Mission Participants

British Plastics Federation

Rapra Ltd

Safeglass

Hardie Polymers

The Polymer Innovation Network

Rapstrap

McKechnie Plastic Components

Delcam

The South Eastern College-Business Innovation & Development (BIDU)
The British Plastics Federation are the leading trade association of the UK Plastics Industry representing 80% of Industry turnover, the membership base of the BPF is made up of over 250 companies with more than 400 sites in the UK.

The BPF is an authoritative and objective source of unique information, views and commentary whose name has, as a consequence has become synonymous with plastics in the UK. The BPF promotes the interests of its Members (companies from across the plastics processing, materials supply, additives and machinery sectors) and acts to assist with the development of UK companies both in domestic and overseas markets.
Rapra Limited is a membership-based organisation which has provided its Members with privileged access to specialist technical, research and information services in plastics and rubber for over 80 years. Working closely with its main service provider, Smithers Rapra, Rapra Limited's Members enjoy a range of benefits including financial discounts and free-of-charge technical enquiry service.

Safeglass (Europe) Limited was formed in 1997 to commercialise the award winning material, Safeglass®.

Safeglass® is the innovative, award-winning material that mimics glass but will not cut when it breaks. It was designed to replace real glass in ‘break the glass’ uses such as fire alarms, key boxes, hammer boxes and emergency equipment.

Safeglass® is used as the industry standard throughout the rail and bus industry for break glass hammer boxes, door egress, fire extinguishers and many other safety products.

Safeglass® is also used in hospitals for fire alarms and oxygen shut off valves.
Hardie Polymers are one of the leading Independent Plastics Distributors in the UK, offering a complete range of specified Engineering & Commodity Polymers. We also offer low cost engineering polymers eg. PC and PC/ABS to the injection moulding sector, helping companies in the automotive and electronic/electrical sectors under pressure to achieve costdowns.

The Polymer Innovation Network, a node of the Materials KTN, is focussed on supporting the UK polymer industry and has over 1200 individual members. The Mission Statement for the Polymer Innovation Network is: “To facilitate the translation of innovative and relevant research, technology and design to the UK polymer industry for the overall economic benefit of UK plc, and perform at such a level that its overall contribution to the UK Materials Industry is significantly increased.”
RAPSTRAP is a novel proprietary technology which supersedes traditional cable ties in every aspect. Patents have been filed in twenty countries of which three have already been granted including China. Its uniqueness lies in the design of the interconnected cells that make the strap, allowing it to stay firmly fastened and yet be reversible when required. RAPSTRAP meets the same requirements of low cost and high performance of cable ties except that it encompasses an entire system by virtue of its superior versetality and multi-functionality. Its reversibility makes it considerably less expensive as well as less wasteful as a plastic material. The product is an injection moulded plastic strap which can be made from a wide variety of polymers for applications as simple as household and retail uses to industrial cables, automobiles, electronics, agriculture etc.
Delcam is the world's leading supplier of design, machining and inspection software to the global mouldmaking industry. With Delcam software, mouldmakers can increase their manufacturing productivity, reduce lead times and improve quality. Delcam's Indian subsidiary supports the local industry with 70 staff in its Pune headquarters and ten regional offices.

The South Eastern Regional College - Business Innovation & Development (BIDU) is a provider of specialist workforce training. Working in partnership with you and your employees, the BIDU specialists will determine which training route is most appropriate to your company. The BIDU has a long-standing reputation for training excellence, winning two Beacon Awards, and recently the Ulster Television Business Eye Award.
Overview of British Plastics Market

The UK Plastics industry is a Global leader operating at the cutting edge of technology. Sales account for approximately £17.5 billion (approximately 2.1% of UK GDP), the industry employs 220,000. The industry is a dominant player worldwide in the three core sectors that make up the plastics industry: material and additive manufacture, material processors and machinery manufacture. It is estimated that the UK produces annually approximately 2,500 ktonnes of plastics. Supporting the household names in Polymer Manufacturer are a range of specialist materials, masterbatch and additives manufacturers, helping to enhance the performance and push forward the boundaries of plastics use verses traditional materials around the world.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>UK Production of Plastics Materials</th>
<th>2.5 million tonnes</th>
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<tr>
<td>UK Consumption of Plastics</td>
<td>4.8 millions tonnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumption Growth</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Value of Plastics Industry</td>
<td>£19bn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total value of Processing Sector</td>
<td>£13.1bn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Value of Exports</td>
<td>£4.6bn</td>
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UK manufacture and design is well regarded, with particular emphasis placed on high added value and adherence to specification - customer service and support is also widely acclaimed. UK companies tend to be environmentally conscious and design and manufacture to the highest environmental standards. The manufacturing base is typified by efficient, innovative, flexible companies operating at the cutting edge of technology and able to respond quickly to new requirements ensuring that UK companies continue to be competitive in the rapidly changing global market place.