

Children Challenging Industry Celebrates 10 years of success

Children, teachers and industrialists from across the region celebrated ten years of success of the Children Challenging Industry (CCI) project in July. The pupils, all of primary school age, demonstrated some of the experiments they had undertaken as part of the University of York's CCI programme. Company personnel wowed the guests by showing the activities they provide for CCI children at their sites. The CCI programme was set up to raise perceptions about the chemical industry. In the last ten years, the scheme which is supported by Chemicals Northwest, has trained, educated and built links with:

- 11,470 local children
- 3,500 Northwest teachers
- 372 local schools
- 375 company personnel
- More than 70 Northwest science-using companies

Sue Andrews, CCI advisory teacher for the Northwest, said: "What a great achievement this is both for the CCI programme, Chemicals Northwest and for all those who have been involved in the last ten years.

"In that time we have seen real success stories – young people who have chosen science at GCSE and A'Level after being inspired by one of our classroom sessions or industry visits.



CCI advisory teachers work not only to change the perception of the manufacturing industry with the younger generation but to show them how interesting and exciting jobs in science and industry can be.

They grab the children's attention with practical investigations in class and follow it up with a site visit to a local chemical company or power station.

The children love doing the experiments. The activities not only involve science, maths and teamwork but also really mimic industry. They encourage the children to be excited about science and maybe one day lead to a science career.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Halton attended the celebration. David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, and former Bolton MP Dr Brian Iddon, joined other special guests from local companies and schools involved in the CCI programme.

Nine-year-old Tom Durr, a year four pupil at Halton Lodge Primary School in Runcorn, said the site visit his school had been on to global chemical company Solvay, had been "amazing. Science is a really good job to have and I think lots of people should become scientists. I think they would if they knew how much fun it could be."



2010/2011 sector directory out now



We are pleased to announce that the 2010/2011 Chemicals Northwest Sector Directory is being printed and sent out during September. A copy of the directory will automatically be sent to our member companies and companies who have advertised in the directory.

The directory contains the most up to date information on companies within the chemical sector from the North West and surrounding areas.

We have received positive feedback over the years regarding how the chemical industry perceives the directory as being a valuable resource to their business.

If you would like a copy of the directory and are not members of Chemicals Northwest please email alex.heys@chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk for a free copy to be posted to you. Or alternatively pick one up at one of our future events. For further information on our future events please see page 16 of the newsletter.

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Chemicals Northwest is an industry-led organisation driving strategic and sustainable development for the 'chemistry using industries' in England's Northwest. Chemicals Northwest is a non-profit organisation funded by industry and the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA).

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Catalyst inspires scientists of the future!

June saw the return of "Science at Work Week" at Catalyst and this year it was bigger and better than ever. The event, aimed at pupils aged 11-16, provides an opportunity for youngsters from the North West to be inspired, meet employees, understand the relevance of science in their everyday lives and discover the diverse range of career opportunities available within science based industries.



The event was sponsored by pharmaceuticals company Astra Zeneca and thanks to their support Catalyst were able to offer schools free admission and in many cases cover the cost of the coach transport too.

From explosions to energy production, skeletons to soap making and from plastic moulding to pumping water Catalyst had it covered, with 20 different organisations taking part throughout the week, double the amount that took part last year!

Catalyst Director Stephen Youd-Thomas said "The event brought nearly 700 pupils to the Centre over the four days and was an amazing opportunity for them to put the science they learn in the classroom into an industry context".

AstraZeneca R & D Science Policy Director, Jackie Wilbraham said "AstraZeneca were thrilled to take part in this exciting event and share our passion and enthusiasm for science with young people. It proved to be a great success!"

Following the success of this year's event Catalyst has already set the date for next year. Companies are invited to participate from 14th – 17th June 2011 – the International Year of Chemistry. Wouldn't it be great if Catalyst could make next year's event even bigger and better to celebrate?

If you'd like to take part or would like any further information please contact Meryl Jameson at Catalyst on **0151 420 1121** or email meryl@catalyst.org.uk



Continuing support for chemical companies

Over the summer months Chemicals Northwest (CNW) has been involved with the consultations on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and the shape that they will take. These LEPs will replace the Regional Development Agencies from April 2012 and CNW wants to ensure that support for chemical businesses in the region remains a priority and is joined up across local boundaries.

Each of our sub-regions has submitted their proposals to government and we now await the outcome and the results of the government spending review which should be known in October.

We will continue to update you on the progress of LEPs and what they mean to your business and the support you receive.

Essential Chemical Industry

The Chemical Industry Education Centre, well known in the North West for their Children Challenging Industry project, has recently published the fifth edition of their popular publication The Essential Chemical Industry.

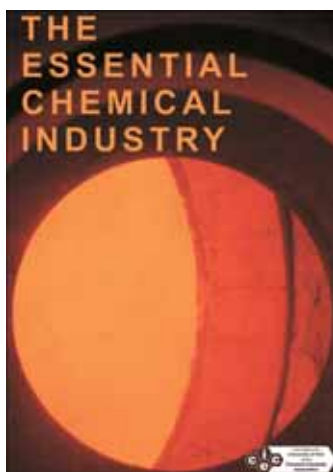
This unique resource book is aimed at post-16 students and their teachers, and industrialists who require a broad view of the industry or information about specific sectors. Previous editions have also been used with GCSE students and the content links with current GCSE and A-level curricula.

The book is very easy to use with 76 topics being introduced in five main sections.

These are; basic chemicals, polymers, processes, materials and applications, and metals.

Over 200 industrial and academic experts and 100 companies have contributed to ensure the accuracy of the information. Topical information about environmental issues and clear examples of the industry's impact on everyday life helps the reader to appreciate the importance of the industry and its science in the modern world.

John Walker, professional development leader at the National Science Learning



Centre said, "There is no other publication on the market which does what The Essential Chemical Industry does. It captures key facts and figures about the chemical industry and presents them in an informative, attractive and accessible way. Whether you are a teacher or student, this resource is not only the starting point; it is possibly the only place you need to look. I have used it with students at GCSE and 'A' level, and have also used it to research and prepare training materials for teachers. It is the most useful educational resource on industrial chemistry that I know."

For more information on purchasing copies of the publication for your company or local secondary schools, please contact: CIEC, Department of Chemistry, University of York, York YO10 5DD email: ciec@york.ac.uk.

