I would like to congratulate the British Plastics Federation on its 75th Anniversary. The BPF has through many years made a major contribution to strategy and advocacy at a British and European level.

Wilfried Haensel
Executive Director, PlasticsEurope
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**KEY MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

Unity is a key element of the industry’s competitive strength and many of its achievements have been forged through the British Plastics Federation.

Calum Forsyth, Group Managing Director of Wavin UK

**ABOUT THE BPF**

The British Plastics Federation (BPF) is the leading trade association of the UK Plastics Industry, representing approximately 75 per cent of its turnover. With 400 direct members and over 1600 affiliated members, 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, the BPF was the world’s first Plastics Federation, and provides a strong voice for the industry. However, 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, pro-active 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. Details can be accessed 24/7 through the members’-only area of the website.

2. **Group Activity** – The Group networks, bringing together different sectors of the industry and activity are each chaired by an industry representative. Each Group provides a platform to focus BPF support on the needs of that particular sector and provides a platform to establish projects or steer existing activities. Meetings provide a valuable Networking forum and an opportunity to discuss key issues.

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 against plastics, emerging legislation, and training.

**THE PLASTICS PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN THE UK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Processed</th>
<th>4.6 million tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plastics materials produced</td>
<td>2.5 million tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processor sales turnover</td>
<td>£13.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of exports</td>
<td>£4.6 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics Products exported</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People employed</td>
<td>185,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of primary processors</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companies in the plastics industry</td>
<td>7,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics industry turnover</td>
<td>£19 billion</td>
</tr>
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**UK PLASTICS CONSUMPTION (KTONNES) 1973-2007**
The BPF Council of Members supervises the Federation’s activity, and is made up of 25 senior-level representatives elected from the Membership.

The BPF remains “not-for-profit” and all income is ultimately directed to support the UK Plastics sector’s aims and objectives.

4 The BPF Website, receiving 3,000-4,000 visits per day (Ranks number one out of about 220 million sites on Google.com and Google.co.uk for “plastics”). 2008 saw the completion of the all-new and improved BPF website. See page 10.

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 through the Exporters’ Toolbox and BPF experts are on hand to support members’ strategic growth 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 Conference Papers – BPF members have the exclusive ability to download over 500 papers from previous BPF Seminars. Giving instant access to information on all major industry topics. Members also receive substantial discounts in attending any BPF Event.

10 Membership ‘Business Benefits’ – The BPF work with Logbuy to give members access to 100’s of exclusive member discounts including 50% off Parcelforce, 60% off hotel accommodation and 15% off your stationery orders with Viking Direct.

### PLASTICS BY APPLICATION

- Construction 22%
- Packaging 38%
- Others 18%
- Medical 2%
- Transport 7%
- Fun/House 7%
- Electrical 6%

### LOCATION OF POLYMER COMPANIES

- South West 9%
- South East 12%
- East Midlands 10%
- West Midlands 12%
- North West 12%
- North East 12%
- North 14%
- Northern Ireland 4%
- Wales 6%
- London 6%
- Yorkshire & Humber 12%
- East England 10%
- Scotland 5%
- East Midlands 10%
- West Midlands 12%
- South West 9%
1933 was a landmark year for the world’s young but growing plastics industry. It was the year the world’s first plastics association the British Plastics Federation was founded and also the year that Polyethylene was discovered by ICI scientists.

In 1933 Hitler was elected Chancellor of Germany and Roosevelt President of the United States. Roosevelt said of the Great Depression, which in many ways echoes today, “There is nothing to fear but fear itself.”

To celebrate the Federation’s 75th Anniversary we held a major conference, “Plastics The Industry for Tomorrow” in the North West. Our distinguished speakers, which included Lord Bhattacharyya of the University of Warwick, the Futurologist Ray Hammond and John Taylor, President of PlasticsEurope, showed the way forward for our industry for the next decades. We also held a 75th Anniversary reception in Brussels at the EuPC centre and our 75th Annual Dinner on 24th October was a stunning success with record numbers attending. Clive Anderson was the guest speaker and there was dancing late into the night. I would like to thank all our generous 75th Anniversary sponsors who are listed in this Review.

Our plastics industry has made an amazing contribution to a better quality of life over the decades. The highlights are recorded in the BPF’s ‘Plastics Timeline’ which can be seen on our website and in this report. It’s all there: LPs; Tupperware; Lycra; Airfix Kits; Lego; Barbie; iPod and much more.

Moreover, the innovation continues today with Cambridge developed plastic semi-conductors for flexible display screens, and the University of Sheffield developing a plastic emergency blood with a longer shelf life than the real thing to name but two examples.

2008 will unfortunately for many of us be remembered as the year in which the economic slowdown turned into a full blown recession. Unrepayable borrowings, greed and unsustainable house price inflation led to huge toxic bank debts and a rapid contraction of credit and credit insurance. The collapse of Lehman Brothers on 15th September showed how serious and global the banking and economic problems were. Unfortunately, our Government had built up a huge public sector deficit even before they had to bail out and nationalise banks. I am glad to report that during the good years of growth when the sun shone, the BPF did in fact ‘fix the roof’ unlike the Government.

It was in fact at our May conference that a speaker from Barclays Capital predicted we would enter a recession. In the autumn of 2008 the BPF Council set up a Recession Action Group of senior members under my chairmanship. All the members are very knowledgeable about their particular sector of the industry. The Group has worked closely with our staff in a well directed campaign of lobbying to make Government aware of our difficulties and proposed remedies for them:

- We asked the Government to cancel the 2p a litre fuel duty increase last autumn – they did.
- We asked them to withdraw Stamp Duty for properties of £175,000 or under to stimulate the Housing market – they did.
- We asked for a Cabinet level Energy Minister to improve security of energy
supply and drive down costs – An Energy and Climate Change Minister was appointed two months later.

It’s not just our 75th Anniversary that raised the BPF and industry’s profile. The Federation had stands at both the PDM and Interplas shows and in April our ‘Innovations in Plastics’ supplement was distributed with 750,000 copies of The ‘Times’ newspaper.

We organised the highly successful international ARMO Rotomoulding conference in Belfast in September with 430 delegates from 39 countries. In fact two other international plastics conferences – Flame Retardants 2008 and PVC took place in the UK in our Anniversary year.

As the financial and economic crisis worsened we decided that we must make our overseas trade development a priority. In 2008 we took many companies to key plastics exhibitions in growth markets. At Chinaplas, Shanghai, in April we took both company exhibitors and a Trade Mission. The show attracted a record 72,000 visitors. We also exhibited at Plastpol in Kielce Poland for the fourth time and at Plasteurasia in Turkey. We are grateful to UK Trade and Investment for their support.

A marvellous asset to our member companies and those who need information on our industry is the new ground breaking BPF website www.bpf.co.uk with new innovations such as ‘Plastipedia’ and ‘Plastbook’. If you enter ‘plastics’ on Google our website is second with 1.5 million visits a year.

Coming from the Construction Products Industry I was particularly pleased with the high ratings achieved by many plastic construction products in the Buildings Research Establishment’s ‘Green Guide’ published in June. This did not happen by accident. It was the product of a great deal of hard work by our Business Groups and staff. In November I chaired a meeting with the Chairmen of our Business Groups and Technical Committees and was very impressed with their achievements and future plans which you will read about in the pages ahead.

One of the Federation’s great assets is its highly professional staff. In June at the Plastic Industry Awards Philip Law our Public and Industrial Affairs Director won the Personal Achievement Award, well deserved after thirty years’ service with the BPF. Peter Davis had his profile published in ‘Packaging News’ and was number 22 ‘Star Performer’ in that magazine’s ‘Power 50’ top movers and shakers in the packaging sector. Lorna Hewson completed 20 years service and Angella Ladner 10 year’s service.

My thanks go to all our dedicated staff for their hard work in a challenging year.

The theme for my Presidency has been ‘Fit for the Future’ which applies to industry as well as the Federation. For the Federation it doesn’t just mean continuing to be an effective voice and network for our industry, but it also means being commercially focussed as a business and driving down cost as much as any of our members. Today the BPF only relies on members’ subscriptions for 50% of its income. The rest comes from other services generated for industry. Therefore, BPF membership is excellent value for money and we are indeed ‘Fit for the Future’ for the next 75 years at least.

CALUM FORSYTH
President
2008 was certainly a year of unprecedented change, much of it negative. In the first half of the year soaring energy and raw material prices were hurting our industry. New housing starts plunged to the lowest level since 1945, greatly affecting our members who supply plastic construction products. At the year-end house prices had fallen by 16% and new car sales were down 37% causing short term working in our member companies who supply plastic components.

On 11th July the price of a barrel of Brent crude was $147.50. By the 23rd December it had fallen to $41.4 per barrel.

THE ECONOMY – BPF ACTION
The Federation issued a press release in early July entitled: ‘BPF acts on Grim Economic Conditions’ and the same month we wrote to the then Trade and Industry Secretary John Hutton MP with the results of our survey and a number of proposals to help the Housing and Automotive sectors in particular.

With our Eight Associations Alliance we jointly wrote to the Chancellor twice to influence his Budget and Pre-Budget statement. Key to our proposals were measures to reduce taxation and regulation on business and stimulate the Housing and Automotive sectors. We also expressed concern about the high level of public sector borrowing and said the public sector must play its part and achieve substantial economies but not in front line services such as the emergency services.

