion on Simon Mayo’s BBC Radio 5 show yesterday lunchtime on the launch of the Government’s Waste Management Strategy. Speaking alongside former Environment Minister, Michael Meacher and science presenter Johnny Ball, Law was able to urge a balanced approach to the resolution of waste management issues. “More can be done on recycling” said Law “but the scope for recycling has its limits. It is at that point that energy-from-waste comes into its own. Used plastics, with a calorific value greater than coal, are suited to producing energy.”

Law fielded questions from callers to the programme and was able to make the point that individual plastics packaging artefacts are reducing in weight and that the plastics industry is active in minimising the quantities of raw materials used in manufacturing packaging.

Law continued to say, “The Federation is committed to expanding recycling where it is environmentally beneficial but for a large proportion of used plastics particularly small, mixed and contaminated products where the inputs required to collect, separate and clean are excessive, then producing energy from waste is our recommended route and one which is currently much under-utilised in the UK. We welcome the apparent support for energy-from-waste in the Consultation document which the Government obviously sees as one means of reducing the UK’s dependence on overseas fuel suppliers.”
Proactively Communicating the Benefits of Plastics

The article discusses the importance of communicating the benefits of plastics proactively, highlighting the need for companies to address rising energy prices and the cost of energy bills. It mentions a survey by the British Plastics Federation which found that 41% of companies were not able to pass on the increased costs to their customers, leading to a decrease in their workforce.

The article also includes an exclusive story about a pioneering device that can pump blood through a plastic heart, saving a child's life. This device is a significant advancement in the field of medical technology, demonstrating the potential of plastics in healthcare.

The conclusion emphasizes the need for ongoing communication about the benefits of plastics to ensure continued innovation and market growth.
The winner of the 2006 Horners Award, run annually by the Worshipful Company of Horners and the British Plastics Federation (BPF) was Sovrin Plastics for the ‘Syclix’ surgical instruments.

The conception and design of the Syclix instruments was inspired by surgeon John Wickham for minimally invasive surgery. Sovrin Plastics were then recruited to tool, mould and assemble the product.

The ‘Syclix’ is a worthy winner of the Horners Award, which recognises innovation in plastics, in its elimination of the ring grip on regular surgical instruments, which can be restricting and tiring for surgeons. Through rolling the instrument with the forefinger and thumb, the jaws of the instrument are controlled with minimal arm movement.

The runner up of the Horners Award by the smallest of margins was UPM’s Infrared Granular Drying System which can reduce up to 80% of the drying time required by some polymers prior to processing. This will be of cost benefit to moulders following recent increases in energy prices.

“...We are absolutely delighted to have won the Horners Award, which we have always held in the highest regard. The ‘Syclix’ is predominantly made of plastic with much of it made up of precision injection moulded components so to be recognised for innovation in this area is just fantastic.
Peter Wigmore
Business Development Manager
for Sovrin Plastics

In 2005 the BPF continued its support for the Plastics Industry Awards, held annually at the London Hilton Hotel. The Plastics Industry Awards are dedicated to rewarding innovation and exceptional performance across a wide range of categories which include Best Technology Achievement and Product Design of the Year.
In 2006, BPF Online reached well over One Million unique visits – the highest level of traffic ever recorded. This can be attributed to the growing reputation of the website as the Home Page of the UK Plastics Industry, the BPF website as a worldwide authoritative source on plastics, the high rankings of key plastics terms in search engines and to the investment in improving the BPF Industry Directory.

www.bpf.co.uk has been consistently developed and updated over the course of 2006. As a result of the PRAS service offered on BPF Online, an increased level of sales leads has come in, with members receiving around 30 per week.

Under the search term “plastics” the BPF has progressed from being number one out of 8,800,000 to being number one out of a massive 78,700,000 other sites on Google in 2006.
Work has been completed to improve the BPF Industry Directory, with faster and more refined searching facilities, a more sophisticated range of package offerings, better design and usability as well as visit tracking statistics, making it an extremely valuable tool for member companies.

The Business Support Network E-Zine has continued its bi-monthly circulation to the BPF’s extended marketing list, reporting on services working in support of the plastics industry from health and safety initiatives to investing in export markets.

The wide use of the BPF Extranet (the password protected, members-only, web based resource) has continued across the board. The weekly BPF Members’ Newsletter includes updates made on the BPF Extranet and reports on other industry news.
The BPF Membership product is enhanced by a strong events and training programme that engages leading experts from a variety of fields. This activity is underpinned by the Business Support Network, a fast-growing brand that harnesses the knowledge and support of leading suppliers to the plastics industry.

Activities in 2006
In 2006 the BPF set up a ground breaking energy procurement scheme with Ineco. This was done to help our members reduce their risk of energy procurement in an extremely volatile market place. Many members have joined the scheme and are now benefiting from the security this provides them. We teamed up with Kompass to provide our members with an invaluable free marketing database on UK companies. We also launched plasticsacquisitions.com an addition to our website where plastics businesses can be bought and sold.

How the Business Support Network Benefited Membership
Members received substantial coverage in plastics trade press as a result of the BPFs media links and seminars programme. The Business Support Network successfully recruited a new member CPA Paid.
BPF Events 2006

Flame Retardants 2006
Held: Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre
Supported by: InterScience
Focus: Worldwide Flame Retardants Industry and Developments

Energy Seminar
Held: Inneco, Laytham St. Annes
Supported by: Inneco
Focus: A guide to energy procurement in turbulent times

Environmental Management
Held: At BPF Offices, London
Supported by: Envirowise and IMSM
Focus: A seminar to help reduce cost through environmental management

PVC Seminar 2006
Held: Ramada Hotel, Leicester on 1st November 2006
Supported by: BPF Vinyls Group
Focus: A focus on supporting members of the Vinyl industry to promote the excellent sustainability credentials of PVC and counter mis-representation.

Plastics In Construction
Held: Marriott Flore Hotel, Northampton West on 5th December 2006
Supported by: Plastics Europe
Focus: A look at the important role plastics plays in the construction sector in sustainability, best value and design.

“With the abundance of companies offering services, referral from a trusted source, such as through the BPF Business Support Network, is always the best selection method.