Want to know what happens at our Chemical Elements events?

If you have not been along to one of our regular networking events then why not have a look at the format it takes by watching a short film on youtube (www.youtube.com/user/ChemicalsNorthwest).

Chemical Elements are monthly events that inform members and non-members about current issues facing the chemical industry in the region and offer an informal networking environment.

Events can take the form of sharing best practice, bringing together experts or highlighting projects/ funding for chemical companies to exploit.

Before and after the presentations are



opportunities to network with others working in the industry and there is always a buffet before you go on your way. You can keep up to date on the topics of upcoming events either through our website or by signing up to our fortnightly ebulletin.

www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk/news/ebulletin

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At Sandvik Materials Technology UK, we are manufacturers and distributors of seamless piping products. We supply materials to manufacturers, contractors and end users, in the chemical, petrochemical, pharmaceutical, oil, gas, automotive, nuclear and engineering industries. In the UK we specialise in ex-stock piping packages from our local Midlands office and warehouse, however, we are also supported by our international network, of 27 offices in Europe, Middle East and Africa, and our parent company based in Sweden.

We are able to supply seamless/ welded pipe, tube, including instrumentation tube, heat exchanger and coiled tubing; fittings, flanges, solid bar, hollow bar, billet. We

supply materials in stainless steel, duplex, super duplex, with special grades also available, in Sanicro 28, Titanium, Zirconium and other high temperature grades. As a manufacturer we hold several trademarks, Sandvik SAF2205, SAF2507, SAF2707, SAF2906, Sanicro28, and Sanicro29.

Through our global purchasing of materials, we are able to source additional high quality and competitively priced products, to complement our core product range. We can therefore offer a comprehensive package building service for customers with specific project requirements. The service includes product management, central stocks and distribution, covering next day delivery, as required, and order administration, to cover the full requirements of a project, thus enabling our customers to save both valuable time and money. We are able to



offer product testing, bevelling, and packaging, colour code, marking and full documentation.

In order to keep at the forefront of industry developments, we are members of a number of UK associations, including, Chemicals Northwest, FPAL (First point assessment), FPAL Verify, BSSA (British stainless Steel Association), EIC (The Energy Industries Council), NEPIC (North East process Industry Cluster), NIA (National Nuclear Assoc.), Birmingham Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and The Blackcountry Chamber.

For further information about the company, please visit our website www.smt.sandvik.com/uk. As well as product information about sizes and grades, there are details showing the company's policies on the environment, health & safety: additionally, if you refer to the 'technical' section, there is the facility to build individual product/specification data sheets.

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EDP Health, Safety & Environment Consultants Ltd.

EDP are a leading, supplier of health, safety, environment & construction consultancy and training services to the chemical industry. Employing more than 50 specialists across the full range of disciplines, we can provide clients with guidance, support and training covering all their SHE requirements.

EDP focus on the development of cost effective health, safety & environment solutions tailored to a client's individual needs, with minimal bureaucracy but maximum impact on culture and the bottom line.

The services offered include:-

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- **edpHealth & Safety** – specialist, expert advice on all aspects of health & safety policy, procedures, strategy, risk assessment and compliance,
- **edpEnvironment** – specialist advice on environmental policies, reporting and compliance including energy/carbon management and waste and resources management,
- **edpConstruction** – support and assistance with the CDM2007

Regulations,

- **edpTraining** – accredited, generic and bespoke training courses covering all the above,
- **edpOutsourcing** – SHE outsourcing services to help clients manage risk and focus on core business.

When working with clients, our aim is always to clearly identify what changes need to be made and to find the most cost-beneficial means of implementing them, whilst causing the minimum disruption to business activities.

We take the time to understand the nature of a clients business and the underlying culture of the organisation, so that the changes we implement are more likely to have a lasting impact.

Within the business context, we follow a tried and tested approach that reveals where there are weaknesses that leave clients exposed to the possibility of accidents, incidents, prosecutions, compensation claims and other disruptive occurrences. This is benchmarked against our frameworks to generate a proposed change programme that can be adapted to suit individual circumstances and preferences.

Because EDP only employs experienced safety practitioners, clients can be sure that what we propose is fully compliant with current legal requirements and industry best practice. They can also be confident that we will select the approach that is most suited to their circumstances and will yield the greatest benefit.

For more information please contact:
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Health Safety
& Environment
Consultants

Be Like the Cat – Smile and get the Cream with Cheshire West

Cheshire West is the new local Unitary Authority for the former areas of Chester, Ellesmere Port and Vale Royal. Cheshire West and Chester Council provides support for all local chemical companies with assistance with inward investment, business support and engagement, skills training and grant funding advice.

Cheshire West is home to a diverse range of world class companies, plus a dynamic and innovative range of other chemical manufacturers who enjoy continued success in the UK's centre of chemical production. Chemicals are Cheshire's biggest exporter, and we have a proud history of chemical production for over 300 years.

With one of the best local economies- Cheshire West has excellent transport infrastructure and the chemical sector is a prime beneficiary of the leading edge research carried out at Liverpool, Manchester, Lancaster, Chester and Manchester Metropolitan University at Crewe.

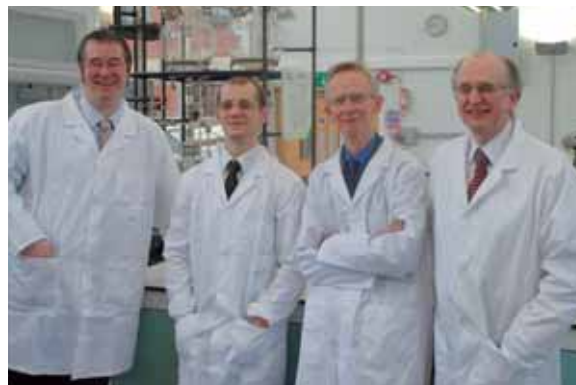
Cheshire West is keen to promote the sector both for companies located here, and our Director for Regeneration, Charlie Seward welcomes any enquiries for assistance for companies wishing to relocate to Cheshire West to share the success.

Cheshire West is also a member of the European Chemical Regional Network (ECRN) via Councillor Herbert Manley, who also is a member of the EU Committee of the Regions. Cheshire West is well placed to ensure that local chemical companies have a voice at European level on the matters that affect them. Cheshire West is also part of the UK's DICIDA (Development Initiative for Chemical Industry Dependent Areas) network.