In September the Government published its new Manufacturing Strategy and the importance of our sector was acknowledged:

“The chemicals and plastic industries are significant British manufacturing success stories, with a substantial net trade surplus and continued significant inward investment.”

There were several initiatives which we welcomed including ‘Manufacturing Insight’ an initiative to interest school children in a career in the manufacturing sector. I do, however, think that some of the Strategy’s proposals have been overtaken by the Recession.

In December I represented the BPF at David Cameron’s Conservative ‘Modern Manufacturing Summit’. We were there with FTSE 100 companies and the UK’s largest manufacturing associations and the importance of manufacturing to the economy was fully recognised.

We decided that in such difficult financial and economic circumstances that there should be no BPF membership subscription increase for 2009. It’s interesting to record that in 1933 the year the BPF was founded that subscriptions for companies up to £100,000 turnover was 100 guineas! We must help members with targeted low cost seminars on credit management for example and encourage them to export with the advantage of the drop in the value of sterling.

CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT
Encouraged in January 2008 by Government officials that we could achieve a Climate Change Agreement (CCA) for most of the Plastic Industry ‘within weeks’ we put a huge amount of work into preparing a scheme and registering potential members. Due to Budget work our officials delayed submitting the scheme to the European Commission for State Aid approval by which time it had been caught by new EC environmental criteria. We then had many lost months of answering a total of thirty detailed questions from the Commission.

At the time of writing the EC Competition Commissioner has not given the go-ahead for...
our CCA proposal. We and our Government were most disappointed and the latter have withdrawn it and are considering the options. The Commission’s new environmental criteria and decision on our proposal is a threat to all fifty two existing UK Climate Change Agreements as they come up for review. It seems perverse to me that our industry has suffered for almost ten years from paying the full Climate Change Levy whilst our rival materials metal, glass, paper have all benefitted from an 80% discount on the unpopular and unfair Climate Change Levy because they have Climate Change Agreements. It is astonishing that the Competition Commissioner who is supposed to ensure fair competition has in fact continued to ensure that the UK Plastics Industry is disadvantaged in competition at home and abroad. We will continue to fight for a level playing field for our industry. It is noteworthy that the British inventions of the Climate Change Levy and the forthcoming costly and bureaucratic Carbon Reduction Commitment have not been adopted by any other country.

PLASTIC PACKAGING UNDER PRESSURE

Once again 2008 witnessed plastic packaging under pressure. The Chancellor threatened to force retailers to levy a charge for paper and thin carrier bags if they did not do it themselves. The Carrier Bag Consortium has vigorously put over the facts that 80% of thin carrier bags are re-used and they have a minimum environmental impact in the waste stream.

In February the BBC’s ‘Panorama’ programme attacked bottled mineral water, an important form of healthy hydration for travel, business or leisure. A DEFRA Minister made some quite outrageous comments during the programme but the BPF having secured his briefing notes via the Freedom of Information Act could see these were his personal knee-jerk comments. Members and the public can find an excellent brief ‘Water in PET bottles’ on the BPF website. The facts are that the Plastics Industry does not illegally dump rubbish in the sea. There are international laws and penalties to prevent this but they are flouted and despite the threat of fines beaches are littered.

INCREASED RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

During the year the BPF played a full part in an initiative ‘The Packaging Recycling Action Group’ where all the supply chain plus local authorities are considering how to increase the recycling of packaging. The developments in mixed plastics recycling look promising but the Government is unwilling to give central direction to local authorities as to what waste they collect, how, and how it is sorted and recovered or recycled. So we will continue to have an ad-hoc inefficient patchwork of waste collection. The Government will consult on a Packaging Strategic Review sometime in 2009. With PAFA and PlasticsEurope we have continued with the Retail Workshops initiative to explain and discuss the benefit of plastic packaging.

ENERGY

Substantial volatility in energy prices caused problems for member companies both in terms of cashflow and forward planning. This is worse in the UK because we are dependent on imports, have ageing nuclear capacity much of which was off-line for repairs during the summer and very little gas storage capacity and very few liquefied natural gas imports. Supply will not equal demand by 2014 and we wrote to the new Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Miliband requesting a meeting. We also urged Mr Miliband to greatly increase Energy from Waste combustion capacity to provide local heat and power from unrecyclable waste, rather than landfill it.

LONDON OLYMPICS 2012

We received details of tenders every few days and passed those relevant to plastics out to members. It’s apparent that budget constraints will mean the London Olympics will not be as innovative as those in Beijing in terms off building design or use of materials. LOCOG, the London Olympics Organising Committee, published for discussion a Sustainability Sourcing Code with an ill informed “risk list” containing PVC, and additives used in plastics. The BPF went to see them in December and expressed surprise at the lack of factual basis for such a proposed list. We have subsequently written to them and are seeking a further meeting.
2008 was a great year for the BPF. We acquired 18 new members, had the highest profile in our 75 years history and organised a record number of events.

New membership interest was certainly stimulated by the BPF’s high public profile. Not only did we orchestrate a supplement on ‘Plastics Innovation’ in ‘The Times’ newspaper in April but we also produced a Timeline for the UK Plastics Industry which appeared in poster sized format and was later published as a DVD with a ‘voice over’ furnished by BPF staff member Anthony Roberts. The year also marked the re-launch of the BPF sponsored 1962 documentary, ‘The Shape of Plastics’, directed by the noted documentary maker Alan Pemberton. Long forgotten, this film which had won the Gold medal at the 1962 Bilbao Film Festival, was rescued from the BPF’s archives, transferred onto DVD and shown for the first time in many years to appreciative audiences at the Interplas fair in late September to early October.

Signs of a downturn in UK markets appeared earlier in the UK and reinforced our view that increased emphasis should be placed on developing overseas markets. The central exhibition platform was at Interplas, NEC, Birmingham in September where we had a stand supported by the Business Support Network and where our ‘Processors’ Clinic’ formed the major feature of the show. We had major presences at Chinaplas in Shanghai, China in April, Plastpol in Kielce, Poland, in May, and at Plasteurasia in Istanbul, Turkey in December. At Chinaplas we supplemented our exhibition space with an inward Mission of plastics industry specialists which was kindly sponsored by RAPRA Ltd. BPF, supported by RAPRA, organised a major Reception attended by members of the Chinese Plastics Processors Association. Increasing numbers of companies support the BPF’s export activities and we are finding this an extremely useful tool in converting potential into actual members.

Innovation was a key theme in 2008 with the BPF continuing its communications and events organising support for the Polymer Innovation Network and its involvement in a widening array of third-party funded Research and Development projects.

Issues management was a central core activity in 2008 where the BPF’s classic role of identifying an issue and developing a position statement for members to use with customers, the media and government came into play.

As the year progressed the key emerging issue became the economic downturn and its impact on the plastics industry. To assist the organisation in its response to this the BPF created a Recession Action Group of key Council members, representative of major sectors.

Marine litter together with the alleged health effects on wildlife was the subject of
major media campaigns both in the ‘Daily Mail’ and on BBC News. BPF provided the industry response when Philip Law was interviewed on BBC World Service on March 29th. This was linked to ongoing attacks on plastics bags where the BPF was active in supporting PAFA, the BPF affiliated organisation responsible for film products. Plastics used to package bottled water and Bisphenol-A were also issues on which the BPF promoted industry interests on Radio.

Packaging was also the focus of the ongoing programme of Retailer presentations, a BPF concept supported by PlasticsEurope and PAFA. The roll call of retailers now addressed includes Morrisons, Tesco, Asda, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury’s and the Co-op. BPF also defended industry interests in the Packaging Recycling Action Group (PRAG) set up by INCPEN and the Local Government Association to increase packaging recycling.

On construction products key public sector targets were addressed by the Vinyls and Windows Groups campaigns to promote the benefits of PVC. The Windows Group absorbed the ‘PVC Aware’ programme. The EPS Construction Group promoted the fire protection and insulating benefits of EPS and formed and initiated a pro-active campaign to users. The BPF also promoted the contribution plastics can make to the forthcoming London 2012 Olympics in discussions with the Olympic Delivery Authority and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games.

A key issue for manufacturers of technical applications has been the fluctuations in energy prices and the burden of the Climate Change Levy. The BPF submitted an application for a Climate Change Agreement which would have yielded an 80% rebate on the Levy for plastics processors. Whilst UK government provided a rapid assent the European Competition Directorate General repeatedly requested additional information to support the submission, whilst at the end of 2008 the issue was still unresolved. The March 2009 Budget paved the way for the BPF to have a Climate Change Agreement based on electricity usage.

The events schedule partly reflected the pattern of issues. In its 75th year, the keynote BPF event was the two day ‘Plastics: The Industry of Tomorrow’ Conference held at Shrigley Hall in Cheshire with its associated dinner at the Lowry Museum. The BPF also confirmed its status as a centre of international strategic thinking for the global industry with the organisation of international conferences on Flame Retardants (with Interscience Communications) in London in February and on Rotational Moulding in Belfast.
PF online was launched in 1998 and over the next decade became the number one resource in the UK for plastics industry related information and one of the leading sites for plastics information globally. With nearly 2,000,000 visits a year, www.bpf.co.uk became known as the 'Homepage For The UK Plastics Industry'.

In 2008 the BPF launched the next stage of website development with a brand new website, an innovative online plastics encyclopaedia (Plastipedia) and a professional networking site (Plastbook) all being launched at Interplas in October.