John Thorp
LINPAC Group
International Investment and

The BPF International Trade Development Team saw another full programme in 2006. With financial support from UK Trade and Investment, the BPF coordinated British Group participation at three large international shows in India, China and the Czech Republic. In total the BPF assisted 50 companies and helped to give a globally unified voice in the increasingly competitive international marketplace.

The BPF Trade Development Team helped exhibiting companies by reducing risk, providing detailed market intelligence, organising networking opportunities out in foreign markets, providing advice, organising all aspects of show participation, amplifying a companies marketing message and providing an added visibility out in market. In addition to this, the BPF also secures and accesses Government Grants and other support mechanisms...

Exporters Toolbox
The BPF have always provided companies with detailed market intelligence, however in 2006 the BPF launched the ‘Exporter’s Toolbox’ and created a highly detailed resource, which is easy to navigate and provides companies with unparalleled access to information and support to assist with all aspects of trade and investment. The toolbox is available exclusively to members and includes:

- Access to plastics specific data for 120 countries world wide
- Contact details for trade magazines and trade associations globally
- Access to PlasticsPartners, providing an exclusive list of agents and distributors working in the plastics industry around the globe
- A detailed guide book, commissioned by the BPF, giving companies advice on the initial aspects exporting
- A large collection of ‘Market Information Reports’ compiling highly detailed information on the key world plastics markets.

Stephen Hunt
Job Title
Job Title
Telephone
020 7457 5044
Email
shunt@bpf.co.uk
Plastindia 2006,
New Delhi, India
9 - 14 Feb. 2006

With 16 UK companies taking part in the British Group, Plastindia proved a huge success for the British Companies that took part. The show was on a larger scale than ever before, with 1,236 exhibitors and 80,000 trade visitors attending over the 6 day show. The show was also spread over 19 separate halls and 6 specially constructed ‘hangers’.

“We are all keen to develop our already strong links with India and excited about the opportunities that this show will undoubtedly create.

Michael O’Brien
London Metropolitan University

“We were pleased by the keen interest UK participants have expressed at Plastindia. The Indian industry is growing by over 10% per year, creating exciting opportunities for collaboration for innovative Indian and UK firms. I hope to see an increasing number of companies benefit from the unique relationship our countries currently enjoy.

Mr Vijay Merchant
Chairman of the International Promotion Committee of the Plastindia Foundation

“2006 sees the UK’s largest ever participation in Plastindia. From the positive feedback received, we are encouraged that UK exhibitors share our vision of the Indian market and are keen to encourage and facilitate relationships between UK and Indian companies.

Alan Attryde
Deputy Director Trade and Investment at the British High Commission in New Delhi
International Investment and Chinaplas 2006,
Shanghai, China
April 26th - 29th 2006

Chinaplas 2006 saw the return of the BPF and a large British Contingent (nearly 20 companies) to the ever expanding show halls in Pudong, Shanghai. Like the Chinese plastics market, Chinaplas is growing at a startling rate. The show attracted record numbers of visitors, with nearly 60,000 coming to the show which had expanded from 5 to 8 halls since the previous edition exhibition. A historic Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the British Plastics Federation and the Chinese Plastics Processing Industries Association (CPPIA), cementing the relationship between our 2 organisations. A large reception was organised by the CPPIA to help members to network, with all UK companies and around 35 Chinese Nationals in attendance.

The first two days have been overwhelming and we have gathered a staggering amount of enquiries. A lot of electronics companies that we have historically dealt with in Europe have now set up in China and they have been on the stand and have been very pleased we to see we have representation in China.

John Neugebauer,
Technical Sales Director,
PHASA Developments

We have received a great deal of serious enquiries from the vast amount of visitors at the show. We have spoken to a large amount of people who are looking for leading edge solutions and want help in achieving sales growth and technical advancements.

Chris Francis
Managing Director,
Meech Static Eliminators

We think we can learn a great deal from the BPF. We hold British plastics technology in high regard.

Mr Fu
Director General, CPPIA

We have both decided to strengthen our friendly co-operation and at our meeting we had valuable discussions on recycling, biodegradables, innovation and waste and litter issues.

Peter Davis
Director General, BPF

We have had an exceedingly high number of international visitors on our stand and they have been of exceptionally high quality. The level of professionalism and quality amongst the visitors has been very high and they know exactly what they need.

Michael Li
Operations Manager,
Cinpres Gas Injection
Plastex 2006, Brno, Czech Republic
16th May - 19th May 2006
The BPF took a group of 14 British Companies to the first ever plastics specific show in the Czech Republic. Plastex has evolved out of the phenomenally successful MSV show which takes place annually in Brno. Following on from the show, the British Group of Exhibitors were very pleased with what they had achieved during the show and reported high levels of interest from visitors from all across the region.

Moulders and Specialist Processors Group
The BPF Moulding Group provides a framework for the representations and promotion of BPF members involved in the plastics processing industry, providing a springboard for collaborative initiatives that support the sectors evolution.

The key issues facing the group include:
- Ensuring the moulding sector remains a strong and major contributor to the UK economy and society
- Responding to rising energy and material prices which impact on members competitiveness
- Boosting commercial focus in the face of increased global competition

In 2006, the group
- Undertook the second Moulding Benchmarking Survey, giving companies access to information previously unavailable
- Developed the BPF Online lead service, now approaching 2,000 leads since its launch 2 years previously
- Ran two highly successful Moulding Group Forums at Loughborough University and Pera

Plastic and Rubber Equipment Group
The groups aim is to support market development for UK machinery manufacturers and distributors both here and overseas. And to help them in form UK processors of the latest developments that will help British plastics processing.

The BPF continues to work closely with EUROMAP (the European Committee of Machinery Manufacturers for the Plastics and Rubber Industries) and has continued to develop a range of projects.

