

The Crucible

The quarterly newsletter of the MMTA (Minor Metals Trade Association)



Summer 2007

Report from Tallinn: The Minor Metals Conference '07

The Minor Metals Conference 2007 in Tallinn, Estonia, was the MMTA's best attended event ever, with over 170 delegates from 20 countries.

As attendees flew in there was a buzz of anticipation in the air: minor metals from across the periodic table were back on people's lips and delegates were hungry to know where the markets could go next.

Before the speeches started local Estonian MMTA member and rhenium processor TOMA invited delegates to view their facilities (www.toma-group.com).

The speeches ranged from the challenges of recycling minor metals to an outline of REACH with highlights being Rolls Royce's strategic buying practices & the current state of the rhenium market. There was also an animated "Ask the Metals Panel" discussion about the growing involvement of hedge funds in this sector of the metal industry.

Once business was concluded delegates explored Tallinn's old centre and enjoyed the MMTA Gala Dinner and an evening of dancing (both the traditional Estonian style and delegates' own interpretations). Fortunately most delegates returned to the hotel before a local demonstration reached the old town and, except some delegates who were locked in a bar for several hours, no one was affected.

Our thanks again to C. Steinweg and A. H Knight for their generous sponsorship.



Conference delegates visiting MMTA member TOMA's rhenium (Re) processing plant in Tallinn.



Traditional Estonian dancing at the Gala Dinner

Tallinn's conference showed that, as with base and precious metals, there is a genuine need for a strong, diverse and respected mouthpiece and meeting place for the minor metals industry; it is up to the MMTA to maintain that role.

Avon Metals hosts the MMTA's first Open Day

On May 16th Gloucester-based Avon Metals opened their gates and invited MMTA members to tour their facilities (www.avonmetals.com).



During the tour visitors witnessed several live melts and castings as Avon manufactured their high-quality aluminium hardeners and secondary ingots.

The sight of red-hot liquid alloys and steaming furnaces was a different side of the industry for many of those present and made for a fascinating insight into the way our industry works.

After touring the furnaces Avon treated guests to a physical display of the minor metals they use, including titanium, chromium, magnesium, manganese flake, and silicon. Anyone who could not attend but would like more information should contact Steven Munnoch at stevenmunnoch@avonmetals.com.



Could you host an open day or know someone who would?

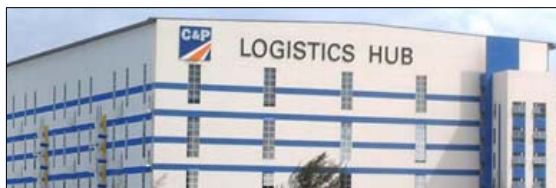
Please contact executive@mmta.co.uk

NEW MMTA REGISTERED WAREHOUSE: C&P Asia (S) PTE Ltd

The MMTA is delighted to welcome C&P Asia as a new member and the only warehouse in Asia fully MMTA registered to deal with minor metals. With head offices in Singapore, C&P specialise in handling & storage of ferrous and non-ferrous metals. C&P Asia Pte Ltd is a member of the CWT Group.

C&P's Services include: Collateral Management, General Warehousing, Stock Monitoring, Freight Forwarding & Shipping, Surveying, Sampling & Testing

To contact Kitty Heeremans at C&P: Tel: +65 6861 3330,
Fax: +65 6861 2220, operations@candpasia.com.



NEW MMTA MEMBERS:

Since the last edition of *The Crucible* the following new members have joined the MMTA community:

ABSCO Materials: Supplier of Zirconia, Zr chemicals, Mo, Ge and Ga metals/chemicals, Rare Earths (UK agent for Treibacher Industrie) and non-oxide ceramic materials. Tel: +44 (0)1440 709709; Fax: +44 (0)1440 709708, www.abscomaterials.com, enquiries@abscomaterials.com,

Ametals: Trading and distributing ferro-alloys and non-ferrous metals including in Co, Ga, In, Cr, Mo, V and many more (see www.ametals.be). Tel: +32 (0)2 654 2010, Fax: +32 (0)2 652 1199, mail@ametals.be.

C&P Asia (S) PTD Ltd.: Newly MMTA registered warehouse (see above) www.candpasia.com.

Eurotungstene Metal Powders: Producing powders of Co, W, tungsten carbide, mixed WC/Co, pre-alloyed (NXT, KEEN range), Ni and Re. Tel: +33 (0)4 76 70 54 67, Fax: +33 (0)4 76 48 55 24, contact@eurotungstene.com, www.eurotungstene.com.

Greendown BV: Supplying the stainless and low-alloy steel industries with FeCr, FeMo, MoO, Mn metal, Si metal, FiSi and FeTi. Tel.: + 31 10 413 52 07, Fax: + 31 10 411 41 33, office@greendown.com, www.greendown.com.