The website has become a major selling point for the British Plastics Federation enabling the BPF to promote the plastics industry and its member companies to a global audience.

In addition to BPF Online, the BPF launched Plastipedia which is now the world's largest online plastics encyclopaedia, providing information on everything to do with plastics, from an A-Z of Materials and Processes to a 'Plastics Translation' service offering key plastics terms translated into 4 different languages. The website grew in popularity following on from its launch and is now the most viewed section on BPF Online.

Alongside Plastipedia, Plastbook was launched, which is the world's first online plastics professionals’ network. Providing a forum for industry experts to engage with end-users, students and designers to promote their products, represent the industry and gain sales leads. By the end of 2008, nearly 1,500 questions had been posted, over 600 users had registered and UK Trade and Investment having seen the potential of the system have financially supported the growth of Plastbook in 2009.
Into the 21st Century
LEFT: 2001
BELOW LEFT: 2003
BELOW RIGHT: 2005
BOTTOM: 2008

www.bpf.co.uk
Visitor Stats
2008
Total Hits
306,706
Visitor Sessions
103,770
Unique Visitors
31,512
per month

The British Plastics Federation
What Is the British Plastics Federation?
The British Plastics Federation (BPF) is the leading trade association for the UK Plastics Industry, with over 400 members and 1300 affiliated members.
The BPF has long recognised China as an important market, not only for exports but for business collaboration. The BPF first attended a Chinese plastics show in 1976 and then has organised numerous British Group participations in the market. At Chinaplas 2008 the BPF organised a British Pavilion made up of 9 companies (Rapra Ltd, Zotefoams, Cinpres Gas Injection, ColorMatrix, MSA Engineering Systems, Aerogen, Lloyd Instruments, Meech, Nextool). The show was a great success with huge numbers of visitors and the British contingent reported staggering amounts of leads from ‘very serious potential buyers’.

The BPF in collaboration with Rapra Ltd organised a highly successful Trade Mission, with representatives from 15 companies taking part. The Mission Programme included 2 days at the fair, a factory visit and a large networking reception. The reception attracted over 80 guests including the UK exhibitors, Mission Participants and Members of China Plastics Processing Industry Association (CPPIA).
At Interplas 2008 the BPF coordinated a special ‘Processors’ Clinic and Materials Café’ which consisted of 15 BPF members all located around a central ‘café’ space with tables, chairs and refreshments.

On the third day of the Interplas Show, the BPF prepared a programme of presentations on “The Past, Present & Future of Plastics” which involved presentations from a number of key BPF Members as well as the first public showing on the recently unearthed classic film, ‘The Shape of Plastics’ (1962), in over 50 years.

The 63rd Horners’ Award for Plastics Design and Innovation, run jointly by the Worshipful Company of Horners and the British Plastic Federation, took place at the BPF’s Materials Café on the last day of Interplas. The Award is presented annually for imaginative or innovative contributions to the plastics industry.
Following the show we have followed up on enquiries and already have 3 or 4 potential high quality clients and a possible distributor in the region. Most of the enquiries we received were Turkish however we did receive some interesting enquiries from Serbia, Egypt, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Iran. In fact one of our best enquiries was from China, and expressed serious interest in our electro fusion wire laying systems.

Morgan Jones
Managing Director of MSA Engineering Ltd

PlastEurasia 2008 (Istanbul, Turkey)
27th – 30th November 2008

PlastEurasia in Istanbul (27th - 30th November 2008) is the largest plastics and rubber event in Turkey and is becoming one of the most important events for the entire region. PlastEurasia 2008 attracted 30,410 visitors (nearly 4000 more than the previous year) with 1,018 exhibiting companies from 38 countries.

2008 was the second consecutive year that the show featured a British Pavilion, with MSA Engineering, Polymer Training Limited, Beta Lasermike, Listgrove, European Plastics News, Aerogen, Impact Laboratories and TransXL all taking part. The British companies at the fair saw steady traffic and received some high quality enquiries, with a large number of international visitors coming to the show, particularly from the Middle East.
PLASTPOL 2008
(Kielce, Poland)
27th – 30th May 2008

With UK T&I grants for exhibitors, the BPF co-ordinated a strong British Pavilion of 12 UK companies at the largest Plastics event in Poland, Plastpol 2008. The British Federation has been a key supporter of Plastpol since 2004 and has seen the show grow dramatically in size and importance over this time.

The annual show proved highly popular with 16,208 visitors and 850 exhibitors.

Ryan Kirby, International Director of human resource consultancy Listgrove said: 'We see the Polish market as one of huge potential for our business, possessing, as it does, a huge wealth of talent suited to any environment around the world'.

meetings where BPF Members were invited to meet buyers from Poland, Russia and Brazil.

The Market Briefing Meeting on the Indian Plastics Market took place on 23rd September at the BPF offices. The event hosted speakers from UK T&I and three honoured guests from the PlastIndia Foundation flew over specially to address the Group.

At the Interplas exhibition in Birmingham on 1st October 2008 the BPF Members had an opportunity to meet representatives from Brazil and Russia during pre-arranged one-to-one meetings on the BPF Stand.

The Polish-British Business Matching event organised by the BPF, Trade & Investment Promotion Section of Polish Embassy, Tarnów Industry Cluster and the Polish Plastics Converters Association took place on the 21st of November at the Polish Embassy in London. The matchmaking part of the event proved to be very popular with the BPF Members and resulted directly in business for at least two companies in attendance.

BPF EXPORTERS’ GROUP

The BPF’s Exporters’ Group is open to all BPF Members that are interested in selling into foreign markets. Over the course of 2008, Group initiatives included the coordination of British Pavilions at three International Trade Shows, a number of Exporters’ Group Market Briefings focused on specific world markets and ‘Find a Buyer’
22 MEMBERSHIP GROUPS
The BPF comprises some 22 business groups, making the British Plastics Federation unique amongst the plastics trade associations in Europe due to the fact that its membership covers the entire plastics industry including material, processors, equipment suppliers and recyclers. Over the next few pages we take a look at some of the activities of the BPF Groups over 2008...

encompassing the whole spectrum of the UK PVC industry.

- Continued informative and essential input into BPF Business Groups, providing knowledge and expertise to key issues and topics, such as the BRE Green Guide.
- Continued engagement with the various London 2012 Delivery organisations, including London Organising Committee Olympic Games (LOCOG and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), to promote the benefits and applications of PVC products.

Key involvement with exciting projects, such as VinylSUUM, pushing back the boundaries of research, technology and efficiency.

- Continued support of Members within the Local Authority framework.
- Continued implementation of 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, recycling 42,162 tonnes of PVC waste in the UK in 2007. The scheme now has over 30 active recyclers around the UK, collecting window and cellular profile, pipe, cable and increasingly, flooring.

- Continued monitoring, promotion and enhancement of PVC perception in public affairs circles, media and amongst key stakeholders such as architects and specifiers.

Organisation of the annual BPF PVC Seminar, in Stoke-on-Trent, entitled ‘PVC Sustainability in Action’. The seminar, a ‘must’ for all involved in the UK PVC industry, focuses on informing delegates about the sustainability credentials of PVC and how best to counter misinformation. The seminar was well attended, with delegates...
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:

- Promoting responsibility and best practice in the industry by BPF members setting a leading 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.
- Providing BRE with industry wide information for the updating of the ‘Green Guide To Specification’.
- Participation in key industry exhibitions and seminars, such as Eco-Build.
- Playing a key role in the BPF PVC seminar.
- Continued success with the Windows Group CPD Seminar with additional information on repairability, recyclability and aesthetics of PVC-U windows for use by members.
- New publications available for purchase from the Group’s website.
- Development of www.PVCaware.org website and associated communications, with the appointment of Aurora PR.
- Development of a series of adverts promoting the benefits of PVC-U windows, for insertion in the leading construction journals.
- Working with key local authorities known to be misinformed about PVC – supporting our members, whilst also proactively promoting the benefits of PVC to these key stakeholders.
- Working with local planning authorities and related Trade Associations across the UK, regarding fenestration design, legislation and standards.
- Continuing to lead the fenestration industry on the development of standards, both at UK and also EU level.

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:

- Continued work with the BRE, providing essential information to the development of the new Green Guide, resulting in the ‘A+’ received for Cladding in the 2008 update to the ‘Green Guide To Specification’
- On-going discussions to develop European Standards with Trade Associations from across the European Union.
- On-going development of Code of Practise for Roofline Products.
- Reinforced ties with the Vinyls Group and Windows Group to provide synergies across all PVC construction interests, also providing input into the annual Vinyl’s Group Seminar.

The Group maintains 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 EU Risk Assessments on phthalates to find the best solutions for applications, so too inputting data for Eco-Profiles.
Plastics Packaging has remained under considerable pressure from retailers, national and local government and consumers in 2008. The BPF has therefore expended considerable effort to counter the criticisms of plastics packaging and to help to educate consumers and retailers as to the importance of plastics packaging and the environmental benefits its use can bring.

**BPF INFLUENCES RETAILERS**

In 2007 the BPF began a series of seminars designed to target the major supermarkets and this programme has continued throughout 2008. These seminars are held in retailers’ own offices and are tailored to influence their individual approaches to packaging and environmental issues.

The seminar programme has been designed to address the misconceived policies towards plastics packaging adopted by retailers in a effort to ‘out-green’ each other. The seminars aim to promote and understanding both of the benefits of plastics packaging and the waste management options which can be deployed.