The Group:
- Contributed to two EUROMAP Trends Survey in 2006, giving valuable insight into the state of the European equipment industry
- Continued to work with EUROMAP on a number of technical recommendations helping BPF Members set the standards across Europe
- A significant number of the Equipment Group participated in the various International Trade Shows led by the BPF
- Benefited from increased use of the ever-growing EUROMAP World Market Directory giving members access to plastics information in over 100 countries.
The Group:
■ organised a ground breaking annual BPF PVC Seminar, in Leicester entitled ‘PVC Sustainability: Selling the New PVC Message’. The seminar believed to be the first of its kind in Europe focused on informing sales and marketing personnel about the sustainability credentials of PVC and how to counter misinformation. A record 160 delegates attended from all sectors of the PVC industry
■ held a seminar for civil servants to inform them about the sustainability and environmental credentials of the PVC industry. Members of the DTI, DEFRA, DCLG and English Partnerships attended
■ engaged with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to promote the benefits of PVC to the 2012 London Olympic Games
■ arranged to meet and supply the 5 Olympic Boroughs of Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest with information on PVC
■ continued to implement Vinyl 2010 through the Voluntary Commitment Implementation Committee. The Group continued to co-ordinate the highly successful Recovinyl scheme in the UK to recover post consumer PVC construction waste, recovering over 13,000 tonnes of PVC waste in 2006. The scheme now has over 130 collectors and 25 recyclers around the UK, collecting window and cellular profile, pipe, cable and flooring.
■ continued to monitor, promote and enhance the perception of PVC in public affairs circles, media and amongst customer stakeholders
Windows Group

The BPF Windows Group’s mission is to promote and further enhance the PVC-U window sector throughout the UK to both customers and suppliers alike. This includes:
- increasing the profile of PVC-U windows and their benefits to all stakeholders in 2006
- promoting responsibility and best practice in the industry by BPF members setting an example
- safeguarding members by encouraging dialogue and influencing current key stakeholders
- improving society through the inherent benefits of PVC-U windows
- educating stakeholders and promoting the sustainability credentials of PVC-U windows.

The Group met all key objectives for 2006 including:
- planning and executing a successful PR campaign in the South East of England to promote the many benefits of PVC-U windows to specifiers. Over 113 specifiers were provided with information
- working with the Building Research Establishment (BRE) the Group secured a service-life for PVC-U windows of at least 35 years. Significantly increasing their performance in LCA studies
- providing BRE with industry wide information for the new Green Guide
- inputing into the Government’s consultations on the Code for Sustainable Homes and the Strategy for Sustainable Construction
- playing a key role in the BPF PVC seminar with a 1 hour workshop for window suppliers
- producing an updated CPD Seminar with additional information on repairability, recyclability and aesthetics of PVC-U windows for use by members
- visiting key local authorities known to be misinformed about PVC – working with Rupert Pearson Consultants, meetings were held around the country
- continuing to lead the fenestration industry on the development of standards at UK and EU level

Cellular PVC Group

Chairman:
Russell Pankhurst, Celuform

The Group’s mission is to promote and further enhance cellular PVC-UE products throughout the UK to both customers and suppliers alike.

The Group:
- actively contributed to the BRE scoping study on service-life and secured a service life for cellular products of at least 35 years
- continued to develop European Standards with trade associations from around the EU
- developed and completed two new Codes of Practice for the survey and installation of roofline and cladding products.
- Reinforced ties with the Vinyls Group and Windows Group to provide synergies across all PVC construction interests

Sheet and Coated Fabrics Group

The Group maintained strong links with the BPF Vinyls Group as the main platform for responding to flexible PVC issues. Among other activities, the Group continued to contribute to the ongoing EU Risk Assessments on phthalates to find the best solutions for applications.
The BPF Groups – Platforms for

Rotamoulding Group
The Rotamoulding Group has continued to provide a platform for materials suppliers, machinery manufacturers, toolmakers and moulders involved in the Rotational Moulding Process.

In 2006 Allan Joyce of Balmoral Tanks retired as Chairman of the Group. Allan has done an excellent job promoting UK Rotamoulding and chairing the Group since 2001. Martin Spencer of Rototek was unanimously elected as the new chairman.

The Group continued to support ARMO, the world Alliance Rotamoulding Organisation and is working closely to ensure that its structure is formalised so as to provide a solid platform for the global promotion and safeguarding of the process.

2006 saw the 4th Pan-European Rotational Moulding Conference (PEC) also known as the Inaugural ARMO Conference, held at the Estrel Hotel, Berlin in September. The PEC is an extremely important event in the Rotamoulding calendar and once again the conference saw major players in rotamoulding from across globe coming to this three day event. Leading experts in rotamoulding gave papers on technical developments and new innovative uses of the rotamoulding process.

In conjunction with Matrix Polymers the Rotamoulding Group held an extremely successful Design Seminar in April. The seminar sought to show the many design advantages of rotamoulding and to brief designers on some of the factors they need to consider when designing for the process.

As a part the Group’s collaboration with Queen’s University Belfast the Group leant their name and support to Queen’s University’s Polymer Processing Research Centre’s Tenth Anniversary Conference. The conference had an excellent programme and featured a half-day of Rotational Moulding Technical Sessions demonstrating new and innovative techniques.

The Group has continued its work to create a survey that will allow a benchmarking of the UK Rotamoulders to be made. A new and simplified survey was developed in order to get the maximum number of respondents and this will be sent to all those involved in the rotational moulding process across the UK. This survey will allow an assessment to be made as to the size and dynamic of the UK rotational moulding industry and will allow participants to measure their performance in certain areas against that of the industry average.

Product Safety Committee
The Product Safety Committee has continued with its remit of issues management. REACH and how it will impact downstream users in the BPF membership has been a primary focus

Anthony Roberts
Public Affairs Executive
Telephone 020 7457 5043
Email aroberts@bpf.co.uk

Product Safety Committee
The Product Safety Committee has continued with its remit of issues management. REACH and how it will impact downstream users in the BPF membership has been a primary focus.
of the Group. The BPF has been monitoring the situation carefully and has been in close contact with European colleagues at EuPC.

The Committee has also been heavily involved in briefing BPF members on developments in REACH legislation and how members should be preparing. To this end the BPF held an extremely successful and well-attended Chemicals Policy Seminar. This seminar served as an excellent vehicle for the dissemination of information and provided a vital opportunity for members to quiz experts and government officials alike on the chemicals legislation.

Food contact legislation has been another priority of the Group. In addition to extensive lobbying and political monitoring activities the BPF organised a free seminar in conjunction with EuPC on 28th November to brief members on the latest developments in food contact legislation. The BPF has also been heavily involved in the Expoplast Project, a project designed to reduce the burden of complex and costly food contact compliance and to provide a swift resolution to further food contact scares involving plastics packaging.

