

Elements

A spotlight on the vibrant north west chemicals sector

In this issue:

- **CDOIF MHHRA: What Does It Really Mean for Your Risk Assessment?**
- ReAgent Opens First International Site in the USA
- Strategic Compliance: Aligning Sustainability Reporting and Chemical Regulation
- Chemical Regulation in Ukraine: Progress Towards European Integration
- Process Safety at COMAH Sites: Are You Managing Your Risks?
- Self-assessment and resilience: what the evidence actually shows.
- Beyond the Pump: How Process Reviews Can Unlock Significant Energy Savings
- Top 5 Reasons PTFE/PFA Linings Fail and How to Avoid Them
- Beyond Technical Excellence: The Skills Shaping Tomorrow's Chemical Engineers.

This issue also covers phenolic polymers, next-generation Phenalkamine Technology, STFC business support, Hosokawa Micron Batch Mixers, Atlas Copco Rental appointments and electrostatic earthing for the UK chemical industry.

New member spotlights - Newson Gale & Winsearch

**Chemicals
Northwest
2027
Awards**

**18th March 2027
The Manchester
Deansgate Hotel**

Date for your diary

**Chemicals
Northwest
2027
awards**

18th March 2027
at The Manchester
Deansgate Hotel



2026 winners



Chemicals 
northwest

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Membership

Would your company benefit from joining an organisation that supports and promotes the chemistry-using sector in the Northwest? Do you want to understand more, and contribute to, the industry issues within the region?

If you are a manufacturer, chemical user or offer products and services to the sector, why not join us today?

<https://www.cia.org.uk/chemicalsnorthwest/Membership/Benefits-Costs/>
2026 rates. (from 1st April 2026)

Micro corporate membership	(1 - 10 employees)	£ 515.83 + VAT
Standard corporate membership	(11-100 employees)	£ 897.20 + VAT
Large corporate membership	(100+ employees)	£1141.78 + VAT

Our membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March. A pro-rata basis usually applies to joining at other times in the year and we'd be happy to discuss on application.

Welcome

Dear Reader,

We are delighted to bring you the Autumn edition of Elements, featuring the latest news, highlights and updates from Chemicals Northwest and our members. This issue is packed with pages of features, articles, adverts and items of interest for the sector. We are also pleased to share the hot-off-the-press announcement of the 2027 Awards date and venue... The 18th March 2027 at the Manchester Deansgate Hotel, by IHG.

Our 10th June breakfast event took place at Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and was a well-attended event with site tours to finish. **Nikki Burton-Mallott, CEO of Catalyst Science Discovery Centre**, opened with an update on the centre and its future plans.

Ian Crummack, CEO of Cobalt Energy, compared EPC and EPCm contracting models, covering risk, cost, accountability, flexibility, and Cobalt Energy's EPCm strategy. He also shared project examples and lessons learned from his Expert Witness experience.

Stephen Daniels from Eastgate Engineering introduced Eastgate's engineering and construction services across the UK, including electrical, instrumentation, mechanical, offshore wind, telecoms/data, commissioning, and maintenance support for complex, safety-critical projects.

Paul Young, Senior Process Safety Engineer at PM Group, discussed the importance of Process Hazard Analysis revalidation in maintaining safety, compliance, and best practice at chemical manufacturing sites.

Ashley Fenn from CDR Pumps closed with a company introduction and overview.

As we went to print, our next Sustainability event, facilitated by SLR, was due to take place on 10th September. Our next breakfast event, with a full line-up of interesting presenters, is due to take place on 17th September at the Hartree Centre in Daresbury and will feature demonstrations to close the event. We also have an event in the pipeline in association with Graham Hart Process Technology, "Process Efficiency in Heat Exchangers 2026", scheduled for 13th October. All of these events will be featured in the Winter edition of Elements.

As always, please keep your good news stories, case studies and thought leadership articles coming in to be featured in the magazine.

Alex Abraitis - Member Services and Events Manager

About us...

Chemicals Northwest is an established business network owned by the Chemical Industries Association.

With around 110 members we actively promote this important regional sector and our objective is to

help membership to grow through;

- facilitating networking events, common interest groups and interactive workshops, all aimed at covering topical industry issues.
- supporting projects and programmes that identify and enhance business performance and generally support continuous improvement across the sector.
- promoting science and engineering based skills, helping to address the region's future needs.
- improving the image of the industry overall, including generating a positive reputation, through communicating achievements and success.
- contributing to the industry's strategic voice and the national growth agenda aligned to the work of the Chemical Industries Association.
- connecting the community of chemistry-using businesses and the vital supply chains here in the Northwest.

Here are the main features and benefits of membership...

- Annual Awards Dinner
- Breakfast Networking events
- Partner Events
- Common Interest Groups
- Quarterly Elements Magazine
- Website promotion and profiles
- Monthly E-bulletin & ad hoc bulletins with latest sector information
- LinkedIn Groups

Find out more here - <https://www.cia.org.uk/chemicalsnorthwest/membership>



ReAgent Opens First International Site in the USA

Runcorn-based chemical manufacturer, ReAgent, has recently surpassed a major milestone in its international growth by launching ReAgent USA in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This landmark project marks the company's first site outside the UK and brings almost five decades of British chemical manufacturing expertise directly to the North American market.

A Site Built for Quality-Led Chemical Manufacturing

The newly-opened Winston-Salem facility is fully equipped to deliver contract chemical blending services essential for production and research across a diverse range of sectors, from industrial manufacturing to life sciences.

The site employs a specialised technical infrastructure needed to process both high- and low-viscosity liquid blends across a variety of batch sizes. Expert technical support and on-site custom packaging and labelling services further enhance the site's operational excellence.

Additionally, the facility is fitted with a high-tech water plant. This supports the large-scale production of specialised waters, including deionised, demineralised, and distilled varieties, as well as several types of ASTM-grade water required for precise industrial and laboratory processes.

By maintaining strict, quality-driven processes at the new facility, ReAgent aims to deliver robust manufacturing solutions to partners in both North Carolina and across the US.

Capital Investment and Job Creation

Established in 1977, ReAgent has built a long-standing reputation for delivering compliant, high-quality chemicals and successfully navigating complex global supply chains. The expansion not only brings this expertise to the US market, but it also represents a \$6 million investment in the Winston-Salem facility.

Over the coming years, the site is projected to create 30 new manufacturing and technical jobs, reinforcing the area's industrial sector.

"North Carolina stood out for a variety of reasons, including its manufacturing infrastructure and strong labour market. We're excited to locate here and eager to grow our US presence," says Rich Hudson, CEO of ReAgent.

Winston-Salem and Beyond

ReAgent celebrated the official opening with a formal launch party at the new Winston-Salem facility in June. The event brought together local suppliers, businesses, and key city and county council members to welcome ReAgent to the North Carolina business ecosystem.

ReAgent's landmark expansion successfully bridges British manufacturing heritage with American industrial demand, positioning the company for a new era of global growth.

To learn more about ReAgent USA, visit: www.reagent.com





Safe | Smart | Sustainable

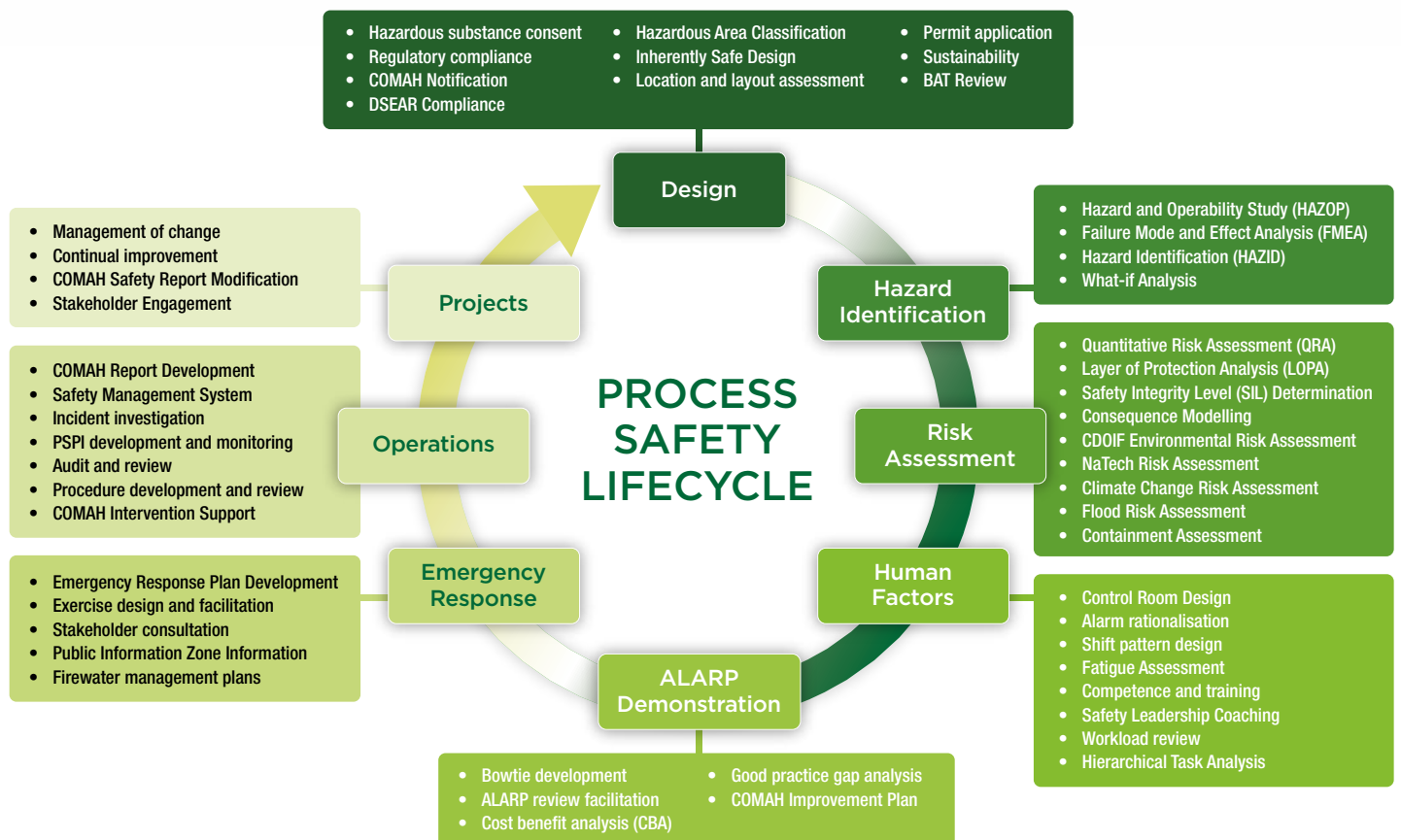
RAS Limited is a well-established, specialist risk consultancy working with an extensive portfolio of large corporate clients which manage complex industrial sites and businesses.

Our team of expert consultants have experience in a wide range of sectors - from pharmaceutical to energy, aviation and specialist chemical sectors.

We are a Chester-based company with a national and international client list. We work differently because of our great team of specialists. Our multi-disciplinary approach to solving challenges enables us to stand out from the crowd. We are passionate about supporting industry to be safer, smarter and more sustainable.

People are the centre of everything we do. We do not believe in off-the-shelf solutions. We partner with our clients to find the best solution for their particular challenges and businesses.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES



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CDOIF MHHHRA: What Does It Really Mean for Your Risk Assessment?

After five years of development, review and industry consultation, the Chemical and Downstream Oil Industries Forum (CDOIF) guidance, *Understanding Major Hazard Human Harm Risk Assessment (MHHHRA) for COMAH*, is nearing publication.

Developed jointly by industry and regulators, the guidance aims to address inconsistencies in how major hazard risks are identified, assessed and justified across the high hazard industries. Applicable to all COMAH operators, from simple storage facilities to complex chemical processing sites, it introduces a structured approach to assessing major accident risks and demonstrating that they are being managed effectively.