Furthermore the seminars aim to inform retailers of the industry’s position, endeavour to find common ground with them and establish a basis for ongoing dialogue.

Morrisons, Tesco and ASDA have received seminars and detailed meetings were held with key personnel in Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury’s and the Co-op. We will be expanding the approach to other smaller retailers, packer/fillers and Government groups in the coming months.

This seminar programme, conceived by the BPF, is being mounted in conjunction with our affiliate PAFA (Packaging and Films Association) and PlasticsEurope.

**Packflow 2012**

The BPF has been closely involved with the Packflow 2012 project and has provided significant information about growth in plastics packaging and waste arisings.

Packflow is a major project carried out by a working partnership between Valpak, material organisations, Defra, INCPEN and WRAP. The project strongly influences the Government’s recycling targets.

The Packflow project has five main aims:

- Update data on household and commercial packaging placed onto UK market and packaging waste collections to 2007
- Develop revised projections of household and commercial packaging placed onto UK market to 2012
- Develop projections of household and commercial packaging collections to 2012
- Review issues relating to public perceptions of packaging waste to help inform future policy recommendations
- Develop overall conclusions and recommendations

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**Plastic bottles bailed, ready for recycling**
BPF DEFENDING PLASTICS
PACKAGING
IN THE MEDIA

Bisphenol-A (BPA)

Bisphenol-A has been fully risk assessed and confirmed as safe for use in its intended applications. Unfortunately in 2008 the publication of two studies brought BPA unfairly into the news again. The BPF produced a full position statement and wrote directly to all newspapers who reported the studies. The BPF was contacted by the BBC and was quoted on Radio 4 News dismissing the results of the studies.

Panorama – Bottle Water

On 18th February Panorama broadcast a programme entitled “Bottled water – who needs it?” The programme was extremely negative towards bottled water and its environmental impact.

Before the programme was broadcast the BPF together with PlasticsEurope met with the programme’s producer and researcher in order to address their concerns about the use and recycling of plastics bottles. As a result of this action the programme primarily focused on issues surrounding the transportation of bottled water rather than issues relating to packaging.

Despite a briefing from the BPF prior to the programme the then Minister for the Environment, Phil Woolas, made some very simplistic and inaccurate statements about plastics production and recycling during this edition of Panorama. In response to these comments the BPF directly wrote to the Minister to address his misconceptions.

BBC World Service – One Planet

On Thursday 6th November the BBC World Service programme One Planet broadcast a special edition looking at plastics recycling.

“Investors in Britain are putting millions of dollars into big new projects to develop plastics recycling on an industrial scale.

For One Planet, Richard Hollingham investigates whether their sums add up, and asks whether the UK is setting an example for the world.”

The BPF contributed to the programme and were quoted discussing the economics of bottle recycling and energy from waste. Overall the programme presented a very positive view of plastics and the future of plastics recycling in the UK.
EPS CONSTRUCTION

The construction sector continued to work closely with the packaging sector in raising awareness of EPS as a material and its key attributes through its wide ranging applications. From January 2009 the EPS Packaging and Construction Groups will merge into the BPF EPS Group, ensuring that the synergies and efficiencies between the two groups are maximised.

The Group embarked on a major marketing drive in 2008, which is set to continue into 2009 and beyond. The Group has engaged a dedicated marketing company - PR Principles - to develop the marketing activities, which will raise the profile not only of the benefits and qualities of EPS as a material, but that also of the EPS Group. Initially, the promotional programmes focus will be through architects and specifiers, through the sustainability credentials and applications for. The programme’s aims are to address some of the misconceptions which exist in the marketplace currently, addressing sustainability more broadly, but issues such as fire more specifically.

The Group also maintained close links with our European Trade Association, EUMEPS. EUMEPS have maintained their high-profile through 2008, with lobbying activities on a European basis, whilst also focussing on the technical matters affecting the industry. EUMEPS, together with National Associations, continues to work on key industry topics such as REACH (including HBCD), fire and recycling.

The EPS Group will continue to meet regularly throughout 2009, will continue a pro-active communications programme, ensuring that the key messages reach the appropriate audiences. The EPS Group will also develop a new-look website, www.eps.co.uk, ensuring the group maintains a high-profile and is an easily accessible tool for many.

MOULDERS AND EQUIPMENT GROUPS

PLASTICS AND RUBBER EQUIPMENT GROUP

A large percentage of the Group took part in trade shows throughout the year, including exhibiting at shows in Poland, China and Turkey. The group also increased in membership over the course of the year with two companies joining as a direct result of participation with the BPF at foreign trade shows.

Some of the group activities in 2008 included...
- Participation at a number of seminars over the year including speaking at events and the sponsorship of them
- The Group led a key role in the continuous improvement of the Exporters Toolbox, a resource on the BPF website heavily used by the Group
- Agreement by the group to produce a ‘Buyers Guide for Plastics Equipment’ which will be printed for 2009

THE MOULDERS AND SPECIALIST PROCESSORS GROUP

The Moulders and Specialist Processors Group provides a framework for the representation and promotion of BPF members involved in the plastics processing industry, providing a springboard for collaborative initiatives supporting the sector’s evolution.

The key issues facing the Group include:
- Ensuring the moulding sector remains a strong and a 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 2008 highlights of the Group’s activities include:
- Developing the BPF Online sales lead service, now approaching 4,000 leads since its launch 4 years previously.
- A highly successful Moulding Group Forum at Loughborough University.
- Development of a Buyers’ Guide for all group members.
- Contributed energy consumption data to help the BPF draft a Climate Change Agreement.
- Participated in a number of International and local Trade fairs including Interplas, PDM, Plastpol in Poland and Plasteurasia in Turkey.
EPS PACKAGING

The 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.

Since the successful Tom Dixon Chair give-away in 2006 the EPS Packaging Group has continued to focus heavily on design opportunities. In 2008 the Group again ran a Design Competition where 50 entries were received from designers all over the world, including from Brazil, Georgia, Mexico, Italy and the US. The winner of the competition was Daniela Nicola a student at London South Bank University, her Aquapods concept was selected by judges Michael Sodeau, Sebastian Wrong, Establishment and Sons, Peter Massey, Event Director, 100% Design and Ben Fisher, SCA Foam Products. The judges were impressed by the way Daniela’s design combined innovation with practicality and demonstrated a good understanding of the material and how its characteristics can be used. The winning design was featured on a stand at 100% Design in September at Earl’s Court.

The Group also took the opportunity to work with Tom Dixon at 100% Design. Dixon used EPS to create key elements within the 100% arena and large blocks of EPS were used as plinths for a design object trail which created a design narrative throughout the exhibition. A unique construction of EPS building blocks was made to act as a backdrop for 100% Futures, creating a dedicated space for young, innovative and fresh designers. All the EPS used in these installations was returned to the factory of origin and recycled.

In 2006 the EPS Packaging Group launched the White Magic education box to assist the teaching of science in schools and promote the many excellent properties of EPS. The White Magic box allows teachers and students to get hands-on experience of making a moulded expanded polystyrene ball, recycling and testing the conductivity of different materials. Throughout 2008 the Group has continued to market and demonstrate the White Magic Box.

In 2008 the White Magic Box featured as a part of the Horners’ Polymer Study Tours and the Group demonstrated the kit at the tour held at London Metropolitan University. The Polymer Study Tours are three and a half day residential courses designed to provide teachers with information about polymers and their importance to our everyday lives. The Kit was also demonstrated during a science day held at St. Augustine’s School, Kilburn, London.

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)

During 2008 the EPS Packaging Group has sought to work closely with the EPS Construction Group. From January 2009 the EPS Packaging and Construction Groups will merge into the BPF EPS Group. The new Group will benefit from the synergies of the two existing Groups working together and will be able to more efficiently represent the interests of EPS manufacturers in the packaging and construction sectors.
ROTATIONAL MOULDING GROUP

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

The work of the Group focuses on the following long-term goals:

- To promote the rotational moulding process and its advantages to designers and downstream users.
- To develop an authoritative picture of the size and dynamics of the UK Rotational Moulding Industry.
- To position the group as a key player in the UK and globally within the Rotational Moulding Industry.
- To encourage dialogue between member firms in order to disseminate industry knowledge and understanding within the Group.
- To increase competitiveness of the Group.
- To help members to achieve Best Practice in all process related Health and Safety Issues.

The Group is Chaired by Martin Spencer, Managing Director, Rototek. Former Group Chairman Allan Joyce, Managing Director, Balmoral Tanks, assists in representing the Group at meetings of the Alliance of Rotational Moulding Organisations (ARMO) meetings.

A primary focus of the Group’s activity in 2008 was the organisation and management of the Alliance of Rotational Moulding Organisations (ARMO) International Conference. The Conference was held in Belfast between 7th and 9th September. The event brought over 400 forward thinking rotational moulders from across the Globe. The Conference programme was packed with leading edge presentations on the latest developments in rotational moulding and was based around the theme of Water. Many exciting opportunities that water can provide the Industry in the resource management and leisure sectors were explored.

Running in parallel to the Conference was a Trade Exhibition where delegates had the opportunity to network with over 30 leading suppliers to the industry and view their new products.

The Conference Gala Dinner was held in the traditional Victorian St. George’s Market, delegates and their guests were treated to traditional Irish fayre and entertainment.

The main Conference programme was preceded by two successful technical seminars held at the world-renowned Queen’s University of Belfast organised in conjunction with the British Plastics Federation Rotational Moulding Group.