**Bottle Blowers**

The BPF Bottle Blowers Group is a strong networking platform for independent manufacturers of plastic containers including extrusion and injection blow moulders.

The Group maintained a close interest in the business practices associated with the procurement of bottles and developed a draft code of practice on the use of internet reverse auctions. The Group played an important role in helping the BPF to develop a position on many issues including energy prices and REACH regulation.

The Bottle Blowers were briefed on a draft Soil Association Standard on the packaging of organic produce and maintained a watching brief on the plastics bag tax for any future repercussions it may have had for bottles.

**Industrial Health and Safety**

After a significant restructuring in 2005 the Health and Safety Committee has been involved in many projects including the continued updating of the Health and Safety pages of the Extranet and Internet, and the creation of a Member’s Health and Safety Newsletter that focuses on the key concerns for the Plastics Industry.

In 2006 the Committee was responsible for the formulation and delivery of two seminars designed to update BPF members on recent legislative changes and Health and Safety topics identified as priorities. The seminars focussed on Workplace Transport and Work at Heights respectively. The Committee will be continuing with its seminar programme in 2007.

The Health and Safety Committee wish to continue to work closely with the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive to improve standards of Plastics Safety and to make the industry an exemplar to the manufacturing sector as a whole.

**Composites Group**

The BPF Composites Group has continued to work towards its core objectives of re-establishing the Group as the focal point for the UK Composites Industry, safeguarding the interests of the industry and promoting the composite materials and products.

The focus of the Group has continued to be the recyclability of composites, the safety and risk assessment of styrene, regulations and standards, and improving the EU representation of the Composites Industry through EuCIA.

The Group has continued its work with Exeter University on the DTI funded project ‘Reccomp’. This project seeks to assess the potential for the recycling of thermosets in automotive applications. Reccomp has yielded some very interesting results and BPF members will continue to be updated on the latest developments from the project.

The Chemical Plant Section has remained active in its representation on BSI and CEN committees and continued to develop standards under the Pressure Equipment Directive.

In seeking methods to safeguard and promote the Composites Industry the BPF have been working closely with EuCIA in order to find ways in which we can improve the representation of the Composites Industry in Europe. The BPF strongly supported the recent move when EuCIA joined EuPC as a sector Group.

The BPF Composites Group exhibited at the new Composites Europe Exhibition in Essen, Germany on the 20th-22nd September 2006.
The BPF Groups – Platforms for

EPS Packaging Group

This Group’s mission is to maintain and increase the market for EPS packaging in the UK through communications campaigns, market development and addressing environmental concerns through the increase of recycling.

2006 saw significant change in the structure of the EPS Packaging Group and the Group embarking on two major projects. In June Gavin Birnie (Styropack) retired as Chairman of the Group. Gavin has done an excellent job over the last two years chairing the Group and promoting EPS. Tony Pruchniewicz (Moulded Foams) was elected as the new chairman of the Group and Richard Lee (Styropack) was elected as the new vice-chairman. Anthony Roberts also took over the BPF staff responsibilities for the Group in June and Jonathan Watson was employed as the Group’s Recycling Consultant. In November the EPS Packaging Group decided to work more closely with the EPS Construction Group and to look, wherever possible, for synergies.

In September the EPS Packaging Group teamed up with Tom Dixon to make the first ever chair in moulded EPS. Five hundred of these designer chairs were given away for free in Trafalgar Square on 21 September 2006 at a major London Design Festival event. The moulded polystyrene chairs were also exhibited at 100% East on the EPS Packaging Group stand.

On the back of the Tom Dixon event the EPS Packaging Group launched a design competition and the winning projects will be exhibited at Tent London during the London Design Festival in September 2007.

The EPS Packaging Group has developed and launched a White Magic education box to assist the teaching of science in schools. The White Magic box allows teachers and to get hands-on experience of making a moulded expanded polystyrene ball, recycling and testing the conductivity of different materials.

The White Magic box was tested by the staff of three specialist science schools and an Advanced Science Teacher in May, before being launched nationwide at the start of the school year in September. Schools in England and Wales can order a White Magic education box for £45, the charge will help the EPS Packaging Group recoup part of the cost of each box so that they can be distributed as widely as possible. The Group hopes not to have to refuse any school that requests a box.

In 2007 the White Magic will feature as a part of the Horners’ Polymer Study Tours, attended by 80-90 teachers.

The Group has continued its ongoing work to:

- Support for UK recyclers and waste holders
- Produce and distribute the annual EPS calendar and two newsletters
- Promote local consumer EPS recycling points on member sites
- Provide the secretariat to EUMEPS (European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene)

"It is great, the experiments are fun for pupils and we can link them to industry and the new approach to science.
Lesley Kitching
Head of Science, St Augustine CoE Secondary School"

"It is a versatile resource and it is wonderful to see industry linking with schools and supporting our endeavours to make science relevant and fun.
Jan Williams
Advanced Science Teacher, North Lincolnshire"

"EPS is incredibly lightweight and totally versatile — unique amongst plastics; a designer gets the unusual opportunity of working in large solid volumes. Making a polystyrene chair has given me the opportunity to fulfill an ambition to make design available to all; this time literally, by giving away hundreds of these chairs to Londoners — absolutely, no chains attached. 100 per cent FREE!
Tom Dixon"
Government targets for ‘sustainable’ and ‘more affordable’ housing, and for reduced emissions of carbon-dioxide and ozone-depleting materials, together pose really tough questions for the building industry, including: “Which insulation materials and construction techniques best meet these demanding requirements?”

To help designers make eco-friendly choices, the Environmental Profiles and Ecopoints ratings produced by the BRE for specific materials and building elements, are invaluable indicators of environmental sustainability.

The use of expanded polystyrene (EPS) as a structural and insulating material provides a classic illustration. It is proven in its traditional applications such as material for insulating concrete floors, loft-spaces, and wall cavities. Yet in its more sophisticated applications, such as insulating concrete formwork (ICF) for example, EPS is at the cutting edge of advanced building technology.

When assessing the environmental impacts of insulation materials, the key considerations are insulation efficiency (obviously), utilisation of raw materials and energy in manufacture, any negatives in terms of harmful emissions both during and after manufacture, and scope for recycling. The impacts on climate change, ozone depletion, acidification of rain, consumption of fossil fuels, minerals and water, emission of pollutants and waste production must also be closely assessed.