Both networks support Cheshire West's new EU INTERREG 1VC project- ChemClust- a new project in which Cheshire West along with 12 other regional European partners looks at the improvement of innovation capacity in chemical clusters, which also has been given excellent support from Chemicals Northwest.

Make your chemical company smile like the Cheshire Cat – contact Cheshire West on **01244 72263**

IPOS | Innovative Physical Organic Solutions



IPOS (Innovative Physical Organic Solutions) was formed four years ago to provide services to the local chemical industry. Founder members are Professors John Atherton and Mike Page, and Drs Nick Powles and Matt Stirling. In 2009 the group successfully secured £2.3M of ERDF funding to expand on the services we offer and have recently completed the construction of a new state-of-the-art analytical and research facility. By the end of September the group will have 11 members of staff.

Analytical Services – Problem Solving via Analysis

IPOS specialises in solving difficult analytical problems rather than routine high throughput analyses. Equipment available includes:

- GC and HPLC/UPLC with a range of detection techniques including FID, NPD and QQQ for GC and UV, ELSD, QQQ and QTOF for HPLC.
- ICP-MS.
- Ion chromatography.
- Titrimetric analysis including the volumetric and coulometric determination of water content.
- Multi-nuclear NMR.
- Rheometry.

IPOS incorporates the **Centre for Thermal Studies**, which for many years has provided thermal analysis services including TGA, DSC and DTA to industry. We also have expertise in the characterisation of pyrotechnic materials.

Chemical Process Design and Diagnostics – Beyond Statistics

We provide a service based on gaining a rapid understanding of key chemical process drivers. Many process problems are caused by interactions between chemistry and processing equipment that are difficult to predict. We have a well tried methodology for identifying potential and actual causes of problems with particular expertise in multiphase reaction systems and in solving mixing problems.

Technology Development and Evaluation

Liquid Ammonia has many properties similar to those of traditional high boiling dipolar aprotic solvents, but is much easier to recover and recycle. Therefore the use of liquid ammonia as a solvent can reduce both the costs and environmental impact of a chemical process. We have shown that many aromatic substitution reactions can be satisfactorily carried out in ammonia solvent, often with increased rate and selectivity.

Scale-down of gas-liquid reactions

The reproduction of yield and rate during transfer of gas/liquid reactions from laboratory to manufacturing scale is a common problem faced by the chemical industry. We have developed a novel laboratory methodology using characterised small bubble columns (5 – 15 ml capacity) and shown that reproducible gas-liquid mass transfer rates can be achieved covering the range found on the manufacturing scale. This permits much greater scale-down than is currently available.

Training

A 2-day course entitled 'Science of Chemical Process Development' is available either 'in-house' or at venues in the North of England. The next event is at Runcorn Heath on 20th and 21st October 2010 Go to www.hud.ac.uk/ipos

Consultancy

Professor John Atherton has over 30 years experience in problem solving in chemical process development, and Professor Michael Page has similar experience in applying mechanistic understanding to understanding chemical processes.

DENIOS.

When it comes to the vital and legislative subject of safe and sound storage, then the core criteria for any caring company should be to turn to the acknowledged international experts – namely DENIOS – whose pedigree virtually maps the history of specialist hazardous storage and whose corporate ethos especially serves as a check list for the core needs of every aspect of the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. It is not just about DENIOS manufacturing Drum a and IBC storage units and 90 minute fire rated storage units of all sizes but rather a complete and holistic service embracing top quality products, along with environmental experts and engineers with a manufacturing plant and a sales office based in Newport, Shropshire, England.

In a phrase, DENIOS develops and implements perfect solutions for environmental protection and work safety. As the need for environmental protection becomes increasingly more critical and indeed expected of any serious manufacturer, DENIOS' role in helping to achieve this expands with a theme. The company has undergone rapid growth and DENIOS now has over thirteen subsidiaries in Europe, Great Britain and one in the US and employs over 800 people. It has focused experience in all types of industries and different sizes of companies, whether national, international, corporate groups or state-owned with an emphasis on chemical and pharmaceutical companies who by the very nature of their high value, high volume substances need and expect total advice and protection. DENIOS AG, along with many of our other subsidiary group companies strives to the highest level of environmental and quality standards and is proud to be both ISO 9001 and 14001 registered. As a direct result, many items supplied from DENIOS Ltd have already been subject to ISO 9001 and 14001 as part of their intrinsic manufacturing process.

For further details
please contact
DENIOS UK
on Tel: **01952 811991**;
E-mail: **sales@denios.co.uk**
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Innovia Films is a major global manufacturer of Biaxially Oriented Polypropylene (BOPP) and Cellulose based films. Our corporate headquarters are located at Wigton in Cumbria, where we employ 850 staff. Our manufacturing sites are located in the UK, USA, Belgium and Australia and we have a network of sales offices, agents and distributors of our products throughout the world.

We hold a leading position in the markets for labels and security films, coated packaging, tobacco overwrap and renewable and compostable films.

Our materials are sold to converters, brand-owners and end-users across the globe. They become part of the packaging, labelling or overwrap solution in a variety of everyday consumer products such as chocolates, perfume, teabags, shampoo, soft drinks and biscuits. Some of the companies we supply to include: Nestlé, Twinings and Thorntons (to name but a few).

Worldwide we employ 1,350 people and our focus is on delivering high quality speciality products, maintaining strong customer relationships, R&D and unsurpassed service.

With a turnover in excess of €400m, our total annual film production capacity currently stands at more than 120,000 tonnes.

Recent developments include the installation of a brand new cellulose film manufacturing line at our Wigton site in May 2009. The €10 Million investment has replaced two production lines which had been in operation since the late 1940's.

The new machine, which was predominantly designed, built and project managed in-house, was completed on time and on budget. Substantial environmental benefits and efficiencies are an integral part of the innovative design and have resulted in a 16% lowering of our carbon footprint since 2007.

Our partnership working with a local secondary school, Nelson Thomlinson School (NTS) in Wigton has recently been recognised by Chemicals Northwest, when we scooped their 2010 Corporate Social Responsibility Award.