At RAS, we have been directly involved in developing and trialling the guidance as members of the CDOIF working group. While publication is not expected until Q4, the direction of travel is clear. The HSE is increasingly expecting risk assessments to align with the principles within the guidance, making now the ideal time for operators to understand what it means for their business.

What is MHHHRA?

The guidance provides a structured framework to support operators in assessing the potential for human harm and demonstrating that they have undertaken a suitable and sufficient risk assessment under the COMAH Regulations.

Developed by the CDOIF Risk Assessment Working Group, it establishes a common methodology for operators, consultants and regulators, covering four key stages:

- Identification of major accident hazard scenarios
- Analysis
- Assessment
- Demonstration that risks are As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP)

The main goal of the guidance is to promote greater consistency across industry. Historically, approaches to major hazard human harm risk assessment have varied between operators and sectors, but the guidance aims to provide a transparent process that can be applied across all COMAH establishments.

One of the most significant developments is its renewed focus on the COMAH definition of a major accident.

While industry has traditionally focused on fatalities, the regulations refer to events posing "serious danger to human health". Consequently, MHHHRA requires consideration of both fatalities and serious permanent injury or health effects, potentially broadening the range of hazards requiring assessment and justification.

A More Robust Approach to Identifying Major Accident Hazards

Put simply, the framework seeks to answer three fundamental questions:

- What major accidents could occur?
- Who could be harmed and to what extent?
- Are the prevention and mitigation barriers in place sufficient?

The guidance places significant emphasis on the front end of the assessment process. Operators are expected to undertake detailed scenario screening informed by hazard identification studies, developing a well-justified list of major accident hazards. This forms the foundation for the subsequent stages of the assessment.

Importantly, compliance with the guidance does not mean starting from scratch. Existing HAZOPs, COMAH reports and risk assessments will contain many of the necessary building blocks, however, operators should consider undertaking a structured gap analysis to determine how current arrangements compare against the guidance and identify where additional justification, analysis or documentation may be required.

Implementation should be viewed as a journey rather than an immediate compliance exercise. Most operators are likely to require a phased programme of review and improvement that reflects their operational realities and risk profile.

Why MHHHRA Matters

While much of the discussion has focused on methodology, the real value of MHHHRA lies in the quality of decision-making it supports.

A well-executed MHHHRA helps organisations focus resources on the controls and barriers that matter most, ensuring that effort and investment are directed towards measures that deliver the greatest reduction in major accident risk. It also promotes greater transparency and consistency in how risk decisions are made, providing a common basis for identifying major accident scenarios, assessing consequences and demonstrating that risks have been reduced to ALARP.

Importantly, MHHHRA should not be viewed solely as a compliance exercise. The process can help organisations better understand their hazards, challenge existing assumptions and identify opportunities for continual improvement. As regulatory expectations continue to evolve, organisations that begin preparing early will be better positioned to demonstrate the robustness of their risk assessments and respond effectively during future COMAH inspections.

How Can We Help?

At RAS, we can help organisations interpret the guidance, undertake gap assessments, identify proportionate improvements and engage constructively with the regulator. Most importantly, we can help ensure that risk assessments remain practical, defensible and aligned with emerging industry good practice.

With publication expected in Q4, now is the ideal time to understand what MHHHRA means for your business and begin preparing for the next chapter in COMAH risk assessment.

To discuss how the guidance may affect your organisation, please contact us at enquiries@ras.ltd.uk or visit www.ras.ltd.uk.

More Than 550 Visitors Enjoy Free STEAM Festival at Catalyst

More than 550 people enjoyed free entry to Catalyst Science Discovery Centre over the weekend of **11–12 July** as the Centre hosted its popular **STEAM Festival**, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the **Chemical Business Association (CBA)**.

The free event welcomed families from across the region to take part in an exciting programme of interactive science and arts activities, alongside Catalyst's hands-on galleries. By removing the financial barrier to entry, the festival enabled hundreds of visitors to experience science in an engaging, inclusive and accessible way.

Nikki Burton-Mallott, CEO of Catalyst Science Discovery Centre, said:

"There is still a perception that science is for certain people, but at Catalyst we believe science is for everyone. We were delighted to welcome more than 550 visitors over the weekend and to see so many families enjoying everything the Centre has to offer."

"By working with the Chemical Business Association, we were able to remove the financial barrier for this event and create opportunities for people of all ages to discover, explore and be inspired by science. Seeing so many children and adults learning together is exactly what Catalyst is all about."

The event formed part of the Chemical Business Association's **Generation STEAM** initiative, which aims to inspire young people by showcasing the wide range of opportunities that STEAM skills can unlock across industries including advanced manufacturing, healthcare, digital technologies, sustainability, construction and the creative industries.

The Chemical Business Association said:

"Generation STEAM is about far more than inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. It is about opening young people's eyes to the incredible breadth of opportunities that exist across every sector of our economy and showing that whatever their interests or ambitions, there is a place where they can make a real difference."

"Catalyst provides the perfect environment to make learning exciting, interactive and accessible, helping young people to explore new ideas and discover possibilities they may never have considered before."

Catalyst is now inviting families to continue their science adventure throughout the summer holidays. The Centre is open every day from **17 July to 30 August**, with a changing programme of hands-on workshops and activities taking place alongside its interactive galleries.

With an **Annual Pass** offering unlimited return visits for a full year, Catalyst provides exceptional value for families, allowing visitors to come back time and again to enjoy new workshops, seasonal events and exhibitions throughout the year.

For enquiries please contact Nikki@catalyst.org.uk



Camida and Lancashire GAA

An interesting Partnership built on Community and Shared Values

For more than three decades, Camida has built its reputation as a trusted sourcing and supply partner to the life sciences, pharma, food and industrial manufacturing sectors. Specialising in the procurement and distribution of raw materials, specialised fine chemicals and intermediates, the company works with global manufacturers to deliver reliable, compliant and high-quality solutions to customers across England, Ireland and beyond.

Headquartered in Ireland, Camida also has had a dedicated UK office based in Manchester. The UK team operates on the ground supporting customers locally, working in close collaboration with colleagues in Ireland. This integrated structure enables the company to combine international sourcing capability with responsive, relationship-driven service — an approach that has underpinned its steady growth.

While commercial expansion is a key focus, Camida's leadership has consistently emphasised the importance of community engagement. Supporting local initiatives has formed part of the company's ethos for 40 years and Camida has long been associated with arts, education and sporting initiatives. As the business strengthens its presence here, that same philosophy is being actively embedded in the communities surrounding its Manchester office.

A recent example of this commitment is Camida's sponsorship of Lancashire GAA during the Northern Games — one of the region's largest celebrations of Gaelic games. The event brought together more than 2,000 young players from across the North of England, along with their families, coaches, referees and volunteers, for a vibrant and inclusive sporting occasion.

The scale of the Northern Games was impressive, but it was the atmosphere that left a lasting impression. Pitches were filled with energy and enthusiasm, with young athletes proudly representing their clubs. The event showcased not only sporting talent but also the strength of grassroots organisation, underpinned by dedicated volunteers and strong community networks.

For Camida's Manchester office, the sponsorship marked the largest community engagement initiative undertaken in the region to date. It represented a significant step in strengthening local ties and demonstrating the company's long-term commitment to the Northwest.

The partnership has proven rewarding on multiple levels. At a community level, supporting Lancashire GAA aligns with Camida's belief in fostering opportunity, development and inclusion. Grassroots sport provides young people with confidence, teamwork skills and a sense of belonging — values that resonate strongly with the company's own culture.

Internally, the sponsorship has generated a sense of pride amongst the entire team. Seeing Camida associated with such a positive and well-organised regional event reinforced the company's identity as a values-led organisation. It also strengthened employee engagement by connecting the business with an initiative that reflects collaboration, resilience and shared purpose.

From a strategic perspective, the partnership has enhanced Camida's visibility within the UK market in a meaningful way. Rather than traditional promotional activity, this form of engagement places the brand within the fabric of the local community — building recognition through association with trusted institutions and positive experiences.

As Camida continues to develop its operations here, community partnerships are expected to remain a core element of its growth strategy. The company's history demonstrates that commercial success and social contribution need not be separate ambitions; instead, they can reinforce one another.

The Northern Games sponsorship stands as a strong example of this approach in action. For Camida, it was not simply an event partnership, but a reflection of a long-held belief: sustainable growth is built not only through supply chains and markets, but through meaningful connections with the communities that surround them. Bravo Camida, we salute you!

To view the video and Camida's involvement please click here:

<https://youtu.be/BpP7lyMovc8?si=voAtqNAEzXFdJfeV>



Strategic Compliance: Aligning Sustainability Reporting and Chemical Regulation

Sustainability reporting is no longer a standalone corporate exercise. It is rapidly becoming a core compliance obligation for the chemical industry. With the introduction of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the supporting European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), companies must now disclose detailed information on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) impacts, risks, and opportunities as part of their annual reporting cycle.

For organisations already navigating complex regulatory frameworks such as REACH and CLP, this presents both a challenge and a clear opportunity. The systems, data, and expertise used for chemical regulatory compliance are highly relevant to sustainability reporting, but not yet fully aligned. The key question for industry is no longer simply how to comply, but how to do so efficiently, consistently and credibly across multiple regulatory and sustainability frameworks.

From Regulatory Compliance to Integrated Reporting

At the core of ESRS is the requirement to perform a double materiality assessment, evaluating both the impact of business activities on the environment and society, and the financial risks and opportunities arising from sustainability issues. The information gathered must then be disclosed through a structured framework covering governance, strategy, risk management processes, and performance metrics.

For chemical companies, this introduces a more holistic and auditable approach by collating information that often already exists but is held across fragmented systems. Crucially, ESRS extends the scope beyond individual sites or products to the full supply chain. However, achieving this level of visibility requires robust data validation and greater transparency throughout the supply chain.

Where Chemical Regulation Supports ESRS

Many aspects of ESRS will already be familiar: Climate reporting ESRS E1 (i.e. everything a company must report about climate change: emissions, risks, strategy, targets, and transition to net zero) builds on existing greenhouse gas tracking and energy management systems, while workforce requirements S1 (i.e. requires companies to disclose information about their workforce conditions, rights, and wellbeing,) align with established health and safety and HR governance processes.

However, ESRS E2 (Pollution) creates a particularly important point of alignment with chemical regulatory obligations.

ESRS E2 requires the disclosure of emissions to air, water, and soil, as well as measures for emission prevention, control, and reduction. It also introduces reporting on the production, use, and distribution of Substances of Concern (SoC), closely reflecting principles already embedded in REACH and chemical safety assessments.

The challenge here is not a lack of technical capability, but a lack of integration and consistency across systems and reporting methodologies.

The Expanding Concept of Substances of Concern

A key complexity under ESRS lies in the identification and assessment of Substances of Concern. Historically, organisations have focused on Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) under REACH, supported by Safety Data Sheets and supplier declarations.

Under ESRS, the definition is broader and less prescriptive. It is not limited to regulatory lists and may include substances that impact safety, the environment, or circularity. Considerations such as recyclability and reuse further expand the scope.

In practice, this creates several challenges for industry, particularly as assessments linked to recycling constraints are often complex and rely on technical feasibility or infrastructure availability rather than predefined criteria. Furthermore, existing data may be incomplete, supply chain



requests may need to be expanded, and reported metrics may evolve over time as definitions and classifications develop.

For many organisations, this marks a shift from rule-based compliance to judgement-based, risk-informed decision-making.

Why Consistency Matters

Without a harmonised approach, inconsistencies can quickly emerge across functions and regions leading to duplication of effort, conflicting reporting outcomes, or difficulties in demonstrating traceability during audits. It can also result in misaligned decision-making, such as ineffective or poorly prioritised substance substitution strategies.

As sustainability disclosures are under increasing scrutiny, these inconsistencies translate directly into compliance, reputational, and operational risks.

A Practical Framework for Streamlining Compliance

To address these challenges, organisations should focus on integration of ESRS with their existing compliance processes rather than duplicating efforts.

You should aim to:

- **Establish a clear internal definition**

Define what constitutes a Substance of Concern within your business, and ensure you align this with both regulatory requirements and sustainability objectives.