All of this is very efficiently condensed into ‘Ecopoints’ ratings, both for insulating materials themselves and for ‘as installed’ configurations. Although there is currently some lobbying going on in favour of ‘material only’ Ecopoints as more relevant in the context of the impending new edition of the Green Guide to Housing Specification, it will become clear that ‘as installed’ Ecopoints are the right figures to use.

EPS saves around 200 times the energy used in its manufacture through the thermal insulation it provides in buildings constructed to current standards – making it a highly effective use of valuable raw material, and a uniquely efficient energy-conserving material for the reduction of overall CO2 emissions.

Recycling EPS material which has been used in building insulation or civil engineering applications is hard to envisage, but it is a practical possibility for land drainage and soil conditioning projects. However, because of the likely contaminated state of reclaimed ‘construction’ EPS, the principal option may be clean-burning for energy recovery, which can deliver the equivalent of 1300 litres of heating fuel for every tonne re-used in this way.

Besides ensuring thermal comfort and protecting against the costly effects of condensation, the primary purpose of insulants in construction is to protect the environment by reducing combustion emissions. So it makes obvious sense to use insulation materials and manufacturing methods which do not themselves cause environmental damage.

EPS always scores well in relation to protection of the Earth’s ozone layer. Unlike many synthetic insulants, EPS uses neither chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) nor hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) for its manufacture.

With space heating accounting for around 50% of national energy consumption, it’s little surprise that Document L of the Building Regulations is undergoing continual review to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. Indeed we should expect further upgrading of these standards if global targets are to be met.

The industry’s keen to innovate and one example of this continuing development is the optional inclusion of graphite within the EPS matrix to give a higher thermal insulation performance, whilst enabling the use of less and even thinner material.

EPS has a massive contribution to make in reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions for protecting our future environment.
The BPF Groups – Platforms for Networking and Action

Polymer Producers Group
The Group increased in membership and remained a source of distinctive support for nearly all Business Groups and Activities as well as Central Committees.

The Group’s Specialist Compounders section was able to draw upon BPF’s support for SMEs on the Extranet and via export support tools.

Polymer Distributors and Compounders Group
This Group’s mission is to maintain a strong networking platform, to promote and further enhance the polymer distribution and compounding business throughout the UK to both customers and suppliers alike. This includes:
- To maintain the Group as the leading voice of polymer distribution and compounding
- To promote and raise awareness of the applications for plastics materials
- To support the important principle of a ‘supply partnership’
- To achieve a ‘seamless’ supply chain between the polymer producer and end user

Additives Group
The Group’s mission is to maintain a strong networking platform, to promote and enhance the plastics additives business throughout the UK to the plastics supply chain, from processor to specifier and to the final customer. This includes:
- Managing the reputation of chemicals, additives and plastics and their promotion in plastics applications
- Influencing and handling significant legislative change and cost-effective implementation.
- Acquiring better exposure to end-market trends and new additives’ contributions to the marketplace.
- Prioritising relevant markets for export, with a view to harnessing appropriate support through the BPF to explore these
- Focusing on the delivery of appropriate health and safety policies to plastics processors

The Group’s membership increased with two companies joining. The Group met all key objectives for 2006 including:
- Constructing a downloadable Additives Buyers Guide which links to the BPF On-Line Directory
- Discussing the potential for a Group “code of ethics”
- Organising the ‘Additives for Innovation in Plastic Packaging’ event, 20th September, at Pear Innovation Park in Melton Mowbray
- Monitoring the development of REACH Regulations and their likely impacts on additives in plastics
- Maintaining a watching brief on the status of UK plastics processing, accessing useful statistics from the BPF’s trade and investment expert

Stephen Hunt
The Additives Group paid tribute to chairman Bob Watson of Ciba Specialty Chemicals who stood down in November 2006 after a three-year term, and having been involved with the Group for ten years. Bob handed over the reins to Gavin Lewis, Sales Development Manager for Omya UK. Bob Watson said: “It has been my privilege to have worked with colleagues and the BPF staff, and I am delighted to pass the baton to Gavin, who will prove to be a safe and secure pair of hands, driving the work of the group to meet the challenges of the future.”

Additives Buyers Guide which links to the BPF on-line directory

Compounds Group
The Group met all key objectives for 2006 including:
- Identifying possible areas of cooperation on media issues management with the Sense About Science organisation, who came to the November Group meeting
- Establishing common ground on best practice and safety issues.

Masterbatch and Technical Compounds Group
Following an exploratory meeting, a group of 11 UK masterbatch suppliers committed to forming a new BPF Masterbatch and Technical Compounds Group. By the end of the year the Group had grown to 15 members.

The Masterbatch industry has come of age and needs a strong clear voice of its own in the many crucial issues that directly affect it. The Masterbatch manufacturers have an important role in supporting innovation and growth in the plastics processing market in the UK and globally, and establishing common ground on important technical and commercial questions. As a sector we can punch our weight much greater effect with a professional platform within the BPF.

This Group’s mission is to maintain a strong networking platform, to promote and enhance the masterbatch business throughout the UK to the plastics supply chain, from processor to specifier and to the final customer. This includes:
- Operating in a business climate progressively characterised by increasing materials and energy costs, and increasing members’ dexterity with these costs can be passed down the chain.
- Respecting to the increased pressure of international competition on customers (processors) in the UK.
- Influencing attitudes to plastics in terms of their environmental footprint, product safety, and their value as compared to their cost, amongst all relevant stakeholders including customers, political decision-makers and the media.
- Managing cost and business

The BPF provides this Group with an important sales and marketing platform, from which we can demonstrate solid credentials as high calibre plastics suppliers. The key is not to work in isolation, but take advantage of the networking opportunities and knowledge base the BPF provides.

David Coupe
ALBIS UK

The BPF provides.

opportunities and knowledge base

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The BPF provides.
The Plastic Pipes Group

The Plastic Pipes Group [PPG] of the British Plastics Federation has been representing UK manufacturers of plastic pipes and fittings since 1961.

The importance of plastics as a material for pipework continues to grow steadily and they have already achieved significant shares of each category market. For example, it is estimated that plastics now account for over 5% of all new buried pressure and non-pressure installations in the UK. In 2006 over 6000 tonnes of pipes were collected and recycled.