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Professional Project Management from PROJEN PLC

PROJEN PLC is a multi-disciplined Professional Project Management company geared to providing best value, low cost solutions for industrial projects to the Pharmaceutical & Biotechnology, Food & Drink, Energy & Environmental, Chemical & Process, Waste & Water Treatment and General Manufacturing Market Sectors. Formed in 1978, we are a well established, growing company who are able to offer a full design responsibility across all disciplines - Process, Electrical, Control, Instrumentation, Mechanical etc plus Construction Supervision, Health and Safety, Procurement and Commissioning.

The Company has seen a dramatic increase in business over the last 8 years in growing sales from under £3 million in 2002 to over £25 million today and our personnel now number over 100. With over 30 years experience PROJEN's strategy is to differentiate ourselves from our competitors

through our business culture and by providing a wide selection of services but to a reduced number of clients. This ensures we understand their business aims fully and anticipate legislation demands on the business, thereby bringing more value through a focused service.

PROJEN's wider service offering is more diverse than commonly available and products include Energy Management and Legislation Compliance Services. We are Carbon Trust accredited and can introduce clients for partial funding of design elements of carbon reduction projects. For example we helped in reducing GSK's energy requirements by 56 million kWh, leading to a saving of £250,000 and 1,600 tonnes of CO₂.

Our key driver is to be seen as a valuable extension to our clients by showing clear improvement in their performance from the

engineering support we provide. PROJEN's approach is based on practical application and we have proven our ability to lead the market e.g. being the first company to upgrade an existing fuel terminal to be compliant with post Buncefield recommendations.

To find out more information on any of our service offerings or business improvement products please call **01928 752 500** or visit our website at www.projen.co.uk.



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CambridgeSoft is a leading provider of software and services for discovery, analysis and collaboration to life sciences and chemical industries, academia and government. The Company's integrated suite of knowledge management applications, enterprise informatics and desktop software creates a collaborative, knowledge-driven computing environment that expedites the flow and exploitation of information and improves the productivity of scientists and researchers in the discovery, development and commercialization of chemical and biological compounds.

These applications include 'e-Notebook', a chemically aware electronic lab journal for applications ranging from R&D LIMS, Medicinal Chemistry, Chemical Formulations,

Reference Standards testing, through to Biological Assay Management, Cell Line Management, QA testing and Diagnostic testing. A full registration system is also available plus a managed chemical/biological inventory system, together with a rich suite of desktop applications for Chemical and Biological searching, analysis and reporting.

The Company began operations in 1986 with ChemDraw, which is now the de facto standard for creating and publishing chemical information electronically. Products include Scientific Cloud Computing, Enterprise, Workgroup and Desktop versions of Chem & Bio Office, including Chem & Bio Draw and E-Notebook, providing knowledge management, chemical and biological informatics, and scientific database solutions.

CambridgeSoft offers configuration and customization services to provide our customers with effective systems that enhance their productivity, quality and collaborative working. CambridgeSoft provides direct training so that its customers can enhance their systems over time by simple configuration changes, to meet new experiment or process demands.

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Innovate 2010: Connect for Growth

Hosted by the Technology Strategy board, 'Innovate' is a leading event designed to encourage networking between businesses, government and academia, "with the aim of making innovation happen – creating opportunity and growth for the future."

Chemistry Innovation is pleased to have been invited to exhibit at this upbeat event and will have a strong presence there, hosting two particularly topical seminars. Look out for 'Carbon footprinting, the lifecycle of supply chains', where Mike Pitts will be speaking of Chemistry Innovation's work within sustainability and demonstrating the use of the CCalc tool. **Carbon Calculations over the Life Cycle of Industrial Activities** is a free tool enabling estimations of carbon footprint and other environmental impacts along different supply chains. The seminar provides an ideal opportunity to see this tool in action.

A second seminar around the theme of sustainability will see Chemistry Innovation present its extensive work within the ever growing area of Industrial Biotechnology (IB): 'Turning Potential into Profits'. IB plays an

important role in maintaining UK competitiveness in global markets, where bio-based systems and processes are rapidly gaining strength and scale and will play an essential part in the creation of a low-carbon knowledge-based economy. Chemistry Innovation is part of the Industrial Biotechnology Special Interest Group (SIG), a group that works to improve the connectivity of the Industrial Biotechnology community that spans Government, Industry and Academia and supports the increasing implementation of IB in the UK, helping companies to overcome any barriers that may have prevented the adoption of Industrial Biotechnology. IB has significant potential economic and environmental benefits for the chemical industry; the market is projected to grow up to £360bn globally by 2025 with up to a £12bn share in the UK. The Seminar will be an insight into the

current opportunities within IB, such as the demonstrator facility at Wilton, which will be operational at the end of December, closing a previous gap in the UK's commercialisation capability.

Visit [_connect](#) to find out more about the IB Special Interest Group and read the latest newsletter from the Industrial Biotechnology Leadership Forum: <https://ktn.innovateuk.org/web/industrial-biotechnology>

View our pre-event blog on the Innovate website; www.innovate10.co.uk

Innovate 10 will be held on October 12th, at the business design centre, London. If you are interested in attending our seminars and visiting our exhibition stand please contact Maureen.laughton@ciktn.co.uk or call **01928 515662**



BIOCHEM

In February Chemistry Innovation Ltd were appointed to co-ordinate the Europe-wide 4.5m Euro programme BIOCHEM, a three-year project co-funded by the European Commission to develop a business support toolbox to help at least 250 companies, particularly start-ups and SMEs, to innovate in the rapidly emerging bio-based products market.

There are many drivers for the adoption of renewable feedstocks and industrial biotechnology to produce bio-based chemicals and materials. The most obvious are climate change and energy security, in particular the global target of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In addition many companies are seeing the commercial or economic advantages from developing products which are sustainable or 'green'.

However, there are still barriers to the development of bio-based product business, in particular

- Lack of awareness of industrial biotechnology and its benefits
- Uncertainty about product properties

- and weak market transparency
- Lack of confidence to enter new markets and develop new supply chains
- Significant technology investment required with an associated high risk
- Limited access to specialist demonstration facilities to enable de-risking of new technology
- Availability of investment funds.

The BIOCHEM project will provide a toolbox which will focus on the needs of SMEs to overcome these barriers and to stimulate demand driven bio-based business in the chemicals sector.

During the last six months a considerable amount of progress has already been made in identifying relevant start-ups and SMEs. This information is currently being entered into a database which will eventually form a 'partnering database' for SMEs to identify the right research and business partners, test facilities and experts across Europe.