- **Establish a single source of truth.**

Consolidate data from Safety Data Sheets, supplier declarations, REACH and the 'Substances of Concern in Products' databases, and formulation information to ensure consistency.

- **Standardise methodologies**

Internally decide on thresholds, reporting boundaries, and assumptions whilst clearly documenting how data gaps and estimates are handled.

- **Enable cross-functional ownership**

Strengthen collaboration between your regulatory, Environmental Health & Safety, and sustainability teams, with clear accountability for data and reporting outputs.

- **Design for auditability**

Ensure data and decision-making processes are traceable from source through to final disclosure to support defensible reporting under CSRD.

From Data to Decision-Making

Effective implementation is not about capturing every possible data point, but about applying structured, consistent, and transparent methodologies. Best practice should focus on consistency across reporting cycles, prioritisation of substances identified as high-risk, and ensuring regulatory outputs are relevant to the business model and sector.

This shift will allow organisations to move beyond data collection and towards generating useful insights that support both compliance and strategic objectives.

Conclusion

The integration of sustainability reporting and chemical regulation represents a significant evolution in compliance. Organisations that continue to treat these areas separately will face inefficiency and increased regulatory risk.

Organisations that proactively align their systems, data and governance structures will be better positioned to streamline reporting, enhance their credibility, and embed sustainability into their core business decision-making.

As requirements continue to evolve, chemical and regulatory professionals will play a critical role in shaping robust and defensible approaches to compliance. Acting now to align regulatory data, harmonise methodologies, and

break down internal silos will position organisations to deliver credible, value-driven sustainability strategies in an increasingly demanding landscape.



For further information, visit WSP's Chemical Compliance services page: <https://www.wsp.com/en-gb/services/chemical-regulatory-compliance>
Amy Fearon, Associate, Chemical Compliance, WSP

Chemical Regulation in Ukraine: Progress Towards European Integration

As Ukraine advances its accession process, aligning national legislation with EU standards has shifted from a long-term goal to an immediate operational necessity. Beyond regulatory harmonization, Ukraine represents a significant growth opportunity for chemical companies and downstream industries, fuelled by the massive wartime consumption and the anticipated post-war rebuilding effort. Compliance with evolving frameworks is now the gateway to accessing a key economy poised for rapid expansion.

With this in mind, we have prepared a concise summary of the key requirements of Ukrainian REACH and CLP legislation to aid chemical companies in efficient scoping, planning and implementation of Ukrainian requirements.

Ukraine REACH

Registration: The requirements are very similar to EU REACH. Exemptions apply to substances which are separately regulated, such as Pharmaceuticals, Biocides (although definition differs from EU), Narcotics etc. Besides these exemptions, all chemical substances manufactured or imported at volumes ≥ 1 ton/annum require registration. The concept of Only Representative (OR) registrations is included, foreign companies can nominate a suitable Ukraine-based OR to cover their registration obligations.

Information is to be submitted in excel format either digitally or on paper. Although there are discussions ongoing about use of IUCLID in future.

Substance Information Exchange Forums (SIEFs) will exist under Ukraine REACH but due to the lack of an electronic platform it will be difficult for registrants to identify each other and cooperate effectively.

Restriction (Annex XVII): Ukraine REACH includes all restriction from EU REACH up to and including entry 78 (synthetic polymer microparticles). Entries after this are not yet included in Ukraine REACH Annex XVII but are very likely to be implemented in the near future.

Authorisation (Annex XIV): All entries from EU Annex XIV have been copied into Ukraine REACH. The deadline to apply for authorisation is 1st April 2027 and the sunset date

is 1st June 2027 (with an exemption for DHEP in medical devices).

Safety Data Sheets (SDS): The format is the same as EU however the usual country specific differences apply. Notably the SDS (and label) must be in Ukrainian language, it must include the relevant Ukrainian exposure limit values in section 8 and the applicable laws, regulations, restriction and authorisation requirements must be shown in section 15.

Ukraine CLP

Classification: Classification under Ukraine CLP mirrors EU CLP almost exactly, including the new hazard classes (Endocrine Disruption, PBT etc) and supplemental hazard statements (EUH). Ukraine CLP includes all ATPs up to and including ATP17, however ATP18 and subsequent ATPs have not yet been included. Harmonised (mandatory) classifications from Annex VI must be applied to substances and products, deadlines are shown in the table below.

Notification: As in EU CLP, manufacturers and importers must notify all hazardous substances they handle. This obligation cannot be delegated to the only representative and must be submitted by the Ukraine-based importer.

Conclusions

In general, the Ukrainian requirements align very closely the EU, meaning companies should be able to adapt more easily. There are still some challenges to overcome, for example the lack of electronic means for registration, implementation of Ukrainian language and subtle differences in definitions.

knoell can provide advice and practical support on all aspects of compliance with Ukrainian chemical legislation. Our experts can help with:

- Portfolio and supply chain analysis to identify applicable deadlines and screen for regulatory risk
- Supporting Ukrainian REACH pre-registrations
- Appointing an Only Representative in Ukraine
- Preparation or review of Ukrainian CLP notifications
- Creation, maintenance or review of Ukrainian SDS / labels

In case you need our help with any of these topics, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Wiebke Sossinka, Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager,
Chemicals and Product Safety
Email: ukraine@knoell.com
Website: [Ukraine-Reach | knoell](https://ukraine-reach.knoell.com)

Ukrainian CLP			Ukrainian REACH		
Event	Details	Deadline	Event	Details	Deadline
CLP Notification	End of submission period	06-Dec-26	REACH Pre-registration	End of pre-registration phase	26-Jan-27
				Publication of pre-registered substances	26-Feb-27
Mandatory Classification	Substances must be classified / labelled Products must be classified / labelled	15-Nov-27 01-May-28	REACH Registration	CMR ≥ 1 t/a; Aquatic Toxicity ≥ 100 t/a	01-Oct-28
				Substances $\geq 1,000$ t/a	01-Oct-29
				Substances ≥ 100 t/a	01-Jun-31
				Non-CMR Substances ≥ 1 t/a	01-Mar-33

Self-assessment and resilience: what the evidence actually shows

The NCSC Cyber Assessment Framework provides a useful basis for assessing cyber resilience. Outcomes-based, it defines what an organisation needs to achieve without prescribing a single way of achieving it.

It also creates a challenge. The CAF is sector-agnostic, meaning an assessment cannot stop at determining whether an outcome appears to have been achieved, but must examine the management functions that deliver and sustain that outcome in the organisation's particular context.

For operational technology, they must also reflect what the systems protect: physical processes, hazardous inventories, critical equipment, and, in some cases, safety instrumented functions. The harder question is therefore not whether this outcome is achieved, but whether the underlying arrangements provide sufficient evidence that the outcome is being—and will continue to be—achieved.

Outcomes depend on interconnected functions

Answering that requires more than a checklist, because management functions do not operate independently. Process safety offers a useful analogy. Effective emergency response depends on competent people and reliable assets. Changes to any of them must be controlled through a management of change process that itself considers the consequences for emergency response.

OT cyber resilience has the same shape. A control system asset may support an alarm, interlock, safety instrumented function or emergency shutdown. Its resilience can depend on system architecture, access control, supplier arrangements, vulnerability management, monitoring, competence, incident response and recovery. A weakness in one function may affect several others.

An outcome can therefore appear to have been achieved in isolation, even though the arrangements supporting it are incomplete, poorly connected, or no longer effective.

Detail is not the same as unnecessary complexity

Structured assessment is sometimes mistaken for excessive detail. The purpose is not to document everything indiscriminately, but to examine the arrangements systematically enough to identify the gaps, inconsistencies and dependencies that a high-level review can miss.

A policy may exist but not be reflected in site procedures. Remote access may be controlled, but exceptions may have developed around supplier support. Each control may appear reasonable on its own, while the cracks lie in the connections between them. Those cracks matter because an adversary does not need every control to fail; they need one viable route, often created by a sequence of individually modest weaknesses.

What the evidence shows

HSE's OT cyber trial inspection programme illustrates the difference between assumed and evidence-based assurance. It covered volunteer COMAH operators from several industrial sectors, and despite being a self-selecting group already engaged with OT cyber security, none had fully achieved all the objectives expected for good cyber hygiene. HSE concluded that compliance across the wider sector was likely to be lower still.

Operators that made progress did so by engaging with the guidance and inspection process and working through what the requirements meant in practice. Awareness was not enough on its own; improvement came from applying structure, examining the arrangements behind the outcomes and acting on the findings.

The underlying problem is often not a conscious acceptance of risk. More commonly, responsibility sits somewhere between IT, engineering, operations and process safety without being fully owned by any of them.

"We have never had an incident" is not evidence that controls are effective. It may simply mean the organisation has not detected one.

Triton demonstrated what that absence of visibility can mean. The malware targeted a safety instrumented system at a petrochemical facility and was discovered only after an error in its own code caused the controllers to enter a protective state.

Triton remains important because it crossed directly into process safety. A safety instrumented system is process safety equipment, and malware capable of interfering with it creates a process safety threat that has arrived through the network.

From outcomes to evidence-based assurance

A credible self-assessment should connect four things:

- the outcome the organisation needs to achieve;
- the management and technical functions supporting it;
- the relationships and dependencies between those functions; and
- the evidence showing that the arrangements work in practice.

Assurance comes from examining the evidence collectively and testing whether the different parts of the system support one another. Done properly, self-assessment allows an organisation to look beneath the outcome, identify where functions are disconnected and demonstrate improvement over successive assessment cycles.

The CAF provides the outcomes. A structured, evidence-based methodology connects them to the management functions, technical controls, and process safety dependencies that determine whether they can be genuinely achieved.

That is what turns self-assessment from a compliance exercise into organisational understanding—and it is the discipline around which OpenPSM is built.

For further information visit - <https://openpsm.uk/>



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Process Safety at COMAH Sites:

Are You Managing Your Risks?



For chemical manufacturers across the Northwest, few regulations are more important than COMAH. However, the obligations placed on operators are often underestimated until an issue occurs.

What does COMAH mean for your site?

COMAH regulations apply to sites that store or use hazardous substances above defined thresholds. Sites are classified as either Lower Tier or Upper Tier, with Upper Tier sites subject to the most stringent requirements.

COMAH sites handle dangerous substances in quantities that could lead to major accidents. These include fires, explosions and toxic releases. Such events can cause serious harm to people, property, and the environment.

COMAH requirements

Managing a COMAH site requires a structured approach to process safety that goes beyond routine health and safety management. Key requirements include:

- Implementing a Major Accident Prevention Policy (MAPP).
- For Upper Tier sites, maintaining a Safety Report accepted by the Competent Authority (HSE and Environment Agency).
- Identification of major accident hazards and ensure residual risks satisfy risk tolerance criteria through appropriate safeguards.
- Maintaining an on-site emergency plan and provide information to support local authority off-site emergency planning.
- Demonstrating that Safety Instrumented Systems (SIS) and other protection layers meet required integrity levels.
- Managing ageing assets and infrastructure where original design documentation may be lacking.
- Keeping pace with regulatory changes and Competent Authority expectations.
- Maintaining sufficient process safety competence and capability.

The cost of getting it wrong

Failure to meet these obligations can have consequences far beyond regulatory penalties. A major COMAH incident may result in fatalities, serious injuries, and environmental damage.

Sites may face enforcement action, prohibition notices, or prosecution. The commercial and reputational impact can also be severe and long lasting.

How these requirements can be addressed

A Process Safety Management system must be regularly reviewed and maintained to remain effective.

Key elements include:

- Up-to-date Process Safety Information
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Operational Control, including SOPs
- Preventive Maintenance
- Management of Change
- Training and Competence
- Emergency Response Planning

How PM Group can help

Process safety is not static. Risks change, assets age and standards evolve. Keeping pace requires expertise and a clear understanding of the Competent Authority expectations.

PM Group helps clients with COMAH facilities to assess major accident hazards, strengthen their Basis of Safety, review critical safeguards, and benchmark facilities against current best practice. We focus on practical improvements that reduce risk and support safe, reliable operations.