We are faced with the constant challenge of developing new products to suit changing market demands. New manholes and inspection chambers have been developed and introduced. Control of surface water run off has led to the development of several new products from our members as they address the demanding requirements of this developing sector.

We are preparing for the introduction of the CE Marking for our products - quite a challenge to introduce an extremely difficult system in a way that does not confuse the market.

Market shares continue to grow, in 2006, the estimated combined turnover of the UK manufacturers of plastic piping systems was £720 million and the industry employed some 6500 people.

In Europe, The European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association [TEPPFA] estimates that the combined European turnover for ‘Old Europe’ is €10 billion with some 30,000 direct employees.

The roles of the PPG

Core purpose
At the core of its activities, the PPG is dedicated to promoting the development, acceptance and usage of plastics piping systems manufactured primarily in the UK at all levels in the Building, Construction, Civil and Utilities Industries.

This embraces the full spectrum of above and below ground applications, including:
- Rainwater drainage
- Soil & Waste pipework
- Hot & Cold water internal plumbing
- Pipework for Radiator heating systems and Underfloor heating
- Underground drainage and sewerage
- Pipework for Land drainage
- Ducting for cabling and communications alongside highways
- Pressure pipes for Water and Gas mains distribution
- SUD systems

International representation
The directorate of the PPG, as well as representatives of its member organisations, also regularly contribute to the work and debate of international

The Plastic Pipes Group

is an extremely active Group promoting plastic pipes systems in a wide variety of applications.

Giles Cook
George Fischer
bodies wherever this is relevant to UK industry interests.

The PPG is a founder member of TEPPFA. It also seeks to ensure an active representative presence at any international forum whose agenda could impact on the UK industry.

Monitoring and developing Standards
A crucial role – both at home and abroad – is participation in the committee structures which review and develop British, European and International Standards.

The PPG is therefore at the heart of the process of defining the accepted practices for the use of plastic pipes – and of managing desirable adjustment to those Standards whenever technological progress or changes in statutory regimes require it.

Serving the information needs of members
In addition to representation of their interests, the PPG is also concerned to keep its members fully up-to-date with developments – technological, statutory, regulatory or practical – which relate to the industry as a whole rather than to individual company interests.

To this end, the PPG provides a full technical advisory service to its member manufacturers and, through those members, to the specifiers, installers and stockists of their products. This may include – for example – disseminating details, interpretation and evaluation of newly-established Standards relating to plastic pipe applications.

Advice is also provided in the form of technical bulletins and guidance notes. These cover such topics as the principles of Good Practice in the application, usage and installation of plastic pipe systems; and advice pertinent to live issues in the public domain – of which the Environment
and Recycling are notable subjects.
To keep in touch with Europe we hosted the meeting of TC 155 Plastic Pipes and Fittings in November 2006.

Defending the interests of plastic pipes
The PPG is constantly ‘on watch’ for any potentially negative publicity arising from the statements or activities of external organisations or groups. It is accordingly committed to mounting, when necessary and as appropriate, a rapid and robust defence of plastic pipes as a product category and material, and of the collective interests of member manufacturers.

Structure
Organised for a broad agenda
To facilitate its commitment to this broad and detailed agenda, the PPG is organised into functional sub-groups – known as Application Groups – which report on their activities to the Pipes Group Council.

In this way, detailed and specialist issues and initiatives may be effectively progressed by nominated representatives who are drawn from member companies and who have specific knowledge of the product and application categories concerned.

Pipes Group Council
The Pipes Group Council, which is open to all member companies, meets formally twice-yearly to receive reports from and approve the activities of the Application Groups.

Due to the increasing cost of travel and associated time, we are currently investigating with our members the possibility of conducting some of our meetings by video conferencing and increasing the use of teleconferencing.

Pipes Group Staff/Officers

PRESIDENT
Giles Cook
Managing Director of George Fischer Sales Limited.

VICE-PRESIDENT
Chris Nunn
Managing Director of Marley Plumbing & Drainage.

DIRECTOR
Frank Jones
Frank has extensive experience of the building industry, and particularly the plastic pipes sector. He is Vice-President of The European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association [TEPPFA]. A director of the Plastic Pipes Conference Association which organises the highly successful Plastic Pipes series of conferences. He is also Chairman of two British Standards Institute [BSI] committees.

STANDARDS MANAGER
Caroline Ayres
Caroline joined the PPG after working with British Gas and the BBA. Caroline also chairs a BSI committee.

The Pipes Group Council and PPG Directorate are supported by a team of 3 highly skilled staff.

In addition, senior personnel from Member companies represent the PPG at meetings in the UK, in mainland Europe, and, as necessary, at international conventions around the world. This means that the PPG fields acknowledged experts to represent the industry wherever this is required – each working to a pre-agreed and carefully-constructed brief.

Application Groups
At our Council meeting in November we decided to combine 2 of our Application Groups. We now have 5 Application Groups [AGs], each focused on a designated pipes application category or issue. As appropriate, each AG has nominated sub-committee Panels tasked with progressing specific initiatives or functions.

Images courtesy of Wavin Plastics
Polyurethane Flexible Foam Group (FFG)

Chairman:
Ian Leicester - Carpenter

FFG continues to promote and represent the interests of the UK flexible foam industry at National and European levels.

Main Activities

1. To identify the latest health, safety and environmental issues and to determine what actions are required to ensure that the UK polyurethane flexible foam industry meets the requirements of such legislation.

2. To identify, fund and to participate in new research projects, which if successful would benefit the flexible foam industry as a whole.

3. To ensure that the UK polyurethane flexible foam industry is fully represented both on the Board and Technical Working Groups of EUROPUR (European Association of Flexible Polyurethane Foam Blocks Manufacturers)

4. To liaise independently, or via the British Plastics Federation, with UK Government, especially the Department Trade & Industry, the Health & Safety Executive, and the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on relevant matters.

5. To participate in the relevant BSI, CEN and ISO standard committees to ensure that the interests of the UK flexible foam industry are represented.