Overall the Conference was a great success and the feedback received has been excellent. The organisation of successful ARMO Conference is of great importance to the BPF Rotational Moulding Group and the other ARMO members as it provides a source of income which allows the associations to embark on projects to promote the rotational moulding process.

BPF Rotational Moulding Group have continued to work on the European Funded Micromelt project throughout 2008.

Micromelt aims to reduce product cost and processing time and to increase surface quality in rotational moulding. This is done through the development of retrofitable microwave tool heating and an internal mould cooling system, which will:

- reduce energy costs by 70%
- reduce processing cycle times by 50%
- improve part quality through the development of retrofitable microwave tool heating and an innovative internal mould cooling system.

The research is lead by Pera and is supported by Queen’s University Belfast and the Fraunhofer Institute.

During 2008 the Rotational Moulding Group has explored the potential of a number of additional European funded research projects and has identified two further energy projects with benefits for the Group. One of these projects has received approval from the European Commission and will begin at the beginning of 2009, the other has reached stage one approval and a final submission will be made to the Commission during the course of 2009.
The Flexible Foam Group (FFG) is chaired by Ian Leicester of Carpenter Ltd and has continued to promote and represent the interests of the UK flexible foam industry at National and European levels.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

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 with UK Government, especially the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR), 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 polyurethane flexible foam industry are represented.

2008 ACTIVITIES

Research
The second year of a three year research project with the University of Nottingham on the syntheses of urethanes not involving the use of isocyanates has now been completed. Throughout the year meetings have be held between Flexible Foam Research Ltd and the research workers in order to monitor progress. Discussions will take place in early 2009 on whether or not to continue with the research programme for another three years.

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 and publication of the existing BS 7177 Standard “Specification for resistance to ignition of mattresses, mattress pads, divans and bed bases”.

UK
A revision of the publication ‘Flexible Polyurethane Foam – A UK Users’ Guide’ has been made available to the FFG section on the BPF website.

In association with EUROPUR ‘A Flame Lamination-Good Industrial Practice Guide’ has been made available to members of EUROPUR.


We maintained close contact with the REACH Legislation at National and European (via EUROPUR and CEFIC’s REACHCentrum) levels in order that the polyurethane flexible foam industry will fully comply with the regulations whilst minimising any financial downside.

Europe
FFG and its members have continued to play a leading role in several EUROPUR (European Association of Flexible Foam Block Manufacturers) research programmes. The most important of these has centred around the materials that might be extracted from the foams under various conditions and to show the degree of bioavailability.

Throughout 2008 FFG has continued to play an important role, through the Phosphate Ester Flame Retardant Consortium (PEFRC) and the European Flame Retardants Association (EFRA) in the EU risk assessment programme of flame retardants TCP, TDCP and V6.

FFR members have contributed to the CertiPur label which is now beginning to be accepted by the industry as a good guide to the HSE characteristics of polyurethane flexible foam. IKEA has now accepted the CertiPur label as an alternative specification of acceptance to their own specification.

A summary of work carried out by EUROPUR into extractable materials from Flexible Polyurethane Foam has been published in the peer reviewed publication ‘Cellular Polymers’. A second publication concerning the odour associated with some foams is due to be published in the near future.
POLYMER PRODUCERS’ GROUP
The Group is able to act as a source of information and support for nearly all Business Groups and activities including strong participation within the BPF Central Committees.

Members of this group are involved in almost every element of BPF activity as their interests in plastics are so substantial, crossing every application and issue.

The Group is actively involved in:
- Promoting the Federation as an alliance of companies from all aspects of the plastics supply chain.
- Keeping abreast of the numerous legislative developments affecting plastics in all applications.
- Responding to and having an awareness of the environmental issues of plastics.
- Promoting plastics in general.

POLYMER DISTRIBUTORS AND COMPOUNDERS’ GROUP
Chair: Mike Boswell, Plastribution
The key aim of the Polymer Distributors and Compounders Group is to maintain a strong networking platform and to promote and further enhance the polymer distribution and compounding business throughout the UK to both customers and suppliers alike.

The group boasts a sizeable membership and represents a large share of the total UK polymer distribution market. During 2008 the group has been actively involved in:
- Managing rising costs, including energy and regulation, and their impact on business and the supply chain.
- Promoting plastics in UK product design and manufacture with consideration for a range of sales, marketing and communications media.
- Managing the reputation of chemicals, additives and plastics materials across the lifecycle.
- Managing credit risks.
- Managing significant legislative change cost-effectively.
- Identifying market share of polymer products in the UK and Republic of Ireland.
- Benchmarking critical costs in transport, warehousing and logistics.
- Assisting the ongoing development and delivery of prudent Health and Safety practice and policies with particular regard to driver safety.

Early in 2008 the Group participated in a sector specific workshop to address REACH with Walter Claes of EuPC, an expert in this field, taking part.

Objectives for 2009 include:
- Monitoring the current marketing situation and assessing it’s affect on Group members.
- Continuing to address and resolve the critical issues affecting the polymer distribution and compounding sector.
- Maintaining the Group as the leading voice of polymer distribution and compounding through the continued development of annual Group surveys, Group ‘Buyers Guide’ and the Group web page.
- Development of a Compounders sub-committee to discuss issues of particular interest.
- Continuing the successful running of the Group Credit Circle.
- Continued focus on the potential benefits and added value of this sector.
ADDITIVE SUPPLIERS’ GROUP
Chair: Gavin Lewis, OMYA
By maintaining a strong networking platform, the Additives Suppliers’ Group aims 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. The Group is currently focussed on:
- Managing the reputation of chemicals, additives and plastics and their promotion in plastics applications.
- Managing and influencing significant legislative change and cost-effective implementation, particularly with regard to REACH and EU food contact legislation.
- Having 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.
- Focussing on the delivery of appropriate health and safety policies to plastics processors.
- The Additive Suppliers Buyers Guide was further developed during 2008 enabling the BPF to promote the Group and its members at UK and international plastics exhibitions.

Future plans for the Group include:
- Monitoring and assessing the impact of the REACH Regulations through continued participation in the BPF Product Safety Committee: REACH and Regulatory Issues.
- Participating in BPF and other appropriate seminars within the plastics industry.
- Development of an online educational resource on additives in plastics to further enhance the information currently available through the publication ‘Additives make Plastic’.

MASTERBATCH AND TECHNICAL COMPOUNDS’ GROUP
Chair: Greg Hammond, Gabriel-Chemie
The BPF Masterbatch and Technical Compounds Group represents the interests of UK colour masterbatch manufacturers and suppliers. Since its launch in January 2006 the Group has been working towards establishing a sector-wide consensus on the many subjects which affect all masterbatchers & compounders, most recently the likely impact of the REACH regulations, export classifications, various group surveys, colour communication and of course training and skills development.

During 2009 the Group hopes to further develop the Masterbatch and Technical Compounds Group Buyers’ Guide; a tool to promote British masterbatchers to buyers both domestic and foreign, and to establish a Guide to Masterbatch, aimed at explaining the usefulness of what Group members do to designers, students and other important audiences.

Principal Group objectives for 2009:
- To help Group members to develop sales through the promotion and use of appropriate colours in plastics.
- To develop industry standards/norms in terms of testing, measuring and specifying colours for use in plastics.
- To provide a platform through which influence can be exerted on relevant legislative and regulatory affairs.
- To develop clear and consistent advice for distribution to customers, media and other agencies.
- To provide information to members about changes in legislation and any other commercial influences pertinent to the industry and to provide advice on how to deal with them, for example, employment law.
- To promote best practice in health and safety issues.
- To establish links outside the industry with other bodies/organisations/BPF groups, who can provide advice and help with relevant topics of interest to members.
- To establish links with other national bodies representing the masterbatch industry outside the UK.

Now more than ever Distributors are seen as the polymer producers’ frontline ambassadors for UK converters.
There is growing pressure on the distributor to provide complete process solutions to customers by proving a high level of technical support and a thorough appreciation of the needs of the local UK marketplace. The importance of being a member of this Group is highlighted in this situation. All our members can demonstrate solid credentials as high calibre plastics suppliers and are able to participate in a strong forum where Members’ views can be shared and discussed.

Mike Boswell
Chair of the Polymer Distributors & Compounders Group on the benefits of membership
2008 was a very challenging trading year. Plastic piping systems in common with all construction materials faced difficult and challenging times as the turmoil in the market developed. The dreaded word ‘recession’ appeared almost across the world. The UK is no different with very difficult market conditions.

Our systems continue to hold their market share or in the newer developing applications increased their share. The reason is that they have been very carefully researched and developed according to the needs of the market.

Market conditions aside, the industry is facing another set of challenges. Climate change is a term that is used freely but in fact means different things per field of activity and application. Climate change coupled with an environmental awareness for all materials
and production processes has created a very interesting series of opportunities for our industry.

The REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation which came into force June 2007 and should be finalised by 2018 even with all of its bureaucracy and long expensive process is good for our industry. All of the materials that we use in our process will have been approved under the REACH Regulation. Working with the BPF we have started the process of registration and are proceeding with the approval exactly in accordance with the approved time scale.

Climate change coupled with sustainable construction is presenting our industry with some rather interesting challenges. To go back to basics the most commonly accepted definition of “sustainable” construction is

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland 1987).

Sustainable construction and climate change will affect the design of many of our systems and open up many new applications that are both energy and water efficient.