The business support toolbox includes life-cycle methodologies and sustainable business strategy development, access to

finance, business planning and fund raising support and the development of a market assessment questionnaire to be used as the basis for engagement with SMEs during the testing phase of the toolbox.

In addition a comprehensive assessment of the bio-based market has also been completed assessing the impact of the recent economic crisis.

The business support toolbox will be delivered to selected SMEs through national innovation agencies in the Member states. Each SME will receive a bespoke development plan and personal assistance in the most critical areas of their business.

If this of interest to your SME, you can find more information on the project, news, activities and events on our website at www.europe-innova.eu/biochem. Or for further information on how your business could benefit from BIOCHEM business support you can contact us on Tel: **+44 (0)1928 513513**, info-biochem@ciktn.co.uk.

Funding for collaborative research projects

Chemicals Northwest works closely with Chemistry Innovation KTN to promote funding opportunities for North West chemical companies to exploit. On 12th October the Technology Strategy Board is launching two competitions to fund research and development projects and a summary of these is below:

1. Manufacturing High Value Chemicals through Industrial Biotechnology

This competition funds the development and commercialisation of innovative processes that will generate high value chemicals through industrial biotechnology. Up to £2.5 million will be invested and the Board is inviting applications for both feasibility and collaborative research and development projects.

Projects should look at how industrial biotechnology can be competitively applied to the production of high value chemicals. All applicants must show how their project will make an overall positive contribution in terms of economic, environmental and social impacts, taking into account the full product lifecycle.

Proposals for collaborative R&D projects should be business-led and include an end-user. Proposals for feasibility projects may be from business-led consortia or single companies.

Further information about the competition will be available from the Competitions page of the Technology Strategy Board website – <http://bit.ly/TSBcomp>

2. Technology-Inspired Collaborative Research and Development

The Technology Strategy Board proposes to stimulate innovation across its key enabling technology areas to help ensure that UK businesses are well-equipped to respond to the challenges presented by the economic downturn and slow recovery.

The core technology areas covered by this competition are: Advanced Materials, Biosciences, Electronics, Photonics and Electrical Systems, High Value Manufacturing, Information and Communications Technology, and Nanotechnology.

The Technology Strategy Board is keen to support business-oriented innovation across a broad range of technologies that fall within the six areas identified above. In launching this competition, they want to support key enabling technologies that often underpin successful innovations. The investment is designed to stimulate projects inspired by new discoveries and breakthroughs,



including ideas that are yet to find applications in a recognised market or business sector.

More details on the technology areas of particular interest to chemical companies include:

Advanced materials

Development and application of advanced materials for:

- Secure, clean and affordable energy supply, distribution and use – both fixed and mobile sources in the energy, transport and construction industries
- Sustainability in relation to transport, construction and the 'reduce, reuse and recycle' agenda, including packaging and materials for carbon capture
- High value markets, including technologies for healthcare, the creative industries, defence and security.

High Value manufacturing

- Designing and developing innovative products or systems that offer improved performance, functionality, reliability, service life and reduced environmental impact
- Developing production technologies that can create high value through novel processes, advanced product manufacture, formulation, resource efficiency or greater product customisation, or that create environmental sustainability through efficient disposal, recycling or re-manufacture
- Developing service solutions that complement product offerings by adding

value before, during or after manufacture

- Value systems associated with providing a lifetime service around the manufactured product or manufacturing process.

Nanotechnology

Application of nanoscale technologies and integration of technologies into products for one or more of the following topics:

- Living with environmental change – environmental sustainability; water supply; monitoring of physical structures and waste streams; secure, clean and affordable energy supply, distribution and use
- Living with an ageing and growing population – healthcare, including drug delivery and discovery; diagnostics and imaging; prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of disease, implants; and surface cleanliness
- Living in an intelligent, connected, modern world – safety and security systems; intelligent transport systems; increased user interaction with products; and next generation computing and entertainment systems.

Chemistry Innovation can help to find industrial or academic partners for projects and can also assist with the funding application if required.

Details of the funding allocation, process and terms and conditions <http://bit.ly/TSBinno>

TSB's other competitions may be found at: <http://bit.ly/TSBnews>

Overcoming workplace challenges through the organisation workshop

Chemicals Northwest, CIA and ABB Engineering Services (ABB ES) jointly provided an opportunity for almost 30 people from local organisations to have an 'experience' far removed from the normal ABB technical offerings. Within the ABB ES group of technical consultants resides a small group of culture change and operations improvement specialists who specialise in helping the process industry to engage and empower their whole workforces to bring about operations excellence. It was two of that group, Amanda Eyles and David Dyer who facilitated this event.

The June event was not one of role play or chalk & talk but an opportunity to truly experience firsthand how we, more often than not, respond reflexively to the turbulent business and working conditions around us. These reflexes, however, have the unforeseen consequence of reinforcing the conditions that created them in the first place, providing a vicious cycle of response resulting in poor performance through no partnership and a loss of empowerment. Based on the work of an American psychologist, Barry Oshry, the experience that people gained during the day helped them to identify when these conditions arise and how to

understand that the responses they get from their colleagues are not personal but based upon the difficult world in which we all live.

Following a first round of running a small business, where each of the participants was either a senior manager, a middle manager, a worker or a customer, they gained experiences which were both dramatic and emotional. Armed with this new knowledge, and a change of role, the participants in the workshop got a second opportunity to experience how partnership and empowerment could make a massive difference, which it did.

The feedback was immensely positive. Not only did the participants learn about partnership and real empowerment, they also learnt about strategies to deal with working in turbulent times, and they enjoyed themselves. A successful day all round.



Amanda Eyles can be contacted on amanda.eyles@gb.abb.com or +44 (0)7703 504276.

David Dyer can be contacted on david.dyer@gb.abb.com or +44 (0)7712 490560.



Working Higher chemical industry update

Working Higher is a collaborative project to develop five 'employer led' Foundation Degrees (FDs) for the Cogent science based industry sectors. Foundation Degrees are vocational qualifications blending subject knowledge with technical and business skills, with a high proportion of work based learning.

Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) is developing the Chemical Industry FD in collaboration with employers and facilitated by the Chemical Industry Champion, Robert Green. An outline programme (FdSc Chemical Science) based on preliminary employer surveys, is currently being consulted on. The FdSc has a strong emphasis on chemistry, reflecting MMU's expertise, and would be ideal for Laboratory Technicians on chemistry based career paths. The FdSc is also attracting significant interest from employers looking to upskill their process

technicians into supervisory and production management roles.