2006 Activities

Research
- Following a research project with the University of Strathclyde on the preparation of TDI based nanocomposite foams containing clays which would show fire retardancy properties with reduced use of additives, discussions are ongoing on the possibility of a joint development/development agreement.
- A three year research project with the University of Nottingham on the syntheses of urethanes not involving the use of isocyanates has commenced.

Standards
- FFG has continued to supply experts to UK and European technical committees in the revision of existing, and the construction of new BS, CEN and ISO standards. One of which was the review of the existing CEN standard on “Band Knives Cutting Machines for Block Foam” which is now ready to go out for public comment.

UK
- On behalf of EUROPUR/ISOPA FFG has carried out a project at the WRc in order to determine the landfill classification for waste polyurethane flexible foam.
- Position papers on viscoelastic cot mattresses and the use of flame retardants in toys have been issued.
- In association with EUROPUR “A Flame Lamination-Good Industrial Practice Guide” has been published.
- Maintained close contact with the REACH Legislation at National and European (via EUROPUR) levels in order to minimise its impact on the polyurethane flexible foam industry.

Europe
- FFG and its members have continued to play a leading role in several EUROPUR (European Association of Flexible Foam Block Manufacturers) research programmes.
- Throughout 2006 FFG has played an important role, through the European Flame Retardants Association, EFRA, in the EU risk assessment programme of flame retardants.

Fire Committee

Chairman:
Dr Christine Lukas, Dow Chemical

The Committee:
- Held the 2006 Flame Retardants conference organised by BPF and Interscience. The event was the 17th such conference, attracting a global audience.
- Monitored developments to the fire testing requirements in the EU Construction Products Directive and the potential ramifications for the plastic cabling and ducting industry.
Taking the lead on Innovation

Kevin Longworth
Projects Executive

It is the BPF’s intention to position the UK Plastics Industry at the cutting edge of innovation in global markets with the BPF providing a key stimulus for focusing the industry’s efforts on research and development to keep ahead of world competition. This will involve innovation in products, processes and business practice.

A key step forward was taken in 2006, when the BPF agreed to take responsibility for “Faraday Plastics” (now known as the “Polymer Innovation Network”), a major governmental investment in our industry. Faraday Plastics is part of the Materials Knowledge Transfer Network and its main aim is to secure the maximum commercial exploitation of research and development carried out on polymers in the UK.

A Board to steer Faraday Plastics is being created. A Chairman has been appointed and he is Colin Richards, formerly a member of the senior R & D Management team of BP Chemicals who is well known to the BPF. Peter Davis, BPF Director General, will represent the BPF on the Board. The Project Director of Faraday Plastics is Robert Quarshie who is assisted by three Technology Translators: Brain Turtle, Jan Czerski and Sally Beken, who will all have direct contact with the industry drawing the attention of companies to relevant research.

A key activity for Faraday Plastics in 2006 was the introduction of Spark Awards of up to £5000 which available to fund “proof of concept” technology demonstrations. Among those awarded was one to Cardiff-based, Taylor Products Ltd, who worked with Bradford University to prove the energy efficiency of their ‘Insulwatt Heater’. Also Adept Polymers, a division of Stanelco PLC, was awarded a grant to work with the University of Bradford in a ‘proof of concept’ study to determine the suitability of various bio-degradable and compostable polymer formulations for an injection molding application.

Faraday Plastics was also involved, alongside a number of Knowledge Transfer Network representatives in a workshop on the procurement of prison mattresses. With a rising prison population, the number of mattresses needed is approx. 60,000 units. The workshop explored ways of achieving a target of zero mattresses in land fill waste by 2012 given that the foam material used for mattresses is formulated to provide a very high level of fire retardance which could potentially make recycling difficult.

The BPF was also involved in a variety of third - party funded Research and Development projects where typically the BPF was the partner responsible for the dissemination and communication activities. We wish to grow this portfolio of involvement in order to strengthen our overall drive in Innovation and to deepen the benefits of BPF membership. In 2006, the key Research and Development projects in which we were involved were as follows:

BPF Project Work

The BPF is involved in several projects funded by the European Commission, mostly under the 6 Framework programme, 2 DTI funded studies and one ESPRC funded major work.

Over the last year the BPF has worked hard to develop its project portfolio to benefit the industry by helping it create a competitive advantage, whilst becoming more sustainable. Projects such as FlowFree suggest potential energy savings for the extrusion industry some where in the region of 30%. The BPF will continue to develop its project portfolio to match the needs of the UK industry and encourage innovation in the plastics sector.
Current projects include:

**RECIPE**
Reduced Energy Consumption in Plastics Engineering
Following an initiative established by the Faraday Plastics Partnership and led by Rapra, this project is part of the European Commission’s “Intelligent Energy” programme, and aims to establish and promote best practice for energy saving in plastics processing across Europe. A best practice guide and an energy-manager’s “toolkit” have been developed. These are available free for downloading from http://www.eurecipe.com. Information and update newsletters have been circulated regularly to members.

**FLOWFREE**
An EC funded project led by RAPRA, with a 14-strong European consortium including the BPF, this aims to improve the industrial plastics extrusion process by the use of supercritical CO2. Early indications show that this project may reduce energy consumption in the extrusion process by approximately 30% for some polymers.

**POLYCOND**
PolyCond is a transnational project, being part financed by the European Commission under the sixth framework programme as an Integrated Project (IPSME scheme - Project number IP 515835-2). The project is designed to address the needs of the European plastic converters, a traditionally less research and development intensive sector mainly composed of SMEs. Its aim is to creating a competitive edge for the European POLymer processing industry by driving new added-value products with CONDucting polymers. This RAPRA-led project involving the BPF aims to develop conductive plastic composites that are eco-friendly, cost effective and of high added value. PolyCond will benefit plastic processors in the EU by developing new technologies and providing solutions to key long-term problems. A multidisciplinary and integrated approach includes technology transfer with training activities, thereby mobilizing EU and Regional funding.

**BE AWARE**
Built Environment Action on Waste Awareness and Resource Efficiency
This DTI-funded project aims to help construction product manufacturers to make more efficient use of materials and processes by investigating their products’ design, manufacture, installation, use and eventual disposal. The 30-month project was launched in January 2006 and undertaken by an industry consortium including the BPF.