The best time to address risk is before it becomes an incident. PM Group helps organisations to identify gaps, prioritise action, and build safer, more resilient facilities.

To find out how PM Group can support your COMAH obligations, contact our UK process safety team today.

Call: +44 1928 752 500

Email: processsafetyrequests@pmgroup-global.com

Web: www.pmggroup-global.com

A Century On: Why Phenolic Polymers Continue to Evolve

Recently, whilst revising the chapter on phenolic resins for the latest edition of the ASM Handbook on Composites, I was reminded just how remarkable this chemistry really is. Few synthetic polymers can claim a history stretching back more than a century whilst remaining relevant to modern manufacturing.

Phenolic polymers are often associated with the early days of plastics through the Bakelite® brand, yet their importance extends far beyond their historical significance. Today they remain critical in applications ranging from protective coatings and composites to friction materials, insulation products and industrial adhesives. Their success stems from a combination of properties that are difficult to replicate economically, including excellent chemical resistance, thermal stability and long-term durability. However, the challenges facing phenolic technology today are very different from those encountered by its pioneers.

For much of the twentieth century, material development was driven primarily by performance. If a formulation delivered the required mechanical properties, chemical resistance and processing characteristics, it was likely to find commercial success. Whilst performance remains essential, modern polymer development has become considerably more complex. Today's formulators must also consider toxicological profiles, regulatory compliance, sustainability objectives and public perception.

The packaging sector provides a good example. Phenolic polymers have long played an important role in protective coatings for food and beverage containers. These coatings are required to survive aggressive contents, sterilisation processes and long service lives, whilst maintaining a protective barrier between the package and its contents. Historically, the focus was largely on achieving the required performance. Today, equal attention is paid to migration, extractables and the presence of residual substances that may attract regulatory scrutiny.

Advances in analytical science have accelerated this trend. Modern instrumentation can identify materials at concentrations that would have been impossible to detect only a few years ago. As detection limits continue to fall, regulators and brand owners are understandably asking more questions about the composition of materials, and their behaviour throughout the product lifecycle.

This has created significant challenges for the chemical industry, but it has also stimulated innovation.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to work on a variety of polymer technologies, including the development of specialist phenolic systems. One observation that continues to stand out, is that innovation in mature chemistries rarely comes through wholesale reinvention. More often it comes from a deeper understanding of the relationship between molecular structure, performance and hazard profile.



Small changes in functionality, molecular architecture and residual species can have a surprisingly large influence on both performance and classification. The challenge is to preserve the characteristics that customers value, whilst reducing potential concerns associated with traditional formulations.

Recent regulatory developments concerning Bisphenol A and related substances illustrate this perfectly. Whilst legislation is often viewed as a constraint, it frequently acts as a catalyst for innovation. New requirements encourage formulators to revisit established assumptions, explore alternative approaches and develop technologies that may ultimately offer improved performance as well as enhanced compliance.

This process is driving a new generation of phenolic materials, designed to work alongside alternative resin technologies, and satisfy increasingly demanding regulatory expectations. The objective is not to abandon phenolic chemistry but to refine it. After all, the fundamental reasons for its success have not changed.

The Northwest has a long history of chemical innovation, and I believe this remains one of the strengths of the UK chemical sector. We have an exceptional ability to combine scientific understanding with practical industrial problem-solving. That capability becomes increasingly important as customers seek materials that satisfy not only technical requirements, but also environmental and regulatory objectives.

Perhaps the greatest lesson from more than a century of phenolic development, is that successful technologies continue to adapt. Markets change, legislation evolves and customer expectations shift, yet the underlying science remains capable of delivering new solutions.

More than one hundred years after their introduction, phenolic polymers continue to demonstrate exactly that ability. They have evolved from the material that helped launch the plastics industry into a sophisticated family of technologies, supporting some of the most demanding industrial applications.

For a chemistry that many people consider mature, there is still a surprising amount of innovation left to come.

Paul H. Jones CChem FRSC is Managing Director of Chemical Processing Services Ltd and has spent more than four decades developing innovative polymer technologies. He recently revised the phenolic resin chapter for the ASM Handbook on Composites and is the inventor of numerous patented technologies.

For further details visit
<https://www.bitrez.com/>

Wendy Howarth



Beyond the Pump: How Process Reviews Can Unlock Significant Energy Savings

When faced with rising energy prices and sustainability targets, many manufacturers naturally look towards replacing ageing equipment with newer, more efficient alternatives. While upgrading chemical process pumps certainly delivers measurable benefits, further efficiencies can be identified by reviewing the wider pumping process.

At CDR Pumps, we believe the most effective solution lies in understanding how the complete system operates. Rather than simply recommending a replacement pump, our engineers begin by understanding the application itself. How is the product transferred? Is the pump operating continuously when it doesn't need to? Is the motor correctly sized? Could existing utilities such as steam be used more effectively? Answering these questions often reveals opportunities that extend beyond the pump alone.

A Smarter Approach to Phenol Unloading

One example of our approach is how we supported a global performance additives manufacturer to improve their phenol unloading applications. Their UK manufacturing facility produces phenol-based products and is guided by a no-waste, high-efficiency philosophy. After conducting a thorough review of their processes for unloading phenol from 26,000-litre capacity road tankers and transferring it to bulk storage tanks, we saved them almost **£30,000 per year** in reduced energy costs and cut carbon emissions by approximately **40 tonnes**.

Phenol, also known as carbolic acid or phenylic acid, is an organic substance used in the production of many chemical compounds. It is hazardous and flammable in nature, and it solidifies at low temperatures. Safe, reliable containment, and a consistent product temperature throughout the unloading process are therefore essential.

Working closely with the customer, CDR Pumps assessed the complete unloading application and identified several opportunities to reduce energy consumption without compromising performance. The existing process used canned seal-less pumps powered by 11 kW ATEX-rated electric motors. To prevent the phenol from solidifying during the process, four pumps operated continuously over a period of 180 days – consuming approximately 190,000 kWh of electricity over 4,320 hours. Our solution replaced the canned pumps with more efficient seal-less magnetic

drive pumps, manufactured in stainless steel to provide safe, reliable containment with zero-vapour loss.

Efficiency improvements extended beyond replacing the pumps. Choosing high-performing UTS-B mag drives meant that the power needed to drive the pumps could be reduced from 11 kW to 5.5 kW motors, significantly reducing energy consumption without impacting pump performance. Heating jackets were also incorporated to harness the site's existing steam supply and use it to maintain the phenol at the required transfer temperature. Following a review of on-site operating procedures, UTS-B pumps could be safely switched off when not in use and now operate for fewer than five hours a day, lowering energy consumption further. This also reduces component wear and reduces the risks associated with transferring hazardous liquids.

Collectively, these efficiencies delivered substantial savings, reducing energy consumption by over 170,000 kWh per year and saving the manufacturer almost £30,000 in annual energy costs. As an additional benefit, annual CO₂ emissions were reduced by 90%, avoiding approximately 40 tonnes of CO₂ each year. Importantly, these savings were realised while maintaining safe, reliable transfer of a hazardous chemical.

Sometimes the greatest improvements come from carefully reviewing an existing process and identifying engineering changes that work together to deliver measurable results.



Projects like this demonstrate the value of a collaborative approach that not only identifies the most appropriate chemical process pump but also uncovers opportunities to optimise the wider process. At CDR Pumps (UK) Ltd, we work closely with our customers to improve efficiency, reduce operating costs and ensure every pumping system delivers safe, reliable performance.

To discuss your application, contact the CDR team on **01933 674777** or at sales@cdrpumps.co.uk. To learn more about CDR Pumps, visit www.cdrpumps.co.uk

Top 5 Reasons PTFE/PFA Linings Fail and How to Avoid Them

PTFE and PFA linings are widely used in corrosive and high-purity process environments because of their excellent chemical resistance, durability, and long service life. However, failures can still occur. In most cases, the problem is not the fluoropolymer itself, but issues linked to specification, design, manufacture, installation, or operation.

As corrosion experts, CRP UK Ltd has extensive experience in fluoropolymer-lined equipment. Here are five common causes of lining failure and how to help prevent them.

1. Incorrect PTFE grade selection and process variability

Cause:

Some PTFE moulding processes can create dimensional inaccuracies, uneven wall thicknesses, and material variation. These inconsistencies

can increase permeation, create stress points, and reduce long-term reliability.

Prevention:

- Choose manufacturers using high-quality lining processes such as PFA transfer moulding and PTFE paste extrusion.
- Specify suppliers with proven quality systems and compatibility with relevant standards, including ASTM F1545.
- Specify uniform lining thickness and homogeneous lining material wherever possible.

2. Poor Surface Finish

Cause:

Rough or uneven internal surfaces, sometimes associated with PTFE isostatic moulding, can make cleaning harder and increase contamination build-up.

Prevention:

- Select materials and manufacturing methods that deliver smooth, uniform surfaces, such as PFA or PTFE paste extrusion.

3. Steel shell corrosion and liner damage

Cause:

Fluoropolymers allow some permeation. In higher-risk services, corrosive media can migrate behind the lining, causing steel shell corrosion, blistering, or “popcorning” within the liner.

Prevention:

- Use materials and processes with lower permeation rates, such as PFA or paste extruded PTFE.

- Specify the maximum suitable wall thickness for the application.
- Consider modified paste extruded PTFE for highly permeable services.
- Assess temperature, pressure, and media with an experienced manufacturer to support correct specification.

4. Liner collapse due to inadequate venting

Cause:

Permeated gases can accumulate between the liner and steel shell. Without suitable venting, pressure can build behind the liner, increasing the risk of collapse or failure.

Prevention:

- Always specify an appropriate venting system for lined piping.
- Keep vents unobstructed, especially after repainting or insulation. CRP offers vent extensions for insulated pipework.
- Inspect vents regularly and work with an experienced supplier on correct product selection.



5. Leaks caused by thermal expansion in complex pipework

Cause:

Thermal expansion in fluoropolymer-lined piping can place stress on pipework and flange connections. If movement is not accommodated, leakage or even steel pipe cracking can occur.

Prevention:

- Carry out piping design and stress calculations that account for thermal expansion.
- Use PTFE bellows where appropriate to absorb movement, reduce stress, and improve system safety.



Conclusion

PTFE and PFA linings are highly reliable when correctly specified, designed, manufactured, and installed. By controlling key risks such as material selection, lining quality, venting, and thermal movement, operators can extend service life and reduce downtime.

Working with an experienced supplier such as CRP helps ensure lined pipework is designed for durability, safety, and lower total cost of ownership.

For further information visit <https://www.crp.co.uk/>



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Process safety

- Hazard identification and risk analysis techniques (including HAZOP and LOPA)
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Electrostatic earthing for the UK chemical industry

Static electricity is a common occurrence in everyday life. It can cause hair to stand on end, a balloon to stick to a ceiling, or a small spark to be discharged from a finger after walking across a carpeted room.

In industrial hazardous area operations however, this can be a much more serious safety hazard, as an electrostatic spark can easily contain enough energy to ignite an explosive atmosphere, and the electrostatic charge to produce that spark can be generated by nothing more than the movement of materials against each other.

The control of static electricity as a safety hazard is therefore of critical importance to hazardous area operations across the chemical industry and is best achieved with the implementation of electrostatic earthing.

Electrostatic earthing is required for any areas and processes identified in a DSEAR assessment as having a potentially flammable or explosive atmosphere and where it is possible that a level of electrostatic charge capable of exceeding the minimum ignition energy (MIE) of the materials present can be generated.

This applies to a significant number of hazardous area processes across the chemical industry, including loading and unloading flammable liquids to and from road tankers, drum and Ex IBC filling and emptying, mixing and agitation processes, and powder handling processes using FIBCs, sieves, and fluid bed dryers. Each of these can generate an explosive atmosphere with the handling of flammable materials, and in each case the uncontrolled generation of electrostatic charge can lead to the discharge of an incendive spark capable of causing a fire or explosion, putting operators, processes, and sites at risk.