It is hoped to be able to offer one elective engineering module in the FdSc, selected from the 'Refining & Petrochemicals' FD which is being developed by Hull University but the FdSc is unlikely to be an effective choice for learners on engineering career paths.

A 'straw poll' was undertaken as part of a Working Higher presentation at July's CIEN meeting – "If the Chemical Industry FD could only provide chemistry or engineering content (not both), which would you potentially have the greatest number of learners for?" The employers present voted 14 to 2 in favour of engineering, suggesting the FdSc could leave a sizeable unmet demand.

Cogent will be circulating a short E-Questionnaire to assess the relative need for Chemistry and Engineering content across

the whole of the sector. Robert Green said that it was crucial for employers to respond so that proper consideration could be given to broadening the scope of the Working Higher FD offering. One possible innovative option would be for Hull University and MMU to jointly develop an FD that provides variable chemistry and engineering content appropriate to the career path of the learner.

Contact Details: Robert Green (Industry Champion for Chemicals); Tel: **01204 387948**; mobile: **07979 058709**
Email: robert.green40@ntlworld.com





New degree and workshops in STEM subjects launched at the University of Chester

The University of Chester is committed to developing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives to encourage young people to consider a career in these skill shortage areas, thereby addressing the scientific and technical needs of industry.

The Foundation Degree in Biomedical Process Technology starting in January 2011 is designed to cover key elements of scientific knowledge in STEM subject areas. Targeting chemical, pharmaceutical and medical technology companies, this programme, which is jointly funded by the Northwest Development Agency and the North West Universities Association, aims to improve productivity and maximise employee potential.

This flexible, work-based course addresses many of the scientific and technical needs of the sector, particularly at shop floor level. It will appeal to existing employees who may not have any formal qualifications but who wish to extend their skills and technical knowledge.

Elements of the course will also appeal to managers who wish to undertake formal management training opportunities leading to registration in PRINCE 2™, Management of Risk and Six Sigma®.

The University has also developed a series of workshops for Year 12/13 students in Cheshire and Warrington. These one day workshops, at the level of the first year at a university, introduce students to a different approach to learning and provide extremely useful skills for future study and employment.

Businesses willing to work with us to advise young people of the career opportunities available in the North West Industries can contact: Angela Lupton – a.lupton@chester.ac.uk or call **01244 512194**.

They have been designed to engineer enthusiasm for life-long learning, reinforce the vital role of Applied Sciences and to address the skills deficit in these areas.

Workshops include Study Skills and Data Handling, Quantitative Principles, Project Management, Chemical Analytical Techniques and Introduction to Biological Chemistry. Case studies and real world examples will be used to support learning and incorporate those business skills favoured by employers.



University of
Chester

Baytouch unveils new REACHsuite Advantage software

A LEADING provider of REACH Management IT solutions today revealed their new powerful REACHsuite Advantage product.

Baytouch has joined forces with top international REACH consultant Onno Jongerius, to create a unique product that combines the unbeatable functionality of REACHsuite software with a pre-defined registration control application ready for direct use.

REACHsuite Advantage has been designed using Onno's specialist insight and intellectual property to put individual user's needs at the forefront of the existing REACHsuite technology and include full road maps and pre-defined SIEF portal and communication tools.

It is now being launched across Europe and will be ideally suited for REACH teams battling their way towards successful registration for end 2010 as well as for the next Registration deadlines to come - irrespective of their level of expertise.

REACHsuite is the leading independent technology solution for organisations, consortia and SIEFs of all sizes striving for REACH compliance.

The Baytouch team have designed REACHsuite to be an open system that can be easily added to. This makes it the ideal open platform for consultants of all types and sizes to add value to and adapt for their own purposes.

Onno, owner and REACH and SIEF mediator at Jongerius Consult BV, said: "I have always appreciated the flexibility and the powerful features of REACHsuite. In a nutshell - it works.

"At the same time I could see the potential and needs for a ready-to-use solution for companies managing a larger number of registrations for lead and non-lead substances that integrated my own milestone planning and set out definite steps.

"We have created a full concept that can be directly implemented by companies with multiple registration requirements and bigger organisations with multiple stakeholders. It can also be used by companies that feel uncomfortable in all REACH requirements but realise they must manage registration requirements for non-lead substances and sometimes take the lead for key substances themselves too.

"REACHsuite Advantage will give them an advantage of a fully pre-defined roadmap &

communication platform to successful registrations in time.

"It has added milestones that really structure the processes for the lead as well as for the non lead substances and makes the necessary communications, both internally with experts and business people, and externally with the SIEFs as Lead, as efficient as they can possibly be."

REACHsuite Advantage's milestone planning is based on Onno's practical experience in setting up the roadmap for Consortia as business development manager at ReachCentrum.

Onno also implemented an internal action tracking system for Dutch multi-national LyondellBasell which helped bring them to successful registration for their lead substances. It is this knowledge that has been added to REACHsuite to create the REACHsuite Advantage product.

REACHsuite Advantage is now being used by Kemira, a global two billion euro chemicals company that is focused on serving customers in water-intensive industries.

Onno added: "The flexibility shown by the Baytouch team to help me customize the REACHsuite software to the Kemira Suite needs has been first class.

"I know and trust Baytouch and their software and it is this trust that has allowed me to contribute my own IP to REACHsuite. I am very pleased that it turned out to serve Kemira's needs and honoured to be able to offer the REACHsuite Advantage to others as well.

"Kemira is already finding that REACHsuite Advantage is a powerful tool for companies to manage their registration requirements - both now and in the sustain phase where the registrations for the other deadlines need to be managed as well."

Helena Huttunen, principal specialist for REACH in Kemira and also Kemira's Consortium coordinator and Lead Registrant for the biggest Consortium covering 15 Lead Substances, said: "I am using REACHsuite Advantage for creating SIEF communication actions to my Kemira colleagues to be sent out to SIEF members.

"I am basically implementing the Consortium's documents and decisions into a more communicative format for the SIEF members, and then following up their responses and feedback, and converting them back to Consortium's actions.

"REACHsuite Advantage is extremely easy to use and supports managing the SIEF communication superbly.

"From the SIEF members' user point of view, it is easily accessible and highly user friendly. "In addition to this it has a highly efficient email system.