In the UK the recently published Defra Document: Future Water strategy for England sets out some future guidelines.

- The average temperature will raise by 2ºC to 3.5ºC by the 2080’s
- Seasonal distribution of rainfall will change significantly with winters becoming wetter and summers drier
- Sea level is expected to rise by between 90 and 690mm
- Snowfall will decrease significantly
- There will be an increase of extreme weather events.

The strategy sets out the way ahead for England and naturally these guidelines affect our plastic piping systems – how they are installed and the design basis. In some cases we will need to introduce new technologies to accommodate the requirements. The Building Regulations will be changed to give the guidelines substance. We are participating in the consultation process.

Rainfall intensity / frequency will affect the design of guttering systems and how they are installed. Many new buildings have flat roofs and others have deep valley gutters. We are seeing an increase in the use of syphonic rainwater outlets and systems.

At the same time the Government is moving towards new drainage layouts whereby the storm water is completely separate from the foul drainage and they are encouraging the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUD) systems whereby the run off water is discharged back into the ground in the vicinity of the building.

This has opened up a new field of SUD’s drainage with engineered solutions comprising of specially designed storage systems constructed from modular cells with the associated specialist equipment.

The Government is also consulting on changing the design layout of all drainage systems such that each building / home connects direct to a Water authority owned and managed sewer. This will involve many changes to the design of the house drainage layouts and changes to the method of access to the sewers so that they can be maintained.

These changes present our members with a whole series of changes and the possibility of new fittings.
Within the building we have to design systems to use less water. The current usage of fresh is some 155 litres per day per person. In the future the target is 80 litres per person per day.

Since the late 1950’s we have introduced the single stack plumbing system. Thus we have always followed and developed new technology with improved technology and generally in a more cost effective way.

Low flush toilets and reduced flow showers will alter the volume of water entering the soil and waste system

The resulting low flow from the soil stack may require a different approach to the house drainage. Clearly the advantage that plastic drains offer with long lengths and reduced number of joints will clearly assist the effluent discharge flow.

Coupled with the reduced water usage will be the increase in the use of grey collection and recycling systems. Plastic solutions give installers plenty of choice.

Dwellings and buildings in general will in the near future have several different water supply systems, wholesome or drinking water, cold water supplied from a storage tank and grey or recycled water. These systems will need to be clearly marked and identified to avoid cross contamination.

In the field of heating and cooling for dwellings and buildings plastics have excelled with almost 100% of the underfloor heating markets. Specialist companies are developing heating and wall systems to ensure total heat /cooling distribution. The advantages of plastic piping systems for the heating system are well accepted and understood by the industry.

In the age of new building techniques plastics have been very successful in developing prefabricated piping units enabling units to be prepared off site and delivered to site against a delivery schedule.

In the UK most of the Premier League football pitches have plastic underpitch heating system to ensure all weather usage.

So far I have not mentioned gas or water mains, clearly in the case of gas PE is the preferred material for the low pressure distribution network and for water PE is used for all diameters and applications. Thames Water in London is currently replacing the old Cast iron mains in the West End with PE.

In this very brief overview of plastic piping systems I have tried to cover the difficult market trading conditions and to outline the challenge of change facing us as an industry. We are constantly changing adding to our systems to make the products that our specifiers and users require. Long life, corrosion free products made from the appropriate plastic will continue to be the material of choice by informed users.

We continued to work within and with the BPF team of experts. Our internal committee structured was reviewed and revised in 2007. We retained it with minor changes. We extended our links with the Construction Products Association.

The ongoing saga of CE marking, which was originally promised for 1993, continues to absorb time and effort. We are now faced with the possibility of Construction Product Regulations replacing the Construction Product Directive. All very exciting but we fear not really essential work. The quest for a common water standard for Europe continues. In the meantime we meet all of the requirements for the UK markets.

Even when faced with hard and difficult trading conditions members continue to develop new product ranges. Members manufacture pipes from 10mm to 3500mm diameter covering applications from overflow pipes to high pressure mains.

When the market returns members of the BPF Plastic Pipes group will be ready to supply the market.
THE HORNERS AWARD

A revolutionary, lightweight and environmentally friendly kerbstone system was the winner of the Horners’ Award for Plastics Design and Innovation in 2008.

The prestigious Horners’ Award, run jointly by the Worshipful Company of Horners and the British Plastic Federation, is presented annually for imaginative or innovative contributions to the plastics industry.

The judges of the Horners’ Award were greatly impressed by the overall design concept of the ‘Durakerb’ system which is manufactured from a blend of recycled polymers, and aims to help specifiers and contractors comply with Government requirements for sustainable buildings.

Phil Sutton, Managing Director of Durakerb, said: ‘We are delighted to have won the Horners Award for Plastics Design and Innovation as we have a strong commitment to the highest standards of environmental performance throughout our entire product range and throughout each product’s entire life cycle. Durakerb is a cost-effective solution not only to the Health & Safety Executive’s Manual Handling Regulations but also to the ever increasing environmental performance targets now commonplace throughout the construction industry.

Once again the Horners’ Award Committee was impressed by the level of entries covering innovative products and processes and were delighted to nominate Sovrin Plastics’ Nova-Flow system as runner-up and recipient of the BPF’s Highly Commended Certificate. Nova-Flow is the simple-to-use mechanical anti-overflow system that senses the water level in a bath and shuts off the taps automatically to prevent flooding.

PLASTICS INDUSTRY AWARDS

In 2008 the BPF continued its support for the Plastics Industry Awards, held annually at the London Hilton Hotel.

The BPF’s Philip Law was presented with a lifetime achievement award for over 30 years service to the industry.
The BPF aims to offer member companies support across a wide range of topics and offer expert assistance wherever it is needed. The BPF Membership product is enhanced by a strong events and training programme that engages leading experts from a variety of fields.

These events are supported by the Business Support Network, a group, which consists of companies that offer services to support members. This group allows the BPF to offer the knowledge and support of leading suppliers to the plastics industry.

**THE BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK**

2008 saw the launch of the new Business Support Network branding as the group’s image was given a facelift. The new branding has been rolled out across the BSN area of the BPF’s website and also on both the group’s E-Zine and the folder.

In 2008 the network were instrumental in the creation and delivery of seminars whilst several of the members also benefitted by exhibiting at trade fairs under the BPF banner. In particular the network had a strong presence at Interplas where several of the members took stands within the BPF’s ‘Processor Clinic’. 2008 also saw two new members join the network: Willis Commercial Network and Connaught Compliance Electrical Services.
EXPERTS IN EVERY FIELD

BPF EVENTS IN 2008

Seminars/Conferences

12-13th February QE2
Flame Retardants

6th March BPF Offices, London
Credit Management

3rd April BPF Offices, London
Employment Legislation

14-15th May Shrigley Hall
Plastics: The Industry of Tomorrow

1st July BPF Offices, London
REACH

9th July Canary Wharf, London
Budget Planning for 2009

7th October Stoke Moathouse
Plastics Recycling

5th November Stoke Moathouse
PVC Seminar

20th October BPF Offices, London
REACH

3rd December Stoke Moathouse
Construction

Trade Shows

15-17th April Telford, England
PDM

17-20th April Shanghai, China
Chinaplas 2008

27-30th May Kielce, Poland
Plastpol, 2008

30-2nd Sept/Oct Birmingham, England
Interplas, 2008

27–30th November Istanbul, Turkey
Plast Eurasia
The BPF’s Central Expert Committees provide scope for membership participation, exchange of industry experience and the formulation of common policy and action programmes relating to the subject focus of the forum.

PRODUCT SAFETY COMMITTEE: REACH AND REGULATORY ISSUES
Chair: Chris Howick, Ineos
The Product Safety Committee focuses on the key issues surrounding:
- chemicals policy including REACH
- plastics in contact with foodstuffs
- plastics in medical applications
- plastics in potable water applications
- plastics in toy applications
- general product liability issues
- crisis management and media scares

Analysing the impact of REACH and its affect on all levels of the plastics supply chain is the key focal area currently under discussion. During 2008, the Committee has also been heavily involved in briefing BPF members on developments in the REACH Regulations and the necessary actions required by members. Addressing the issue of plastics in contact with food continues to be a priority for the Committee.

PLASTICS REACH TOOLBOX
REACH legislation came into force on 1 June 2007. The changes it brings have a profound and far reaching impact on the plastics supply chain throughout the UK.

To enable our members to remain up to date and fully compliant the BPF developed its REACH Toolbox during 2008. The aim of the BPF REACH Toolbox is to help companies understand their responsibilities and equip them with the tools required to effectively deal with REACH. The BPF REACH team have put together a variety of articles, tools and useful links so that any plastics company looking to gather information on REACH can do so in an easy one-stop-shop solution.

FIRE COMMITTEE
Chair: Christine Lukas, DOW
The BPF Fire Safety Committee aims to:
- Promote within the BPF membership high standards of fire safety through effective materials selection and the exchange of best practice.
- Secure an objective appreciation of the role of plastics in fire situations.

The BPF Fire Committee also has a role representing the plastics industry viewpoint to regulators and specifiers, both in the UK and EU on all aspects of fire safety and plastics. It provides an essential forum, not only for BPF Members, but also associated members and key stakeholders such as representatives from the Government and major fire research and testing laboratories to focus on plastics contribution to Fire Prevention and Fire Safety.