Earthing helps mitigate this risk by preventing the accumulation of electrostatic charge on equipment. When charge is generated on equipment without a connection to

earth, it can build up until it reaches a breakdown voltage allowing a discharge in the form of a spark. When however the equipment has a suitable path to earth, any generated charge instead dissipates into the mass of earth, thereby preventing any charge accumulation which could cause an incendive spark.

The key guidance document informing the need for, and which can shape the design of, electrostatic earthing solutions in the UK is PD CLC/TR 60079-32-1:2018. This is the British implementation of the international technical specification IEC TS 60079-32-1:2013 and provides guidance on electrostatic hazards in explosive atmospheres.

This guidance covers general precautions and measures for more specific applications including road tanker transfer operations, bulk materials in FIBCs, and pipes and hose assemblies for liquids.

In each instance, the guidance for the most effective control of static electricity centres on electrostatic earthing connections between process equipment and an earthing point capable of dissipating electrostatic charge, ideally as part of an earthing system which continuously monitors the resistance of the connection.

The level of resistance monitored can vary depending on the equipment in need of earthing, for example with a maximum resistance threshold of $10\ \Omega$ for metallic items and $1 \times 10^8\ \Omega$ for flexible materials such as FIBCs. In each case the principle remains the same, as this monitoring allows an earthing system to continuously check that a safe connection to the earthing point is in place, and allows for prompt corrective action if the connection is disrupted.

For over four decades, Newson Gale has provided its customers with static control solutions that reflect a standards-based approach to mitigating the ignition risks associated with static electricity in Ex atmospheres. Our range of electrostatic control solutions are tailored to the operational requirements of our customers across the chemical industry and beyond.

For further details visit www.newson-gale.co.uk



Beyond Technical Excellence: The Skills Shaping Tomorrow's Chemical Engineers

Within my role as Regional Engagement Manager at IChemE, I have had the opportunity to speak with chemical engineering students taking their first steps into the profession, graduate engineers navigating the transition into industry, experienced professionals developing their careers, and employers looking ahead at the future needs of their engineering workforce.

The conversations have taken place across different settings, sectors and career stages, but one theme has come through consistently. Technical knowledge remains the foundation of chemical engineering, but it is increasingly the skills beyond technical expertise that help engineers progress, influence and lead.

Strong engineering fundamentals remain essential. However, the modern chemical engineer is often expected to do far more than solve a technical problem in isolation. They may be asked to communicate risk to non-technical colleagues, contribute to business cases, support operational decision-making, manage stakeholders, lead improvement projects, or understand how new technologies could change the way a process is designed, operated or optimised.

One of the most common themes I hear is communication. Not communication in the abstract sense, but the ability to translate complex engineering information into something that others can understand and act upon. Whether speaking to senior leaders, operators, clients, regulators or colleagues from other disciplines, engineers who can explain the “why” behind a recommendation often become the people organisations rely on.

This becomes particularly important as engineers move into roles where their decisions have wider operational, commercial or safety implications. A technically sound answer is only valuable if it can be understood, challenged, supported and implemented by the people around it.

Project management is another area that comes up regularly. Many engineers find themselves coordinating workstreams, managing stakeholders or contributing to project delivery earlier in their careers than they may have expected. They may not carry the title of project manager, but they are still expected to balance scope, risk, cost, timelines and competing priorities. In practice, this means engineers need to understand not only what the right technical solution might be, but also how that solution can be delivered effectively in a real-world environment.



As careers progress, the skills required often broaden further. Engineers may move into management, take responsibility for plant or production performance, support process safety improvements, or contribute to commercial and contractual discussions. The transition from technical specialist to operational leader can be significant. Managing performance, motivating teams, leading change and understanding human factors all require skills that are developed over time and strengthened through experience.

This is where structured professional development can play an important role. IChemE's training portfolio reflects several of the areas that employers and engineers are increasingly discussing, ***Project Management, Effective Communication and Presentation Skills, Managers in Chemical and Process Engineering, Plant and Production Management, Managing Human Failure, IChemE Forms of Contract, and Fundamentals of AI and Digitalisation.***

All IChemE courses support engineers in building capability beyond their core technical knowledge. Many of these courses are available as public programmes and can also be delivered in-company, helping organisations develop the skills their teams need in a way that reflects their own business priorities.

Digitalisation is now part of almost every conversation about the future of the profession. Artificial intelligence, data analytics, automation and digital tools are already influencing the way organisations think about safety, efficiency, reliability and decision-making. Engineers are not necessarily being asked to become software specialists, but they are increasingly expected to understand what these technologies can do, where they add value, and what risks or limitations need to be considered.

What has struck me most is that these wider skills are not separate from engineering. They are what allow technical knowledge to have impact. Communication helps engineering decisions land. Project management helps ideas become deliverable. Operational leadership helps teams perform safely and effectively. Commercial awareness helps technical recommendations align with business priorities.

Digital confidence helps engineers adapt to new tools and ways of working.

For students and graduates, this means recognising that professional development starts early. For experienced engineers, it means continuing to build the skills needed for the next stage of their career. For employers, it means supporting engineers not only as technical specialists, but as future leaders, decision-makers and problem-solvers.

As the profession continues to evolve, so must the way engineers develop. The chemical engineer of tomorrow will still need strong technical foundations, but those foundations will be strengthened by the ability to communicate, lead, manage complexity and adapt to change.

Developing these skills strengthens the impact chemical engineers can have, enabling them to turn technical expertise into leadership, influence and meaningful change.

To find out more about IChemE's learning and development opportunities, including public and in-company training courses, please contact: **Michael Potts - Head of Learning and Development, Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE)** Email: mpotts@icheme.org

For regional engagement enquiries, please contact: Melissa Dorosz - Regional Engagement Manager Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) Email: mdorosz@icheme.org

From Cashew Nuts to Corrosion Protection: Driving the Next Generation of Phenalkamine Technology

Innovation in the chemical industry often comes from unexpected places. Few examples illustrate this better than Phenalkamine technology, a family of epoxy curing agents derived from a renewable feedstock, that originates in an unlikely source, the shell of the Cashew Nut.

For many years, Phenalkamines have been recognised as some of the most effective epoxy curatives available for demanding protective coating applications. Their ability to cure at low temperatures, tolerate challenging application conditions and provide long-term corrosion resistance, has made them a preferred choice in marine, industrial and infrastructure coatings. Yet despite a successful history stretching back several decades, the technology continues to evolve.

Having spent much of my career developing epoxy curing agents and polymer technologies, I have always been fascinated by the potential of cardanol-based chemistry. The challenge has never been proving the value of Phenalkamines; their technical strengths are already well established. The opportunity lies in understanding how this chemistry can be refined to meet modern performance expectations, whilst addressing increasingly demanding regulatory and environmental requirements.

The origins of Phenalkamine technology can be traced back to Cashew Nutshell Liquid (CNSL), a naturally occurring material found within the protective shell surrounding the cashew nut. Unlike many Bio-based feedstocks, CNSL is an agricultural by-product rather than a food source, making it particularly attractive from a sustainability perspective. Through refinement, CNSL yields cardanol, a phenolic compound that provides

the foundation for a range of high-performance polymer technologies.

What makes cardanol particularly interesting is its unique molecular structure. The combination of a phenolic ring and a lengthy aliphatic side chain, creates a balance of properties that is difficult to achieve using conventional petrochemical feedstocks alone. When incorporated into epoxy curing agents, this structure contributes flexibility, hydrophobicity and excellent corrosion resistance.

These characteristics have helped establish Phenalkamines as a preferred technology in environments where moisture, low temperatures and difficult substrates can challenge conventional epoxy systems. For applicators working in marine and protective coatings, the combination of rapid cure, surface tolerance and long-term durability remains highly valuable.

However, the coating industry is changing. Increasing regulatory scrutiny and growing awareness of workplace exposure have encouraged formulators to look more closely at the composition of curing agents, and the presence of residual substances that may influence hazard classification. Customers are now seeking products that deliver performance, regulatory resilience and sustainability credentials simultaneously. This is where innovation becomes critical.

Throughout my career, I have found that the most effective advances in polymer science rarely come through wholesale reinvention. More often they result from a detailed understanding of how molecular architecture influences performance. Small changes in functionality, residual species and reaction pathways can have a significant impact on product behaviour, storage stability, hazard classification and coating performance.



This philosophy has guided much of the development work undertaken by Anacarda, Bitrez and Chemical Processing Services Ltd. By combining proprietary modification technologies with established Phenalkamine chemistry, we have focused on reducing residual free amine content, improving low-temperature cure performance, and enhancing long-term storage stability. In several cases this has resulted in products that retain the strengths associated with conventional Phenalkamines, whilst addressing some of their historical limitations.

One area of particular interest is the reduction of amine migration, and the associated phenomenon known as amine blush. Under certain environmental conditions, curing agents can react with atmospheric moisture and carbon dioxide, creating surface defects that affect appearance and intercoat adhesion. Whilst experienced formulators understand how to minimise these effects, reducing the sensitivity of the curing agent itself provides an additional route to improved reliability and greater application tolerance.

Equally important are advances in storage stability. Traditional Mannich base technologies can undergo changes during prolonged storage, particularly at elevated temperatures. Through careful molecular design and modification, it is possible to significantly improve stability, whilst maintaining cure speed and coating performance. For customers operating in warmer climates, this can provide tangible operational benefits.

What is particularly encouraging is that these developments demonstrate how sustainable feedstocks and high performance are no longer mutually exclusive. There was once a perception that Bio-based materials required compromise. Modern Phenalkamine technology demonstrates that renewable

raw materials can form the basis of highly sophisticated industrial products capable of meeting demanding technical specifications.

The Northwest has a proud history of chemical innovation, and I believe this remains one of the strengths of the UK chemical sector. The ability to combine scientific understanding with practical industrial problem solving, continues to create opportunities for new technologies that address global challenges.

The story of Phenalkamines is therefore about much more than cashew nuts or epoxy curing agents. It is an example of how established chemistry can evolve through innovation. By combining renewable feedstocks, advanced molecular design and practical formulation expertise, it is possible to develop products that satisfy the increasingly complex demands of modern industry. For a technology that originated from an agricultural by-product, that is quite a remarkable journey and one that is still far from complete.

Paul H. Jones CChem FRSC is Managing Director of Anacarda Ltd and Chemical Processing Services Ltd. He has spent more than three decades developing innovative polymer and epoxy curing technologies and is the inventor of numerous patented products used in coatings, composites, adhesives and specialist industrial applications.

For further details visit <https://www.anacarda.com/>



How can STFC support your business?

The Science Technology and Facilities Council (STFC), part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), is a world-leading multidisciplinary science organisation. Their goal is to deliver economic, societal, scientific, and international benefits to the UK. STFC operates world-class research facilities across the UK, including Daresbury Laboratory at the Sci-Tech Daresbury campus.

Daresbury Laboratory has a wide array of facilities and capabilities catering to the chemical industry: I-TAC for incubator facilities, Hartree Centre for digital technologies, Campus Technology Hub for rapid prototyping and ASTeC for surface deposition and analysis as well as electron-beam processing of materials.

Innovations Technology Access Centre (I-TAC)

STFC provides specialist equipped laboratory facilities to give ambitious entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs in biotech and chemistry sectors the space to support and grow. Known as the Innovations Technology Access Centre (I-TAC), the facilities are an affordable solution for businesses to access an impressive array of technologies, equipment, technical and business expertise. This reduces the risk associated with research and development, particularly for early-stage companies.

Offering flexible leases and fixed rental costs, I-TAC laboratories are provided for companies working in material chemistry, nanomaterials, chemical development and more. They are equipped with fume cupboards, deionised water, and also benefit from access to compressed air, CO₂, nitrogen and natural gas. The suite of equipment includes essential laboratory apparatus, high precision analytical equipment, and facilities for micro and nanofabrication and prototyping.

If you are interested in the facilities at I-TAC, please contact: incubationlabs-dl@stfc.ac.uk or visit, www.dl-incubation.stfc.ac.uk/ for more information.