Hudson Metals: Speciality metals merchant for Cd, Cr, Co, Ga, In, Hf, Mo, Re, Ru, Se, Ta, Ti, W, V and more. Tel: +1 212 687 3055, Fax: +1 212 557 2971, HUDSON@HUDMET.COM, www.hudsonmetals.com.

International Risk Consulting (IRC): Insurance broking to the metals industry for Trade Credit and Political Risk. Tel: +44 (0)20 7337 9050, Fax: +44 (0)20 7337 9056, phil.simmons@irc-group.eu.com, www.irc-group.eu.com.

London Metals: Trading FeAl, FeB, FeCaSi, FeCr, FeMo, FeMn, FeTi, FeW, FeV, Sb, As, Mg, Mn, Bi, Cd, Cr, Co, Hg, Mo, Se, Si, Ti, W, V, Zr. Tel: +44 (0)20 7354 5450, Fax: +44 (0)20 7359 5064, trading@londonmetals.co.uk, www.londonmetals.co.uk.

MinorMetals.net: Online news and data provider to the metals industry. Part of the Fastmarkets group (includes Basemetals.com). Tel: +44 (0)20 7929 6339, Fax: +44 (0)20 7929 2369, martin@basemetals.com, www.minormetals.net.

Mississauga Metals & Alloys (MM&A): Specialists in the recycling, processing or trade in Zr, Hf, Ti, Nb, Mo and more. Tel: +1 905 790 0796, Fax: +1 905 790 7087, sales@mm-a.com, www.mm-a.com.

OM Group (OMG): OMG owns the world's biggest cobalt smelter and refinery. OMG also lead the Co inorganics and powders markets. Tel: +1 216 263 7751, Fax +1 216 263 7472, wayde.yeoman@na.omgi.com, www.omgi.com.

RC Inspection BV: Involved in the inspection, sampling and assaying of minor metals and other materials. Tel: +31 10 503 3355, Fax: +31 10 501 6561, info@rc-inspection.com, www.rc-inspection.com.

Sheng Yuan International Ltd.: Traders in minor metals. Tel: +44 (0)20 7231 0968, Fax: +44 (0)20 7231 0966, shengyuan@188.com, www.shengyuan.co.uk.

World Bureau of Metal Statistics (WBMS): Publisher of a range of historical data and statistics on the production, consumption and external trade of metals. Tel: +44 (0) 1920 461274, Fax +44 (0) 1920 464258, suee@world-bureau.co.uk, www.world-bureau.com.

Who would you propose to join the MMTA?

Please tell executive@mmta.co.uk

REACH Update: Consortia formation

The MMTA is committed to helping members prepare for REACH. We are building affiliations with other metals associations to benefit from their knowledge and resources.

MMTA members who are planning to register a metal or compound under REACH should approach the consortia either directly (quoting 'MMTA') or through the MMTA Executive.

PLEASE NOTE that MMTA members joining consortia do not also need to join the below metals associations that are supervising the consortia.

The MMTA has approached the following consortia on behalf of the membership:

Antimony (Sb): The International Antimony Oxide Industry Association (IAOIA) in Brussels is organising a consortia for metal, powder and 9 common antimony compounds (including antimony trioxide, ATO). Their first consortia meetings will take place on 20th September (Antwerp, Belgium) and 29th October (southern China) 2007. To contact IAOIA directly email Karine Van de Velde at info@iaoia.org.

Cadmium (Cd): International Cadmium Association (ICdA), in affiliation with the International Zinc Association (IZA), is organising two cadmium consortia: i) Cadmium metal, alloys and powder; and ii) Cadmium compounds. They will hold a meeting in Brussels on September 4th.

For more information, and/or to join the Cadmium REACH Consortium, please contact: Françoise Petit, Tel: +32 (0) 2776 0073, fpetit@izaurope.com.

Cobalt (Co): The Cobalt Development Institute (CDI) in Guildford, UK, is in the process of developing a REACH Consortium Agreement and identifying cobalt substances and their uses. Anyone interested in registering for cobalt metal, powder or any compounds is invited to contact them through Dr Paul Marsh at the CDI (pmarsh@thecdi.com, Tel +44 1483 510472).

Molybdenum (Mo): The International Molybdenum Association (IMoA) in Brussels is organising a Molybdenum Consortia to cover pure metal, ferromolybdenum, roasted molybdenum concentrate and 9 other Mo compounds. MMTA members are invited to join the Molybdenum Consortia without the need to also join IMoA. www.imoa.info.

An outline of the plan (including structure and fees) is at <http://www.hse.imoa.info/Default.asp?page=258> and a dedicated website will follow shortly. Already 6 major molybdenum producers are members of this consortia. IMoA are on info@imoa.info.

Magnesium (Mg): The International Magnesium Association (IMA) are in the process of creating a Mg consortium. They will hold a meeting for interested companies on 25th September in Frankfurt and can be contacted through www.intlmag.org.