Other activities include:
- lobbying and participation in the development of testing regimes for classification for resistance and reaction to fire under the terms of the EU Construction Products Directive
- keeping abreast of and consulting on amendments to the UK Building Regulations with relation to fire safety
- expressing concern over the testing and euro-classification of products such as roofs, cables and pipes

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
Chair: Lynn Edwards, Epwin Group
The key aim of the Industrial Health and Safety Committee is to act as a key source of expertise and information on Health and Safety issues as they relate to the plastics sector. The Committee is dedicated to ensuring that Health and Safety within the plastics industry shows continuing improvement and that employees are appropriately protected.

The key priorities during 2008 were:
- Work at Height
- Noise and Vibration
- Accidents
- Manual Handling
- Workplace Transport
- Promotion of the MAC Tool

During 2009, the Health and Safety Committee wishes to continue to work closely with the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive to ensure the continual improvement of safety within the Plastics Industry.
ENVIRONMENT

The BPF’s policy on the Environment is to encourage the development of a sustainable industry, one which uses resources in such an efficient way that future generations are not denied their use.

Our activity focuses on the sustainability of waste-management, the nature and classification of waste and the appropriate roles of re-use, recycling and energy-from-waste with the aim of minimising the quantities of used materials and products going to landfill; in this it explores viability of innovative methods of recovery.

EU Waste Framework Directive
Towards the end of 2008, the BPF welcomed the adoption by the European Parliament of the revised EU Waste Framework Directive. This follows considerable lobbying activity by the BPF during 2007. Many of the concerns raised during the consultation period have been resolved.

The Directive notably contains a definition of recycling that encompasses both traditional ‘mechanical’ and novel ‘feedstock’ recycling technologies. This is essential to ensure continuing innovation in recycling technologies and gives stakeholders an incentive to keep using and investing in environmentally-friendly technologies. The approved text also recommends flexibility in the application of the waste hierarchy and paves the way for classifying energy-efficient energy-from-waste plants as recovery. The directive also sets new recycling targets: By 2020, Member States must recycle 50% of their household and similar waste and 70% of their construction and demolition waste. The revised WFD entered into force on 12 December 2008 and must be transposed in UK law within two years.

The BPF continues to play an active role in the development of waste legislation and represent the Membership through Stakeholder Forums for both the WFD and waste.

Plastics Recycling
During 2008, the BPF hosted a highly successful seminar on ‘Plastics Recycling: Exploring New Opportunities’. The key issues addressed were the emerging opportunities to develop levels of recycling on the back of; changes to legislation, developing technologies, improved access to financial incentives and training facilities.

Bio-based and Degradable Plastics
Bio-based and degradable plastics have been receiving increasing attention during 2008 from the public, media and downstream users. As a consequence, the BPF felt the need to establish an authoritative voice within its membership. It is envisaged that a new BPF Group, the Bio-based and Degradable Plastics Group will be launched in January 2009 looking at the key issues affecting this fast growing sector.
Over the last year the BPF has continued to work hard to develop its project portfolio to benefit the industry by helping it create a competitive advantage, whilst becoming more sustainable. Projects successfully launched this year include Lightfoam and Rotoflex. The BPF will continue to develop its project portfolio to match the needs of the UK industry and encourage innovation in the plastics sector.

The BPF is involved in several projects funded by the European Commission under the 6th and 7th Framework programmes as well as two DTI-funded studies. They are also a key partner in the Polymer Innovation Network which is a DTI-funded project through its Technology Programme.

2008 saw the successful completion of two DTI-funded projects, RECCOMP and BE-AWARE, and the drawing to a close of two EU-funded studies, POLYCOND and FREEFLOW. All these show the value of co-ordinated research giving valuable information to industry on energy savings with the concomitant cost reductions and product enhancement.

CURRENT PROJECTS

**ENER-PLAS**

The BPF joined a European consortium of companies in November 2007 for the Intelligent Energy funded ENER-Plas project. It will carry on the excellent work done in the EuRECIPE project and aims to develop a ‘Carbon Calculator’ for use by the processing industry to better understand their carbon footprint. It is also developing tools that will enable processors to calculate their energy usage through the entire life cycle from Tool manufacture to end of life use of the product.

To date the BPF helped to co-ordinate an EU-wide survey for the ENER-Plas project that provided valuable insight into the attitudes to legislation across the different territories. Over 300 responses were received and this has created a broad picture as to how industry perceives energy legislation. This will be fed back into the project to help shape the future and will also be freely available on the ENER-Plas website.

Smithers Rapra won funding for ENER-Plas as a result of the success with the recent EC-funded European energy saving project, RECIPE (Reduced Energy Consumption in Plastics Engineering), which focused on plastics processing. The BPF was a key partner in the RECIPE project which aimed to establish and promote best practice for energy saving in plastics processing across Europe.

[http://www.enerplast.eu](http://www.enerplast.eu)

**REHEAT**

The BPF is a key partner in this DTI-funded project to develop a low cost heat recovery, storage and local reuse system which could benefit the plastics industry. The concept centres around the development of a heat storage system based on absorption materials capable of taking heat energy from waste heat sources and giving that energy back at a temperature of 60°C when required. This project is part of a long-term Government initiative to help reduce CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2050.

To date the project has built a prototype rig which has successfully proved the concept. Further testing on this rig is now in progress with some encouraging results and this has led to a further 6 month extension of the project.

**LIGHTFOAM**

February 2009 saw the kick off meeting for the innovative new project called Lightfoam of which the BPF is a key partner. The project aims to create a novel process whereby polymer granules will be infused with nitrogen gas to be used in the injection moulding process to create foamed parts. This will be done without the need for any additional modification to the machinery. The project duration is three years and will include a consortium of partners from throughout the UK and Europe.

**MICRO-MELT**

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. The technology has been validated and a successful test rig has been built.

**PEPT-FLOW**

The PEPT-FLOW project is investigating the application of Positron Emission Particle Tracking (PEFT) as an innovative polymer flow visualisation technique for twin screw extrusion. The data obtained is being 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 five commercial twin-screw processes. This project is led and co-ordinated by RAPRA.

A twin screw extruder has now been fitted with the PEFT camera at Birmingham University with some of the modelling work for the extruder being carried out. Initial results are extremely positive and promise to yield some exciting developments in extruder design.

**CAPSCRAP**

This innovative project aims to develop an in-line monitoring system which will reduce the scrap produced during injection moulding, extrusion and blow moulding by monitoring the melt with an infra red beam before it is injected.
This rotomoulding project commenced in January 2009 and will continue for a duration of 3 years. It aims to improve cycle times and process efficiency whilst facilitating greater flexibility in product design and integrity for the SME-rotomoulding sector by developing an automatic feed system for polymers.

The Polymer Innovation Network is part of the Knowledge Transfer Network which is DTI funded through its technology programme. The purpose of the Polymer Innovation Network is to put companies or individuals with ideas into contact with research providers. The BPF has been instrumental in providing the link between Industry and Academia and was again a key partner in orchestrating the 2nd annual Polymer Innovation Network Day which was held at the Arsenal Emirates Stadium in London. The BPF also produced a quarterly newsletter throughout 2008 and has played a central role in the promotion of the network.

The Project was completed in March 2009 and was able to demonstrate the technology in a production environment. Plastics extrusion equipment was modified to allow for compressed CO₂ to be used as a processing aid for the production of solid extrudate with reduced melt viscosities, thus allowing processing at faster output rates, reduced temperatures or reduced energy.

The consortium successfully completed the project in February 2009. PolyCond has benefitted plastic processors in the EU by developing new technologies and providing solutions to key long-term problems and a number of case studies successfully demonstrating the technology are available on the website.

This DTI-funded project helps 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 has now reached its conclusion and the supply chain resource efficiency sector reports and cross sector recycling opportunities reports are available for download from the BeAware website.

Led by the University of Exeter, this DTI-funded project investigated best practices for recycling of composite materials from the transport industry.
### Pre-1900

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1284</td>
<td>First recorded mention of The Hornsey Company of London, with horn and tortoiseshell as the predominant early natural plastics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823</td>
<td>Macintosh uses rubber gun to waterproof cotton and the ‘mac’ is born.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>Dow Chemical Company is founded in the USA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>Rubber was first used as an insulating material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>First separate telephone cable in gas pipe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>George Eastman patents the photographic film-based still camera.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>Patent for long Mayo leads to the use of latex rubber as the preferred material for condoms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Thermofusing introduced and used to make rubber-rubber moulding powder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Beginning of mass production of rayon.</td>
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### 1900-1929

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>Bakelite Ltd receives its largest ever order for phenolic moulding powder for the casing of the Siemens telephone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>The production of the LDPE Squiz by Sumitomo leads to a rapid expansion of the nylon industry with containers produced to replace glass bottles for shampoos and liquid soaps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Rolph Royce begins to use phenolic formaldehyde in its car interior and boasts about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>E. Halpern patents first cellulose acetate moulding powder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Bradley patent for cellulose acetate moulding powder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Bakelite Ltd receives its largest ever order for phenolic moulding powder for the casing of the Siemens telephone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Eberhard &amp; Ziegler patent first commercial modern plastics injection moulding machine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Horseless hansom cab with the world’s first motorised glue gun.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 1930s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>‘Scotch’ tape, the first transparent sticky tape invented in US by 3M Company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Celluloid is marketed under trade mark ‘Teflon’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>First commercial production of polystyrene in US by ICI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>First production of aircraft canopies made from Vynaflex.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>First commercial production of polyethylene in UK by ICI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>First production of engineering products based on polyurethane.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>First production of nylon.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1940s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>First toothbrush with nylon tufts manufactured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>First commercial production of polyurethane in UK by ICI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>First pilot plant for polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1950s