**MICRO-MELT**
“The Development Of Advanced Retro-Fit Processing Technologies For Rotational Moulding To Reduce Product Cost and Processing Time and Increase Surface Quality”
Led by Pera and co-ordinated by BPF, this project aims to reduce the processing cycle time, with its associated energy costs and improve part quality of rotationally moulded items through the development of retrofitable Microwave tool heating and internal mould cooling systems.

**PEPT-FLOW**
The PEPT-FLOW project will investigate the application of positron emission particle tracking (PEPT) as an innovative polymer flow visualisation technique for twin screw extrusion. The data obtained will be used to develop and validate accurate flow simulation software for twin-screw extrusion. This will then be used to define knowledge-based machine design criteria and guidelines and to optimise processing parameters to achieve target mixing / material properties. To demonstrate the new design criteria, the simulation software and processing know-how will be tested on 5 commercial twin-screw processes. This project is led and co-ordinated by RAPRA.

**RECCOMP**
Led by the University of Exeter, this DTI-funded project is investigating best practices for recycling of composite materials from the transport industry.

**VINYLSUM**
VinylSUM is a new research initiative led by IPTME at Loughborough (a member of the BPF Business Support Network) and involves the BPF. Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) under the ‘Sustainable Use of Materials’ initiative, this was set up in April 2004 to help address some of the long term sustainability challenges facing PVC.
The BPF has some exciting plans for the future and the plastics industry has some key dates to look forward to in the future.

**2007**
- 2007 sees the 100th birthday of Bakelite, the first truly synthetic plastic, made iconic by the ubiquitous Bakelite telephone of the early 20th century. Bakelite was invented by Leo Baekeland in 1907.
- The BPF website will receive a complete overhaul in 2007, with the site moving to a new server and content management system. This will increase the usability and control members have of the site, as well as creating some new tools for the industry. The overhaul will further cement the place of www.bpf.co.uk as the number one plastics site in the world;
- BPF events in 2007 will be particularly strong with a wide coverage of the industry with topics such as recycling, sustainability, manufacturing efficiency and energy. The seminars will provide a low cost forum for members to learn more about these essential topics;
- The BPF will manage an in house PR campaign to promote PVC construction products in 2007. The campaign will be centred on 5 seminars held around the UK to target local authority, housing association and construction company specifiers. The seminars will seek to inform attendees of the sustainability credentials of PVC construction products;
- Continuation of further developing the strong links the BPF has within Government;
- Co-operating and supporting the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) in the preparation for the 2012 London Olympics;
The BPF will have a considerable presence at K 2007, the world’s largest plastics show in Düsseldorf. This will help support our members in foreign markets.

2008

The BPF will celebrate its 75th Birthday! The Federation is the longest serving plastics federation in the world, set up in 1933 to support the UK plastics industry. Throughout 2008 a number of special events will mark this monumental date in the Federation and plastics industry history.

2008 is also the birthday of Polyethylene more commonly known by its brand name ‘Polythene’. Polyethylene was invented in 1933 by ICI as a packaging material, to meet the needs at the time of the UK’s huge exporting markets. The material is now widely used in not just packaging, but the construction sector too. Polyethylene has also played a major role over the years in saving lives by creating shelter in many catastrophes around the world such as the 2005 Tsunami and 2006 Pakistani earthquake.
BPF Council, Staff and Affiliates

The Council of the British Plastics Federation
as of 31 December 2006

President
Paul Turner  Kronos Ltd

Vice-President
Calum Forsyth  Wavin Plastics

Polymer Materials Manufacturers
Brian Cosgrove  Solvay Polymers
Paul Jukes  Arkema
Roger Mottram  INEOS Vinyls
Glenn Wycherley  Bayer Materials Science

Additives Suppliers
Mike Ashwood  Gabriel-Chemie UK
Jim Jeffries  Baerlocher UK

Processors
David Cope  ALBIS UK
Jonathan Haddock  SCA Tuscarora
Philip Hilton  RPC Group
Peter Hudson  Vitafom
Brian Mann  McKechnie Plastic

Components
John Ogilvie  Network Veka
David Openshaw  Micropol
Joseph Reeve  Data Plastics

Machinery and Engineers
Stephen Forster  Eaton-Williams

Recyclers
David Wrigley  Epwin Group

Distributors
Mike Boswell  Plastribution

PIFA representative
Vacancy

PlasticsEurope representative
Chris Easdown  Dow Chemical

Hon Treasurer
Philip Watkins  Gabriel-Chemie UK

Ex Officio Members
Peter Davis  BPF
Philip Law  BPF

Federation Secretary
Alan Davey  BPF

Affiliated Associations
Listed below are associations either with whom the BPF is affiliated or who are affiliated to the BPF:

British Rigid Urethane Foam
Manufacturers’ Association (BRUFMA)
Flexible Packaging Association (FPA)
Gauge and Toolmakers Association (GTMA)
Northern Ireland Polymers Association (NIPA)
Packaging and Industrial Films Association (PIFA)
Plastics Consultancy Network (PCN)
PlasticsEurope
Polymer Machinery Manufacturers’ and Distributors’ Association (PMMDA)
Scottish Plastics and Rubber Association (SPRA)
The Polymer Cluster Centre (PCC)

Staff of the British Plastics Federation

Peter Davis OBE  Director General
Christine Aitken  Pipes Group Secretary
Caroline Ayres  Pipes Group Standards Manager
Alan Davey  Finance and Admin Director
Dan Frake  Finance Assistant
Mercia Gick (Dr)  Senior Issues Advisor
Doreen Greenaway  Events and Admin Executive
Loma Hewson  PA to Director General
Stephen Hunt  Trade Development Executive
Justyna Jaworska  Receptionist and Finance Assistant
Paul Jervis  Windows Group Technical Consultant
Frank Jones  Pipes Group Director
Angella Ladner  Finance and IT Executive
Thom Lant  Marketing Executive
Philip Law  Public and Industrial Affairs Director
Kevin Longworth  Industrial Projects Executive
Tim Marsden  Construction Issues Executive
Kirti Patel  PA to Philip Law (part time)
Rene Perrott  Caterer
Sarah Plant  Raw Materials Issues Executive
Christine Pottinger  Receptionist (part time)
Anthony Roberts  Public Affairs Executive
Chris Stride  EPS Construction Market Development Manager
David Waite  Flexible Foam Group Divisional Executive