Manganese (Mn): The International Manganese Institute (IMnI) are currently drafting a Mn Consortium Agreement that will determine the nature of their consortium. There will be a workshop in London on October 10th where a panel of Mn experts will present the Mn Consortium and Agreement. Interested MMTA members are invited to attend. Contact IMnI: +33 (0) 1 45 63 06 34, <http://www.manganese.org/>.

Niobium (Nb): Niobium's consortium is being arranged by IAMGOLD-QUÉBEC MANAGEMENT INC. (<http://www.iamgold.com/>), in Canada. Please contact the MMTA Executive for contact details.

Selenium (Se) and Tellurium (Te): The Selenium-Tellurium Development Association (STDA) will be forming consortia for both metals. Their next meeting will be on 5th October in Belgium (location to be confirmed soon) and interested parties are invited to contact STDA for details <http://www.stda.net/about.htm>.

REACH IT SOFTWARE

The website for IUCLID5 is now <http://ecbwbiu5.jrc.it/>. Once you download IUCLID5 you can register your company as a legal entity to register under the REACH regulations.

MMTA 34th Anniversary Dinner RAC Club, London

9th October 2007 (London Metals Week)



The MMTA's annual back-tie dinner returns to the RAC club in London. But in a break with tradition this year wine-tasting will replace speeches.

Full details will be posted soon.

Open Day at Huettenwerke Krupp- Mannesmann, Düsseldorf, Germany

22nd November 2007

The MMTA has been invited to tour the Mannesmann steel plant near Düsseldorf to see a major modern mill in action. HKM produces over five million tonnes of steel per year (some 12% of all German crude steel!).

Following the open day will be lunch in Düsseldorf.

REACH Update: (continued)

Tungsten (W): The International Tungsten Industry Association (ITIA) in Brussels is organising a Tungsten Consortia through the consultancy Arcadis to cover pure ammonium paratungstate (APT), pure metal, tungsten carbide and 7 other Mo compounds. MMTA members are invited to join the Tungsten Consortia without the need to also join ITIA. More details are available at <http://www.itia.org.uk/Default.asp?page=97> or from the Tungsten consortium at Arcadis direct Kerry.Coy@arcadis-us.com.

Vanadium (V): Dr K Harlow (info@vanitec.org) is arranging a Vanadium Consortium on behalf of VANITEC (www.vanitec.org). Materials covered will include vanadium metal, ferro-vanadium and the common oxides among others. More details will be available in October/November once the consortium has established it's framework.

The UK's REACH Competent Authority (CA), the Health and Safety Executive, is holding a series of free introductions to REACH for UK businesses in September/October. For details visit www.hse.gov.uk/reach or call 0845 4089574.

Know of other REACH events?
Don't forget to tell the MMTA!

If you know of any consortia which are not listed here please tell executive@mmta.co.uk

MMTA Dates for your Diary:

Quarterly lunch, Frederick's, Islington, London	18 th September 2007
Anniversary Dinner, RAC Club, London	9 th October 2007
MMTA open day at Huettenwerke Krupp, Düsseldorf, Germany	22 nd November 2007
Quarterly lunch, Industrie-Club, Düsseldorf, Germany	22 nd November 2007
General Meeting & Christmas Lunch (venue to be confirmed)	5 th December 2007
MMTA Sailing Regatta, Isle of Wight, UK	16 th - 18 th June 2008
MMTA Annual General Meeting, Royal London Yacht Club, Cowes, UK	17 th June 2008

A metal that thinks it is a gas

Scientists in Switzerland claim to have discovered a metal that is a gas at room temperature. Reported in *The Economist*, their claim is based on the study of just two atoms of element number 112. This artificial element was first made in 1996, but has still not received an official name (it goes under the ugly moniker of ununbium). The very large element was produced at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Russia, by bombarding plutonium atoms with calcium atoms. Judging on how the two atoms interacted with a sheet of gold, the scientists concluded that if you could make ununbium in large enough quantities, it would not only be metallic, but would also be a gas at room temperature. At present no MMTA member is active in the ununbium market.

RJH Trading ignores collapsing London office buildings

On 12th June a building on the same block as RJH Trading collapsed, leaving one man trapped in the rubble and at least one other injured. The fourth and fifth floors of the five-storey building in central London imploded for no apparent reason in mid-afternoon. While first reports feared a terrorist attack as the building is very close to Scotland Yard, Britain's police HQ, later the police said that there was no evidence of an explosion in the building. An unconfirmed report said that the only firm in the area to continue working throughout the event was a certain metal trading outfit with close links to the MMTA.

Your MMTA Committee:

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ViceChairman@mmta.co.uk
Treasury@mmta.co.uk
Arbitration@mmta.co.uk
Conference@mmta.co.uk
Contracts@mmta.co.uk
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 Gladys Smith
 Peter Nicholson (tbc)
 Michael Ihlenfeld
 Tom Abrahams
 Anthony Lipmann

RJH Trading
 AMC Group
 Darton Commodities
 Trident Traders Ltd
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