"REACHsuite Advantage has been essential for Kemira's REACH team for the management of non-Lead substances, and creating surveys for the other Lead Substances as well as storing information received from the surveys."

Baytouch is currently working successfully with a growing number of leading Consortia and SIEFs throughout Europe. They offer all those who deal with chemicals an integrated solution to support and deliver REACH requirements with a solution focused on technology efficiency, industry knowledge and best practice.

Baytouch managing director Malcolm Pollard, said Baytouch, has already created a series of partnerships with consultants who can modify REACHsuite for their individual clients.

He added that Onno's work in bringing this highly functional process driven solution to market is a prime example of REACHsuite's configurability and flexibility.

Malcolm said: "Onno's thought leadership on many aspects of SIEF management gained through his extensive experience with ReachCentrum and practical implementations at various companies allied to REACHsuite's functionality has delivered a key set of ready-to-run REACH IT solutions.

"These will be of immense benefit to Registration managers of all levels of knowledge and understanding.

"REACHsuite Advantage will save a lot of people a lot of time and enable Registration managers to be able to coordinate their day-to-day operations & internal and external communications more efficiently.

"We look forward now to working with other consultants and consultancy practices that want to deliver similar functionality for their client's specific use."

REACHsuite Advantage is now being launched across Europe. Please see www.reachsuite.com/news/advantage or www.jongeriusconsult.com for more information. Listings for REACHsuite Advantage workshops will also be available from these sites.

From the white spirit patent to a leading global chemical distributor



In September Banner Chemicals is marking its auspicious occasion of 150 years in business with a celebration at Liverpool Town Hall.

Samuel Banner and Co. was established in Liverpool in 1860 by Samuel Banner, an entrepreneurial chemist, traveler and businessman. It was Samuel himself who discovered and patented White Spirit as an alternative to turpentine which brought both fame and success to the company.

Banner then went through many challenges. Its Liverpool site was heavily damaged in the Second World War and its solvents blending facility in London was forced out to make space for London 2012 Olympics. These challenges required continuous innovation while adapting to support changing market needs. The company's current leading position has been achieved thanks to the management steering the company in the right direction and the dedication and professionalism of employees. This has always been paralleled by the support of suppliers and customers which has been key to its success.

The company stayed with the Banner family until 1990, when the late Christopher Banner, the then MD agreed to sell the company to the management who were supported by 3i venture capital in their management buy-out. The company then became public, took over a public company and changed its name to Banner Chemicals PLC. In 1999, Petroferm Inc. of

the USA made an offer to buy the company and de-listed it. Five years later, in September 2004, recognizing that manufacturing and production require different cultures, Petroferm agreed to sell Banner to 2M holding, a company founded by Ian Thomas and Mottie Kessler.

Over the years, Banner developed its Liverpool depot to focus on specialty chemicals and pigments dispersion while the London site became the main solvents' blending site. In 2006 Banner relocated its London site activities to a new site in Middlesborough making significant investment in equipment and personnel to develop a site suitable for the modern health, safety and environmental requirements.

Business lines such as BlueCat/Adblue that support a greener environment were added. The export business expanded to include the Triklone and Perklone brands in addition to the oil field chemicals. The company's innovative and entrepreneurial spirit will continue to be a key element of its long term success.

As a chemicals' distributor Banner adds value along the supply chain between manufactures and customers. This is done by operating five Business Units that are autonomous profit centers each led by a Business Director who manages a dedicated sales team. The Business Units are: Hydrocarbon Solvents, Oxygenated Solvents & Intermediates, Specialty Chemicals, PEC (Precision Engineering and



Electronic Cleaning), BlueCat/Adblue. While the Solvents Business Units focus mainly on products' lines, Specialty Chemicals and PEC focus on providing a technical solution to the customer needs. In addition Banner operates MP Storage and Blending business as an independent Business Unit that is a service provider to chemicals' producers and distributors who require services such as blending, storage or drumming. MP facilities provide heating, de-mineralized water, heated and bulk storage under nitrogen blanketing and analytical services. The company prides itself on its high HSEQ standards (ISO 14001, 9002 certified) and on being flexible and fast in decision making.

www.bannerchemicals.com

Annual North West Schools Science Competition



Winners of the 2009 inaugural Annual North West School Science Competition

The North West Business Leadership Team (www.nwbtl.co.uk) has launched the 2nd Annual North West Schools Science Competition with support from Active Profile, Business in the Community, the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre, Chemicals Northwest and the Museum of Science and Industry.

The competition is open to pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 (as at September 2010) in Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside. Pupils are invited to email NWBLT (info@nwbtl.co.uk) on "Why I want to be a Scientist" and should write no more than 500 words. The winner will receive an iPod Touch and cash for their school.

The closing date for entries is 2nd November and the presentation night will take place at the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre in Widnes on Wednesday 1 December 2010.

The inaugural North West Schools Science Competition took place in November 2009 and showcased the region's brightest sparks who had written presentations

outlining why they want to be scientists when they grow up. Tom Fairfax, 12, from Culcheth High, in Warrington won the Year Seven category and 12-year-old Fiona Carr of St Michael's, in Sefton, won the Year Eight category for her essay on why she enjoys studying Forensic Science.

All winners were presented with an iPod Touch by competition organiser Geoffrey Piper, Chief Executive of the NWBLT, while the runners-up received special certificates. Mr Piper said: "The first ever North West Schools Science Competition has been really exciting. It was launched by the NWBLT to encourage young people in the region to think about what they are going to do in life and especially to encourage them to consider science as a career. The World needs innovative and talented scientists to help create the wealth and resources for the future and come up with solutions to cope with the needs of an ever-increasing population. It is these scientists who will help solve the World's most pressing problems and it is vital that we enthuse our youngsters about science at an early age."

Why I want to be a Scientist

Win an iPod Touch
(and cash for your school)

Win an iPod Touch
(and cash for your school)
For pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 at North West Secondary Schools - Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside.

To enter simply email info@nwbtl.co.uk up to 500 words on "Why I want to be a Scientist".

Closing date for entries is Tuesday 2nd November 2010. The "Cup Final" presentation night will take place on Wednesday 1st December 2010 at the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre. Check out www.nwbtl.co.uk for further information.