Scale-up Laboratories at Vanguard House

STFC offers state of the art facilities and support to grow and scale a business effectively. Recognising the challenges that companies may face growing from a start-up to a small to

medium enterprise, our infrastructure enables companies to reduce the risks associated with upfront capital expenditure of setting up a laboratory. Our scale-up laboratories at Vanguard House give companies the opportunity to expand sustainably while maintaining efficient costs.

If you are interested in STFC's scale-up Laboratories, please contact: incubationlabs-dl@stfc.ac.uk or visit, www.dl-incubation.stfc.ac.uk/ for more information.

Campus Technology Hub (CTH)

The STFC's Campus Technology Hub (CTH) supports organisations, from start-ups to larger primes, to rapidly translate new ideas into reality through access to expertise, equipment, space, and a collaborative business ecosystem.

The CTH has a flexible approach to accommodating project work - whether it's prototyping, product design, or improving manufacturing processes – and provides scaling businesses access to leading equipment, reducing the risks associated with the development and trial of new products. The CTH's experts are also on hand to provide impartial advice and support to explore the art of the possible, accelerating time to market.

The Campus Technology Hub (CTH) provides access to a comprehensive suite of advanced prototyping technologies, including 3D printing, virtual reality, 3D scanning, and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. These capabilities enable businesses and innovators to design, develop, and test products using a wide range of materials, sizes, geometries, and performance characteristics. The facility also offers flexible workspace options, including open-plan collaboration areas, dedicated laboratory environments, secure workbenches, and private offices.

The CTH is also home to a cutting-edge 5G Ecosystem, providing businesses with a unique environment to develop, validate, and scale next-generation digital solutions. Through access to private 5G infrastructure, edge computing platforms, and advanced data services, organisations can explore innovative applications across sectors such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, and transport. The ecosystem offers a secure, low-latency test environment that supports real-world trials, accelerates innovation, and helps bring new products and services to market faster.

If you are interested in working with the team at the CTH, please contact: incubationlabs-dl@stfc.ac.uk



Hartree Centre

STFC Hartree Centre helps UK businesses and organisations of any size to explore and adopt artificial intelligence (AI), big data, cloud and high performance computing technologies for enhanced productivity, smarter innovation, and economic growth. A defining feature from its foundation is pragmatic support for businesses needing computational analogues of chemical and materials processes to understand properties, diagnose problems and create new capabilities. The Hartree Centre is well placed to assist in the development and production of new materials, processes, and their life impacts, as well as support broader digital transformation objectives.

The Hartree Centre also has excellent links into the local and national industry materials innovation ecosystem. It is a founder member of the Knowledge Centre for Materials Chemistry also provides businesses access to a range of materials capabilities, from academic partners like Manchester, Greater Manchester and Liverpool to Innovate UK's High Value Manufacturing Catapult: Centre for Process Innovation (CPI). The Hartree Centre as part of UKRI is also well connected to funding sources.

If you are interested in collaborating with the Hartree Centre, please contact: hartree@stfc.ac.uk

Accelerator Science and Technology Centre (ASTeC)

STFC's Accelerator Science and Technology Centre (ASTeC) studies all aspects of the science and technology of charged particle accelerators, including working with clients from a range of industries, including chemistry and materials. With capabilities in surface science and specialist materials development, including EDX, which allows the chemical composition of a surface to be mapped, and other spectroscopic surface analysis techniques. ASTeC also carry out activities in the development and deposition of thin films and superconducting material including for complex geometries.

Our Electron-Beam facilities use high energy electrons to modify materials for a variety of uses. This includes for cross-linking of polymers, curing of inks and sterilization of surfaces.

If you are interested in working with ASTeC, please contact: anthony.gleeson@stfc.ac.uk

National Cryogenic Facility (NCF)

NCF will be a new user-facility based on the Daresbury Campus, due for completion in 2028. It will include capability to test materials and components at cryogenics temperatures (down to 2Kelvin). This capability will support development of materials and systems for operation in the challenging low temperature environments required for key future technologies such as quantum computing, fusion energy and green aviation.

For more information about how the NCF facility could support your business please contact: rachel.james@stfc.ac.uk

Sci-Tech Daresbury

Sci-Tech Daresbury is a nationally recognised science and innovation campus, bringing together ambitious businesses, world-class scientific expertise and a collaborative innovation community. Through a joint venture between STFC, Halton Borough Council and Langtree, the campus supports science and technology organisations to innovate, scale and succeed.

The campus offers a range of high-quality laboratory and office space, supporting businesses at every stage of their growth journey. Laboratory facilities range from 750 to 2,000 sq ft and are suitable for wet biology, wet chemistry, instrumentation and pilot plant activities, with access to specialist infrastructure including fume extraction, three-phase power, compressed air, nitrogen and cooling water.

Looking ahead, Violet Phase Two will expand the campus's laboratory and office offer, delivering flexible space from 5,000 to 20,000 sq ft for businesses undertaking larger-scale R&D, scale-up and pilot plant activities.

If you are interested in enquiring about laboratory facilities at Sci-Tech Daresbury, contact: info@sci-techdaresbury.com



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council



Maximise Precision and Efficiency with Hosokawa Micron Batch Mixers

In today's competitive process industries, efficiency, product quality, and flexibility are more important than ever. At the intersection of these demands is **Hosokawa Micron B.V.**, a specialist in **mixing, drying, and agglomeration technologies** for powders and bulk solids.

With over a century of engineering experience and an unwavering focus on innovation, the company continues to support manufacturers across food, feed, pharmaceutical, and chemical sectors with **customised powder processing solutions**.

Whether it's a single machine or a complete, turnkey processing line, Hosokawa Micron B.V. (HMBV) delivers with precision, backed by extensive in-house R&D, test facilities, and a full-service project management approach.

From Vision to Commissioning: A Fully Integrated Approach

At the core of Hosokawa Micron's strength lies its ability to deliver **tailored solutions** - from concept to commissioning. Each project starts with a thorough inventory of the customer's product, process, and production environment. Space constraints, regulatory requirements, and integration into existing infrastructure are all taken into account early in the planning phase.

In close collaboration with the customer, the project team at HMBV develops a preliminary Process Flow Diagram and outlines a phased project plan. This integrated team includes sales engineers, process technologists, mechanical designers, and automation specialists, ensuring that every technical and operational angle is addressed.

Technology Backed by Testing

A key differentiator is the company's **state-of-the-art Test and Development Centre** in the Netherlands. Here, customers can trial a wide range of powder processing equipment at both lab and production scale. Trials assess not only mixing or drying performance, but also focus on aspects such as:

- **Cleanability**
- **Energy efficiency**
- **Safety compliance**
- **Ease of automation**



View in the Hosokawa Micron test facilities

These insights are invaluable for defining optimal equipment configurations and process parameters - well before final design and fabrication begin. Hosokawa also offers full integration of advanced control systems, including tracking & tracing, batch identification, and seamless connection to customer ERP or MES platforms. Control software can be developed in-house for maximum flexibility.



Turnkey mixing plant

Beyond the Core Equipment -Turnkey Capabilities-

While Hosokawa's core competencies lie in mixing, drying and agglomeration the company is perfectly shaped to supply complete system solutions integrating a combination of all core competences of the Hosokawa Group this includes pneumatic conveying, weighing, filling, and packaging technologies - offering customers a truly turnkey processing line from raw material to finished product.



Mixing Matters: 10 Expert Tips for Selecting the Right Mixer

Selecting the right mixer is not a one-size-fits-all decision. With decades of experience and a broad equipment portfolio, Hosokawa Micron shares 10 critical tips to guide engineers and process developers in choosing the optimal solution:

- **Batch vs Continuous**

Continuous mixers offer compactness and efficiency, but require complex controls. Batch mixers, on the other hand, enable full traceability and multiple process steps within one cycle - ideal for flexibility.

- **Batch Size**

Bigger isn't always better. Oversized batch mixers may not yield more homogeneity, even with longer mixing times. Proper sizing is key.

- **Mixing Time**

Shorter mixing times reduce operational costs and preserve product integrity - crucial for fragile or sensitive powders.

- **Energy Consumption**

Installed power doesn't tell the whole story. The Nauta® conical screw mixer, for example, consumes minimal energy by mixing small portions continuously within a gentle vortex.

- **Discharge Efficiency**

Opt for designs that ensure complete discharge

without residue. Discharge port size and flow characteristics are essential for process hygiene and accuracy.

- **Internal Finish**

Especially in food and pharma applications, internal surfaces must be smooth and easy to clean - typically in polished stainless steel - to prevent product build-up.

- **Cleanability**

If multiple products are processed, quick and thorough cleaning is vital. Options like CIP (Cleaning-In-Place) or SIP (Sterilisation-In-Place) systems can support strict hygiene standards.

- **Clear Process Objectives**

Capacity, accuracy, product characteristics, and environmental conditions must be aligned to define the right specification. Clarity in process goals leads to better equipment outcomes.

- **System Integration**

Even the best mixer won't perform if upstream or downstream processes cause segregation. Ensure the mixer complements the total system design.

- **Tailored Solutions**

Thanks to its extensive product range and engineering know-how, Hosokawa Micron can configure customised mixing systems - whether you're blending micro-ingredients or scaling up high-volume production.

Our Next Step to Higher Operational Efficiency

Don't let mixer selection be a blind decision. Book a **free test** run at our Doetinchem Test Centre and see your energy savings, blend uniformity and cleaning performance in action - risk free. Alternatively, request a **custom ROI study** today and discover how Hosokawa Micron batch mixers can transform your powder-processing operation.

Trusted Partner in Powder Processing

From raw ingredient handling to final packaging, Hosokawa Micron B.V. delivers end-to-end solutions that meet the

highest technical and regulatory standards. With a customer-first mindset and a robust portfolio of equipment and services, the company remains a **reliable partner for process innovation**.

Elevate your process reliability, product quality and profitability - partner with Hosokawa Micron B.V. for engineering excellence in batch mixing.

Contact us now at [hosokawa-micron-bv.com](https://www.hosokawa-micron-bv.com)

0314-373 333

Nauta mixers for
Chemical applications



**HOSOKAWA
MICRON B.V.**

Join today...

Chemicals northwest

Chemicals Northwest (CNW) is a dynamic industry-led cluster that brings together chemical manufacturers, supply-chain partners, innovators, and educators across the North West and beyond to strengthen one of the UK's most important industrial regions. With a strong focus on collaboration, sustainability, and technological advancement, the organisation provides a platform for networking, knowledge-sharing, and strategic support that helps members thrive in a competitive global market. By championing innovation and fostering meaningful connections, Chemicals Northwest plays a vital role in driving growth, supporting skills development, and showcasing the region's world-class chemical expertise. Owned by the Chemical Industries Association (CIA), it serves over 110 members and has celebrated 26 years in operation.

"Great minds collaborate, lets think together"
- become a member...

www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk



- Connecting the community through 'Elements' Magazine
- Contributing to the industry's strategic voice
- Promoting science and engineering
- Networking events & yearly awards
- Improving our industry image
- Interactive workshops
- Supporting projects

Atlas Copco Rental Gears Up For Growth With Two Key Appointments

The UK and Ireland division of Atlas Copco Rental has strengthened its senior leadership as it looks to accelerate new market growth.

The company has appointed a new Operations Manager and promoted a long-standing employee to role of Sales and Business Development Manager as it looks to further develop its business lines and implement a divisional strategy to systematically grow its rental division.

Byrone Thorne, who joined Atlas Copco in 2000, has held a number of roles within the business. His wealth of experience includes sales and marketing roles with both Atlas Copco Rental and Rand-Air, a brand under the Atlas Copco Rental division in South Africa. He moved from South Africa to Boom, Belgium in 2023 to take up the role of Sales Manager for Rental Europe before being appointed to his current role of Sales and Business Development Manager for the UK and Ireland.

David Walker joins Atlas Copco Rental as Operations Manager UK and Ireland. In his role he will oversee all operational aspects of the rental business with a focus on operational improvement and identifying areas of growth, whilst strengthening internal relationships and processes to drive continued success.

With more than 25 years' experience within the specialist hire industry, holding senior positions across both sales and operational management, David's background spans the industrial, commercial, and construction sectors, particularly within utilities and power generation.