1950 - Reliant Regal 113, first commercially successful all-glass-reinforced-plastic bodied car goes on sale

1956 - The polystyrene bag makes its first appearance

1958 - Lego patents its stud and block coupling system and produces toys of acrylic-based material in the world

1959 - Barbie Doll unveiled by Mattel at American International Toy Fair

1960s-70s

1962 - Silicone gel breast implants pioneered successfully

1966 - Polycarbonate (PC) "Blow" chair designed by Eero Saarinen, Wham-O Toy Company

1967 - Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) "Blow" chair designed by Eero Saarinen, De Pas and Lomazzi, manufactured by Zanotta

1970 - Ethylene-propylene copolymer introduced by DuPont

1973 - Martin Cooper, a Motorola researcher and executive, makes the first mobile phone call

1976 - Polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) is first prepared by ICI

1980s-90s

1980 - First production of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pressure pipes for private water introduced into UK

1982 - First artificial heart made mainly of polyurethane, implanted in a human

1983 - 'Terylene' at Redcar to produce ICI opens new factory and General Electric) polyacrylates (Bayer and General Electric)

1984 - DuPont files patents for first acetals (POM)

1985 - Formation of British Petroleum (BP)

1986 - Eero Saarinen’s ‘Tulip Chair’ launched, consisting of a seat made of glass-fibre-reinforced plastic

1988 - Introduction of triangular recycling symbols relating to plastics

1990 - ICI launches "StelPur", the first biodegradable polyolefin

2000s

2000 - ‘Post’ dreamt up by Tony Fadell, an independent inventor, developed by Apple Computers

2005 - Nano-technology applied to polymer and composite applications

2008 - ‘Airbus 380’, comprising 22% carbon-fibre reinforced plastics, flies into Heathrow

2009 - Dyson’s vacuum cleaner launched in Japan

2010 - ‘Juno’ a space mission launched with the goal of exploring the outer planets

PLASTICS TIMELINE: An Industry 800 Years in the Making

As part of the 75th Anniversary, the BPF, in conjunction with the Plastics Historical Society produced a special timeline, highlighting key milestones in the historic development of the plastics industry.

Watch an animated video of the timeline or download posters at www.plastipedia.co.uk
Taking place in October, the BPF’s 75th Annual Dinner was the largest dinner the BPF has ever held. Featuring over 530 guests and a top line-up of entertainment including presenter Clive Anderson giving an excellent after-dinner speech, performer Brenda Edwards (from the X-Factor) and band Penthouse. Due to the kind support of the Anniversary patrons, the event was heralded as a massive success with people dancing well into the small hours and no doubt some sore heads the next day!
PDM
The BPF took a stand at the Plastics Design and Moulding Event (PDM) in Telford, April 15th-17th 2008. PDM was a good opportunity to interface with designers. The BPF is well aware that the UK has a first class design capability and that this should be more firmly harnessed to the plastics industry's manufacturing, product development and marketing skills. The BPF believes that considerable potential for innovation can be tapped by a greater interaction between moulders and the design sector. At the fair the BPF focussed on promoting its website resources on materials data, the capabilities of UK plastics moulders in membership and the Industry Directory for product sourcing.

Plastics: The Industry Of Tomorrow
The BPF exhibit at PDM

Plastics Industry Awards (PIA)
The BPF is proud to be formally associated with the Plastics Industry Awards. The 2008 Awards ceremony and dinner were held at the London Hilton on 20th June. We believe that the Awards encourage excellence in the industry in manufacturing, product development, sales and marketing, and environmental performance. This year’s winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award was BPF Public and Industrial Affairs Director, Philip Law. There was a substantial complement of BPF members among the winners of other categories and we congratulate AxionPolymers (Best Environmental Programme), Hi Technology Group (Best Sales and Marketing Initiative), LINPAC Environmental (Industrial Product of the Year), DuPont Engineering Systems (Polymer Producer of the Year) and Distrupol (Distributor of the Year).

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS
Media Launch
The BPF kicked off celebrations for its 75th Anniversary with a media launch in February, inviting key members of the industry trade press alongside journalists from the main stream media. The event was a way to thank the 20 Anniversary Patrons who had kindly sponsored the BPF’s Anniversary and to tell the media how the BFF planned to celebrate 75 years of being the UK’s leading plastics federation.

Plastics: The Industry Of Tomorrow
In May the BPF organised the largest plastics conference to take place in the UK in 2008. Running over two days and taking place in the prestigious Shirgley Hall Country House, the event attracted nearly 150 key plastics industry professionals. Speakers included Europe’s leading Futurologist Ray Hammond, renowned Manufacturing Guru Lord Bhattacharyya and leading designer Geoff Hollington alongside other key industry speakers.

The two-day event included a delegate dinner at the Lowry Museum, which was attended by all participants and featured after dinner speaker William Roache (Coronation Street’s Ken Barlow) and provided excellent networking opportunities for delegates.
# BPF COUNCIL, STAFF AND AFFILIATES

## The Council of the British Plastics Federation

*As of 31 December 2008*

### Presidents
- **Calum Forsyth**
  - Wavin UK Ltd

### Polymer Materials Manufacturers
- **Brian Cosgrove**
  - Solvay Polymers Ltd
- **Roger Mottram**
  - Ineos Vinyls Ltd
- **Paul Jukes**
  - Arkema
- **John Ellis**
  - Bayer Material Science

### Additives Suppliers & Specialist Compounds
- **Greg Hammond**
  - Gabriel-Chemie UK Ltd
- **Andy Jones**
  - Baerlocher UK Ltd
- **Jeff Kelly**
  - Kronos Ltd

### Processors
- **Chris Bowman**
  - Recticel Ltd
- **Jonathan Haddock**
  - SCA Packaging
  - Tuscarora Ltd
  - Polypipe Ltd
- **David Hall**
  - Carpenter Ltd
- **Iain Leicester**
  - RPC Containers Ltd
- **Bruce Margetts**
  - Zotefoams plc
- **Philip Maddox**
  - McKeechne Plastic Components
- **Brian V Mann**
  - Albis UK Ltd
- **Ian Mills**
  - Veka plc
- **John Ogilvie**
  - Micropol Ltd
- **David Openshaw**
  - Data Plastics Ltd
- **Joseph Reeve**
  - Linpac Allibert
- **Laurence Tanty**
  - Rehau Ltd

### Affiliated Associations
- **Gauge and Toolmakers Association (GTMA)**
- **Northern Ireland Polymers Association (NIPA)**
- **Packaging and Films Association (PAFA)**

### MACHINERY AND ENGINEERS
- **Chris Francis**
  - Meech Static Eliminators Ltd

### RECYCLERS
- **David Wrigley**
  - Epwin Group

### DISTRIBUTORS
- **Mike Boswell**
  - Plastrification Ltd

### REPRESENTATIVES
- **Chris Bayliss**
  - PICME
- **Chris Easdown**
  - PlasticsEurope

### HON TREASURER
- **Philip Watkins**
  - Gabriel-Chemie UK Ltd

### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS
- **Peter R C Davis**
  - Director General BPF
- **Philip K Law**
  - Public & Industrial Affairs Director

### FEDERATION SECRETARY
- **Alan V Davey**
  - Finance & Admin Director BPF

### Staff of the British Plastics Federation
- **Peter Davis OBE**
  - Director General Pipes Group
- **Caroline Ayres**
  - Standards Manager*
- **Philip Batten**
  - Marketing & Communications Executive
- **Patricia Begley**
  - Pipes Group Secretary* (part-time)
- **Alan Davey**
  - Finance and Admin Director (part-time)
- **Dan Frake**
  - Finance Assistant Administrator
- **Fozia Ghaddali**
  - Senior Issues Advisor* (part-time)
- **Mercia Gick (Dr)**
  - Events and Admin Executive
- **Doreen Greenaway**
  - Administrative Assistant (part-time)
- **Lorna Hewson**
  - PA to Director General (part-time)
- **Stephen Hunt**
  - Business Development Manager
- **Justyna Jaworska**
  - Development Executive
- **Paul Jervis**
  - Windows Group Technical Consultant*
- **Frank Jones**
  - Pipes Group Director*
- **Christine Jones**
  - Pipes Group Secretary* (part-time)
- **Johanna Keane**
  - Caterer (part-time)
- **Angella Ladner**
  - Finance and IT Executive
- **Philip Law**
  - Public and Industrial Affairs Director
- **Kevin Longworth**
  - Projects Executive
- **Tim Marsden**
  - Construction Issues Executive
- **Sarah Plant**
  - Raw Materials Issues Executive
- **Carole Wheeler**
  - Receptionist
- **Christine Pottinger**
  - Receptionist (part-time)
- **Anthony Roberts**
  - Senior Executive – Public Affairs
- **David Waite**
  - Flexible Foam Group Divisional Executive*

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*not based at BPF office, London*
Plastiquarian: Special BPF Issue

To help the BPF mark this important milestone, the Plastics Historic Society produced a special edition of the quarterly Plastiquarian publication featuring an overview of plastics through the ages with a special feature on how the BPF has helped to shape the industry into what it is today.
The BPF would like to thank its 75th Anniversary Patrons