Improving students' knowledge and perceptions of industry – a success story

While one-off industry-education events are much easier to organise than longer-term projects they are usually far less effective in achieving significant changes. Programmes providing opportunities and assistance for companies and schools/colleges to form long-term partnerships are rare.

Chemicals Northwest is proud that their Collaboration of Schools and Industry (CoSI) Programme has just completed its 5th year of the Science for Life Scheme and 3rd year of the Positive Perceptions of Industry Scheme.

Over the period 2005-2010, 37 companies and 45 schools/colleges have been involved, some for several years; a significant achievement!

By working in partnership, industrialists and teachers have developed activities for students on a wide range of topics, such as separation techniques and identification, analytical techniques, equations and energy in reactions, production processes, and use of products, health, safety and

environmental aspects.

During 2009-2010, additional funding was provided by the IET and the RSC/Pfizer Discover Chemistry Initiative. However from April 2011, as a result of government cuts, the successful CoSI programme is seeking new funding. For example, perhaps individual

companies would fund, or partly fund, a CoSI Programme for their school-company group?

For further information, please contact Jane Gamble, CoSI Programme Manager: via telephone: **01642 778113** or email janegamble@businesseducationmatters.co.uk.



Student saves chemical giant thousands of pounds on Year IN Industry placement

A CHEMICAL Engineering student has been named the North West Year IN Industry (YINI) student of the year after devising systems to save a polypropylene plant £325,000 annually on utility costs.

Cigdem Kemal, 22, developed a number of cost saving projects while on placement at multi-national chemicals manufacturer LyondellBasell at their plant in Carrington, Manchester.

The University of Bath graduate, who lives in Cyprus, reviewed current practice before proposing a number of maintenance and process changes to reduce the plant's water and steam consumption.

Her work resulted in significant financial savings for the company of £325,000 every year, with an average payback period of only four months and won her a place in the national YINI Contribution to the Business Awards event on Wednesday September 15 2010 at the BT Auditorium in London.

There she will compete against eight other regional finalists who too have all spent a Year IN Industry with their placement company and have made a significant contribution to the business.

Cigdem said: "My placement was a fantastic learning experience.

"I was given the chance to work independently on a number of projects and put my technical knowledge into practice,

"I thoroughly enjoyed my year with LyondellBasell and it is highly rewarding to know my recommendations were implemented by the company and will continue to make a difference.

"Now I am looking forward to going to London for the Year IN Industry final.

"The competition is stiff as all the finalists have made a positive difference at their placement company – together they have made combined potential savings of over £3.5 million per year. But the judges also take



into account other areas where the finalists made an impact such as environmental factors, improved operational processes and innovative ideas.

"I have worked hard on my presentation for the event so I am hopefully in with a good chance and the girl who won the national title last year was also the North West finalist.

"It would be great to win as this award would help open doors for me now I am looking for a chemical engineering job with a company either in the UK or over in Cyprus."

For further details on the programme and how your company can get involved please see www.yini.org.uk.



Not currently a member of Chemicals Northwest?

Why not join us and add your voice to the community of chemistry-using industries in the North West, the UK's largest chemical manufacturing region?

How you will benefit:

- Opportunities to promote and grow your business within the sector and beyond.
- Networking and learning from peers at industry events.
- Participate in strategic regional projects and advocacy for the benefit of your business and the industry as a whole.
- Contribute to the industry's voice in influential forums.
- Workforce development opportunities through the National Skills Academy for the Process Industries.

Membership rates for the year 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011 are: £130 +VAT for Individual Members and £470 +VAT for Corporate Members.

For a comprehensive list of member benefits* or to join us, visit: www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk or call 01928 515 678.

**Please note that some benefits are date specific and may not be applicable to companies joining throughout the year.*



Andrew Fasey

The new Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation which came into force on 20th January 2009 is due to have a major impact on industry in the latter part of this year. In anticipation, The REACH Centre, in collaboration with Chemicals Northwest, has been providing a series of interactive workshops at only £95 per delegate to help businesses get to grips with this complex piece of legislation.

The attendees on the courses have given high praise for the course. A quote from one attendee, Anna Barker, from Colloids Ltd in Merseyside, stated 'A great presenter, with a professional approach, he made the process very clear and was remarkably conversant with the regulations when posed with some challenging questions from the audience'.

Andrew Fasey, Director of The REACH

New CLP Regulation

Centre, commented, 'Judging by the feedback, participants benefit most from the series of worked exercises and the interaction with the other delegates. Thanks to Chemicals Northwest, we've been able to promote the event to a broad industry base with one delegate even coming from Slovenia!'

Uptake for attendance at the workshops during July has proved very high and further events are now planned to roll out for the rest of the year until early December. The next workshop is planned for 6th October at The Heath, Runcorn. More details can be found at www.thereachcentre.com/introductiontoclp.



The REACH Centre are further developing their support in this area and are currently providing an on-line service for C&L notifications – you can find more details at www.thereachcentre.com/notifications.

Win, win, win situation!

We would like you to reserve a date in your diary to attend a special event we are running which will feature case studies from some of our 2010 Chemicals Northwest Award Winners. Our speakers from Chemicals Northwest Awards winning companies will be sharing experiences on how their company has performed during the difficult recession. They will highlight how they have managed to come out on top and beat the competition to win one of the nine awards on offer at our dinner held in Manchester in May 2010.

The event will be held at Catalyst Science Discovery Centre in Widnes on 9th December. The event will be kicking off a little early to allow time to attend the Christmas parties you may have been invited to.

So book the 9th December into your diary and come along to hear best practice in the making. For further details on this event please log onto www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk/events

EVENTS CALENDAR

Chemical Elements

CE: 95 Low Carbon Market Opportunities for the Chemicals Sector
Date: October 2010 (TBC)
 Venue: TBC

CE: 96 Skill Ambassadors (in conjunction with NSAPI)
Date: 11th November 2010
 Venue: The Heath, Runcorn

CE: 97 Sharing Best Practice: Case Studies from our 2010 Award Winners
Date: 9th December 2010
 Venue: Catalyst Science & Discovery Centre

Other Events

New Frontiers – Chemistry for Sustainable Buildings
Date: 23rd September 2010
 Venue: CUBE, Manchester

Printed Electronics Masterclass – In conjunction with UKTI, KCMC, Petec & PPE KTN
Date: January 2011 (TBC)
 Venue: Manchester Airport

For more information, visit www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk or call 01928 515678