Byrone and David's appointments, alongside that of Geoff Careless to Business Line Manager UK and Ireland last year, further bolsters the company's ambitions to expand its

offerings across air, power, steam, nitrogen and cooling. As well as further enhancing its planned rentals with a focus on meeting the diverse needs of customers.

In addition to its rental assets, Atlas Copco Rental provides a host of supporting services including freight and logistics; installation, commissioning and decommissioning; fuel management and energy management; on-site operators; training, supervision, and specialist technicians.

Byrone Thorne, commented on his promotion: "I'm delighted to be working with such a fantastic sales team that is already well established across the UK and Ireland.

"Together, we will put in to practice further frameworks to ensure the successful delivery of tailored solutions to our customers across air, power (incl. energy storage), heating and cooling."

David Walker added: "Atlas Copco Rental has a rich history, strong structure and a positive culture. This, alongside the growth opportunities within the business were key factors in attracting me to the role.

"With a history in sales before moving into operational leadership, I look forward to harnessing my experience to develop and enhance the already exceptional capabilities and expertise within the UK and Ireland team."

In response to the energy transition, electrification and decommissioning of assets, Atlas Copco Rental is looking to new markets, investing in new technologies and developing more sustainable and efficient rental solutions to support the requirements of its customers in industrial and offshore markets.

For more information, visit www.atlascopcorental.com



L-R Byrone Thorne and David Walker.



Newson Gale Ltd

For over 40 years, Newson Gale has provided its customers with static control solutions that reflect a standards-based approach to mitigating the ignition risks associated with static electricity in Ex atmospheres. We focus exclusively on the development, manufacture, and distribution of static control solutions that are designed to mitigate against the accumulation of static electricity on plant equipment used in Ex areas.

Our standards-based approach to the development and manufacture of static control solutions reflects our customer's desire for implementing hardware solutions that support standard operating procedures (SOPs) for personnel engaged in running processes susceptible to discharges of incendive electrostatic sparks.

The processes that require a hardware solution to support best practice with static control procedures are seen in the manufacture and distribution of potentially combustible products in the petrochemical, speciality chemical, oil & gas, food ingredients, and pharmaceutical industries.

To support our customers with the Essential Health and Safety Requirements of the ATEX Workplace Directive (99/92/EC), as developers of static control solutions destined for installation and operation in Ex atmospheres, we follow the requirements of the ATEX Equipment Directive (2014/34/EU) and the group of EN 60079 "Explosive atmospheres" product standards that specify the equipment protection techniques that shall be used, in addition to the classification of the hazardous areas in which they shall be installed.

As a manufacturer of Ex certified equipment, our quality management systems are audited on an annual basis for compliance with ISO 9001, and, more specifically, the subset of ISO 9001 that applies to quality management systems for the manufacture of Ex certified products, ISO/IEC 80079-34:2018, "Explosive atmospheres – Part 34: Application of quality management systems for Ex Product manufacture".



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Winsearch

Specialist permanent recruitment for the chemicals and technical sectors

Winsearch is a permanent recruitment consultancy with deep expertise across the chemicals, pharmaceutical, and technical engineering industries. Operating as the permanent recruitment division of the PROMAN Group, we work with clients across the UK to identify, attract and place professionals who make a real difference to their organisations.

Understanding the sector

Finding the right permanent talent in a highly regulated, technically complex industry is rarely straightforward. Businesses in the chemicals and pharmaceutical sectors face a persistent skills gap, increasing competition for qualified candidates, and the ongoing challenge of retaining expertise at all levels. Winsearch exists to address that challenge directly, working as a genuine recruitment partner rather than a transactional supplier.

What we do

Our consultants specialise in permanent and executive search appointments across a broad range of functions, including R&D, quality assurance, process engineering,

operations, health and safety, and senior leadership. We take time to understand the specific technical requirements, culture and commercial context of each client before beginning a search, ensuring the candidates we present are genuinely well-matched.

Our approach

Recruitment in the chemicals sector requires more than a database search. Winsearch combines market intelligence, a developed candidate network and honest consultancy to deliver results. Whether filling a business-critical technical role or conducting a confidential executive search, we are committed to getting it right.

We are proud to be joining Chemicals Northwest and look forward to building lasting relationships across the membership community.



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Supplying to the Chemical Industry

Knowing your local supply chains is important, and suppliers of expertise, solutions and great products are right here in the northwest. CNW members have a strong association with and many years of experience supplying to the chemical industry. The companies listed in this directory cover a wide range of products and services. They have established customers in the sector, with proven track records. Many will be well known, long-standing firms and there will also be new and innovative businesses that you may not have heard about. Effective supply partnerships, delivering success for all! For more details, the websites for the listed companies and organisations can be found at:

<https://www.cia.org.uk/chemicalsnorthwest/Membership/Our-Members/>

Chemicals Distribution, logistics & chemical handling

2M Holdings Ltd

Chemical distribution and related services of sample management, storage and blending. Provision of AdBlue, Samsol products, packed chlorine and TRIKLONE & PERKLONE chlorinated solvents. Markets served include: automotive, precision cleaning, coating, oilfield & refineries, flavours, fragrances, surfactants for personal care, household and industrial cleaning and pharmaceuticals.

Actikem Ltd

An ISO9001 certified business, specialising in a range of chemical processes and manufacturing services, including mixing, storage and re-packaging. We provide toll and custom manufacturing services for SMEs as well as blue-chip organisations, and supply customers with on-tap production facilities, offering them potential cost-savings and greater flexibility.

Camida

Established in 1988, is a customer-focused supplier of specialised chemical products. We provide global sourcing solutions across industries, meeting strict international standards. Our expert sourcing team handles over 3,000 annual enquiries, ensuring seamless procurement. Camida simplifies your supply chain, acting as your trusted partner in sourcing and supply.

Hibiscus

Hibiscus is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of chemical labels and hazard communication compliance software. For over 40 years they have specialised in providing high-quality labelling solutions for the chemical and hazardous goods industries and are renowned for their knowledge of industry legislation and for the durability and excellent performance of their products.

Hosokawa Micron Ltd

Integrated powder processing technologies including: size reduction, air classification, mixing, drying, containment equipment such as gloveboxes and downflow booths. Contract processing services for 1kg to multi-tonne lots. Remote monitoring solutions that include: condition monitoring, analytics for improving product quality and energy efficiency and on-line diagnostics for predictive maintenance and improved plant availability.

Indaver Solvents Ltd

Part of the international environmental group Indaver. Indaver Solvents offers comprehensive in-house and end-to-end solutions for industrial (non) hazardous solvent waste and recycling requirements. They support with lab analysis, pilot scale trials, and recycling at commercial scale. With their Cheshire-based solvent recovery installations, combined with bespoke fine chemicals manufacturing, they provide continuous, sustainable and high-quality recovery solutions to the Chemical and Pharmaceutical industry. Find out more here - Solvent recycling - Indaver

KGS Chemicals Ltd

With over 21 years of industry experience, KGS Chemicals Ltd was established in 2023, providing high-quality chemical blending, packing, sieving, and palletising services. We support major and reputable organisations, delivering reliable, flexible solutions tailored to customer needs.

Klüber

Global manufacturer of over 2500 speciality lubricants for virtually every industry, Klüber Lubrication high-performance speciality lubricants and effective lubrication management programs enable customers to achieve their operational efficiency goals, increase reliability, and lower the total cost of ownership across assets.

The Rhenus Group

One of the leading logistics specialists with global business operations and annual turnover amounting to EUR 8.2 billion. 41,000 employees work at 1,330 business sites in more than 70+ countries and develop innovative solutions along the complete supply chain. Whether providing transport, warehousing, customs clearance or value-added services, the family-owned business pools its operations in various business units where the needs of customers are always the major focus.

Education, training & skills

Catalyst Science Discovery Centre

An independent charitable trust playing a pivotal role in promoting science across the Northwest. Catalyst works in conjunction with industry partners to excite young people about all STEM subjects and careers available within the science sector. Companies can also sponsor a local school to visit and attend industry days.

Centre for Industry Education Collaboration

CIEC supports companies in making credible and sustainable links with primary schools, in order to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. We train STEM professionals to improve their communication skills, and develop industry-focused activities for use directly by teachers or by ambassadors visiting schools.

Chemistry with Cabbage

We work with students of all ages, demonstrating through practical experiments, the relevance of chemistry in solving problems. Research shows that children make career choices very early on, so capturing their imagination early is important. Chemical companies are welcome to support our hands-on work in primary schools.

IChemE

The leading professional qualifying body for chemical, biochemical and process engineers.

Engineering products & services

adi Group

Delivers bespoke engineering projects across Chemical, Petrochemical, Oil & Gas, Food & Beverage, Automotive, Life Sciences and wider manufacturing sectors. As a trusted partner to major global brands, adi also provides services through 30+ specialist divisions. With approaching 1,000 staff in the UK and Ireland, nearly 10% of whom are full-time apprentices, adi Group offers unbroken delivery accountability.

Aflex Hose

Part of Watson-Marlow Fluid Technology Solutions and Spirax Group, is a global manufacturer of high-performance PTFE-lined hose assemblies for demanding chemical processing applications. Aflex hoses enable the safe transfer of aggressive chemicals, solvents and high-purity fluids, helping manufacturers to improve safety, reliability, compliance and operational efficiency.

AM Technology

AM Technology are experts in continuous manufacturing solutions for the chemical and pharmaceutical industries with their patented Coflore flow reactor technology suitable for a wide range of chemical processes, including multiphase reactions with slurries, from grams to kilotons.

CDR Pumps UK

An independent UK manufacturer of chemical process pumps and fluid handling solutions for the chemical, pharmaceutical, nuclear and manufacturing industries. We deliver an extensive range of high performance solutions for demanding applications, including magnetically-driven pumps, mechanically-sealed centrifugal pumps, diaphragm pumps, vacuum pumps and systems, side-channel pumps, thermal oil pumps, vertical pumps and turbine pumps. Our team of engineers provides bespoke solutions, tailored to meet each client's specific requirements. We focus on quality, reliability, and performance, ensuring every pump and system delivers optimal efficiency in even the most critical chemical, pharmaceutical, and nuclear processes.

Carbis Loadtec

Carbis Loadtec design, manufacture and supply safe road and rail tanker access systems and road / rail tanker, IBC and drum filling systems. Carbis Loadtec is leader in packaged solutions including loading arms, fall prevention systems, meter or blending skids and storage tank equipment.

CRP

A leading provider of Fluoropolymer PTFE/PFA lined piping and associated equipment. Supplying everything necessary to construct fully integrated piping systems, whilst also offering ongoing support and education from these experts. Their products withstand the most challenging environments, ensuring safety and reliability in even the most demanding applications.

Corrous Industrial Group

A UK-based industrial services provider delivering critical, multidiscipline support across industrial and infrastructure environments nationwide. Unlike single-discipline providers, Corrous reduces shutdown interfaces by combining access, cleaning & preparation, inspection & integrity works, and protective coating through a single, accountable partner.

Dron & Dickson

Dron & Dickson are recognised market leaders in the supply and maintenance of hazardous area electrical equipment. Our Engineering Services and Wholesale divisions offer bespoke solutions incorporating the very latest industry standard and safety legislation.

Know your supply chains

Engineering products & services

GPEC Group

Global Piping and Engineering Consultants. Made up of 4 business division including GPEC Ltd and GPEC Supply.

GPEC Ltd is the UK representative for manufacturers of valves, heat exchangers, expansion joints & other fabricated equipment for engineered and niche applications.

GPEC Supply is a supplier of valves and engineered equipment for MRO and Project specific requirements.

Laker Vent Engineering Ltd

Supply, fabrication and installation of process and utility piping systems. Project management, detailing, procurement, on and off-site fabrication and installation of pipework and coded welding. Associated steelwork supporting and mechanical installation of plant and equipment. Testing and Handover. Pipework and steelwork is fabricated to specific customer-needs and conforms to all appropriate ISO, BS EN and ASME standards and specifications.

Langfields

Langfields are specialist fabricators of process plant equipment for the Hydrogen, Waste to Energy, Pharmaceutical, Petrochemical, Chemical, Nuclear and other process industries.

Lokring UK

Lokring UK offer technical engineering support and sales for Lokring technology across the UK.

The Lokring "Cold Weld" pipe and tube joint reduces the need for hot work, NDT inspection and reduces on site resources. Code compliant with ASME B31. Lokring is a Safer, Faster, Lower Cost replacement for site welding and flanged fabrication.

Manntek AB

Supply of safety dry disconnect and safety breakaway couplings. Comprehensive range of specialist dry quick release couplings to suit 99% of known chemical applications. Bespoke solutions with a size range of ¾" to 8" nb. Dry disconnect couplings are made to NATO standard Stanag 3756.

Newson Gale

A global leader in static earthing and bonding solutions, helping chemical manufacturers mitigate electrostatic ignition risks and improve process safety.

Our certified product range includes Earth-Rite® monitored grounding systems, Bond-Rite® self-testing clamps, and Cen-Stat™ grounding equipment, backed by over 40 years of industry expertise.

O'Hare Engineering Design Ltd

Innovative, Detailed, Working Solutions. O'Hare Engineering Design Ltd. are providers of 3D laser scanning, mechanical and pipe design solutions. With over 18 years' experience, we know that accuracy is fundamentally the most important element in every engineering design project, so our client focused approach uses the latest technology to provide an effective solution that is sure to hit the brief, every time.

ProDecon®

Providing industrial service solutions to the Oil&Gas, Chemical, Power, Pharmaceutical and Industrial sectors. Specialising in hazardous hydrocarbon and chemical environments. ProDecon® has a unique range of technical expertise, that enables us to support customers with restoring process performance and providing maintenance risk management through bespoke industrial cleaning solutions.

Stäubli

Offering a comprehensive range of connection solutions, including dry disconnect couplings and safety breakaways, ensuring the highest level of product integrity and installation security in a wide range of applications.

Studley Engineering Ltd

A multi-disciplined mechanical and electrical engineering contractor, providing a comprehensive service to the process industries in disciplines including: steelwork, welding, maintenance, site services, pipework, tanks and vessels. Over time we have gained an enviable reputation as a reliable, responsive, motivated contractor that delivers safe, high quality, cost effective work.

Valvworx Ltd

Valve breakdowns are commonplace, and high on the list of painful problems for Chemical Plant Operators. At Valvworx Ltd, we can support you with valve maintenance & repair solutions, and offer advice, specification and supply of new valves, ensuring suitability for the process they are intended for, and lasting longer in service.

Yokogawa

Yokogawa is a leading provider of field instrumentation, safety systems, industrial automation and digital transformation solutions. IIOT, OT Cybersecurity and Alarm Management are specific areas of focus for Yokogawa's Advanced Solutions team with a number of major projects currently being delivered across Europe.

Engineering project management & energy

Atlas Copco Rental UK

Provides temporary cost and energy efficient solutions for long- or short-term demands, planned maintenance or unexpected emergencies. Our engineers design the most suitable temporary installation, utilising our fleet of state-of-the-art equipment which includes 100% oil-free Class 0 and oil-injected compressed air at medium or high pressure, generators for power, and nitrogen. Quality of service, environmental care and personnel safety are guaranteed by our triple ISO certification.

AXIOM

A multi-award-winning, asset management solutions provider, supporting the chemical, pharmaceutical, oil & gas, bulk storage, power, renewables and related industries. With integration of their Materials, Mechanical, Inspection, Process Engineering and Process Safety Services, Axiom are uniquely positioned to identify and mitigate key through-life risks across the entire asset life cycle.

Cobalt Energy

Delivering specialist consulting, project delivery, and operational support across the waste, renewables, and energy sectors. Spanning the full project lifecycle, from technical and commercial consulting to engineering, construction, and operations, we provide practical, sustainable, and commercially viable solutions for new developments, facility optimisation, and expert due diligence.

DMD Design Solutions

A UK-based, multi-discipline engineering consultancy delivering fully project-managed solutions to process industries. We support clients from concept through to implementation, providing mechanical, process and project engineering expertise to improve safety, reliability, and efficiency across chemical, energy, and manufacturing operations.

Eastgate Engineering

An engineering and construction specialist that delivers complex, high-risk infrastructure projects without compromising safety or quality. As a trusted partner to our clients, we integrate with their teams and focus on the success of their

project through collaboration, technical expertise, clear cost certainty and a commitment to safety. Eastgate combines engineering excellence with a people-first approach rooted in its Irish heritage.

Graham Hart (Process Technology) Ltd

Graham Hart Process Technology Ltd is a global leader in the design and manufacture of high integrity heat transfer and specialist pressure equipment. Their knowledge, reputation and expertise makes them the first choice for many companies desiring guaranteed mechanical and process design solutions, for their individual heat exchanger and pressure vessel needs. Providing innovative, bespoke solutions to a variety of sectors for over 50 years, they have a skilled, agile and talented team that has achieved a 100% On Time In Full delivery record for their clients since 2016.

Geosyntec

a consulting and engineering firm serving the chemicals, pharmaceuticals and wider manufacturing sectors addressing new ventures and complex problems involving land contamination, transactions, permitting and compliance, and civil infrastructure. We operate from over 130 offices located in the UK & Ireland, North America, Sweden, Spain, Middle East, and Australia.

John F Hunt Regeneration Ltd

John F Hunt Regeneration are a trusted partner for brownfield demolition, remediation, water treatment and enabling services. As part of the John F Hunt Group, we have the scale and financial stability to provide a complete works package no matter the size of the scheme.

Key Integrated Services

Key Integrated Services supports chemical manufacturers in COMAH and high-hazard environments by removing compliance ambiguity, asset uncertainty, contractor fragmentation, documentation gaps and infrastructure risk. We deliver auditable, engineering-led FM project delivery, competent local resource, controlled reporting and safer operational resilience where compliance, safety and licence-to-operate confidence are critical.

On-Site Energy

Delivers and operates fully funded, behind-the-meter energy solutions for energy-intensive industries across the UK and Europe. We design, build, own and maintain systems, providing off-balance sheet Energy-as-a-Service with guaranteed p/kWh pricing—reducing costs, lowering emissions, improving resilience, and future-proofing operational performance without capital investment.

PM Group

PM Group is an international engineering and project delivery partner offering specialist environment, sustainability and process safety services to support safe, compliant, and low-carbon project delivery. From hazard identification, risk assessment, and regulatory compliance to net-zero strategies and sustainable facility design, PM Group helps clients manage risk and achieve environmental goals across complex, high-hazard facilities.

px Engineering

Deliver expert engineering, project delivery, and consultancy services across the energy, chemicals, oil and gas, and renewables industries. As part of px Group, we combine project execution capabilities with our knowledge and skills as owner and operator of Upper Tier COMAH facilities to support all phases of a project lifecycle from concept through to FEED, detail engineering design, procurement, construction, commissioning, and handover.

Engineering, IT & process consultants

Gexcon UK Ltd

Safety and risk management and advanced dispersion, explosion and fire modelling. Unique expertise and shared knowledge on how to prevent explosion accidents. Carrying out accident investigations and dedicated facilities for physical testing. Ventilation and dispersion modelling also available. Hazardous area classification and quantitative and qualitative risk analysis and assessment.

OpenPSM

OpenPSM® is a cloud-based software solution, developed to help businesses manufacturing or handling hazardous chemicals meet the requirements of modern risk-based process safety legislation. Providing a unique framework allowing you to log and assess every aspect of your company's process safety management programme.

OpenPSM® necessarily supports engagement from shopfloor to boardroom, allowing everyone with an active part to play in process safety to have relevant information to hand.

Siemens Digital Factory & Process Industries and Drives

Siemens Digital Industries (DI) is a global leader in automation and digitalisation, dedicated to driving the digital transformation of the manufacturing and process industries. Their comprehensive Digital Enterprise portfolio offers an end-to-end suite of products, solutions, and services designed to integrate and digitalise the entire value chain. This portfolio is tailored to meet the specific needs of the Chemical Industry, enhancing productivity, flexibility and efficiency. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies and close collaboration with customers, Siemens DI helps businesses achieve greater innovation and competitiveness.

Environment, health & safety risk management

Ambipar

The global leader in environmental solutions, operating across six continents. It offers a comprehensive range of services, including emergency response to industrial accidents, hazardous spills, natural disasters, environmental management, waste disposal, sustainable recovery, and specialised training and consultancy. Ambipar supports governments, corporations, and infrastructure networks, ensuring regulatory compliance, risk mitigation, and long-term environmental stewardship worldwide.

BakerRisk Europe Ltd

Dedicated to help predict, prevent and mitigate hazards and explosions, fires and toxic releases. Specialising in process safety and risk management, we help clients understand their risks and offer cost-effective risk management solutions. Success is delivered through proven knowledge and experience, innovative research and unique engineering capabilities.

International Fire Protection

Specialises in providing fire safety solutions for high-hazard industries, including COMAH sites, power generation, and hydrocarbon processing facilities. Our expertise includes ATEX and SIL-rated Fire & Gas detection systems, as well as advanced fire detection and protection systems tailored to meet the specific safety needs of these critical sectors.

PM Group

PM Group is an international engineering and project delivery partner offering specialist environment, sustainability and process safety services to support safe, compliant, and low-carbon project delivery. From hazard identification, risk assessment, and regulatory compliance to net-zero strategies and sustainable facility design, PM Group helps clients manage risk and achieve environmental goals across complex, high-hazard facilities.

RAS Ltd

Expertise that covers the full range of risk assessment and management services across: safety risk, business risk and environmental risk. Carry out Quantitative risk Assessments and Predictive & consequence modelling, through 'softer' risks affecting an organisation's reputation.

SLR Consulting

A unique blend of leadership, management, consulting, engineering and training services is offered to the chemicals industry. A forerunner in sustainable process safety management combined with proven business improvement capabilities enables delivery of practical solutions to promote safety and efficiency in design, operation and maintenance of complex hazardous facilities.

Facilities, finance and other business services

Pen Underwriting incorporating OAMPS

Specialist Insurance services to high hazard manufacturing and haulage industries. Motor fleets, property, liability and transit policies. We help clients minimise risk through proactive risk management and a range of training and response services to assist companies in planning for and dealing with incidents and emergencies.

Sci-Tech Daresbury

We are a national science and innovation campus, and enterprise zone providing a range of office, laboratory and workshop accommodation for technology companies (from a desk to large laboratory and office units). Companies have access to a range of facilities covering material analysis, virtual design & simulation, and rapid prototyping.

STFC Innovations Technology Access Centre

A unique, fully equipped space for innovation, research and development. Providing flexible access to laboratory space, "hot labs" and scientific equipment. Ideally suited to start-up companies, smaller and medium size enterprises and R&D team from established companies.

Laboratory products, testing and services

Charles River

With 30+ years of experience, Charles River offers comprehensive regulatory testing, including toxicology and ecotoxicology, environmental fate and biodegradation, regulatory consultancy, and analytical support. With innovative in vitro / New Alternative Methods (NAMs) Charles River is pioneering in the reduction of animal usage in product safety, helping streamline programs for the most efficient and ethical path to registration.

Kemea Ltd

Offering expert formulation services, from concept to creation. With 25+ years of formulation experience, we'll guide you through the development process, focusing on your project needs. We also offer packaging, labelling, and delivery, both in the UK and internationally. Partner with Kemea Ltd to bring your product vision to life.

Metrohm

one of the world's most trusted names in high-precision instruments for chemical analysis. With a legacy of innovation and reliability, Metrohm is committed to delivering pioneering, sustainable solutions to customers across the globe. As a globally active company, Metrohm embraces its economic, social, and environmental responsibilities. We don't just innovate - we act with purpose.

Scymaris Ltd

We offer high quality and cost-effective ecotoxicology, environmental fate, and chemistry services to the global agrochemical, pharmaceutical, industrial chemicals & animal health industries. Our state-of-the-art laboratory is equipped with controlled temperature rooms, freshwater and seawater testing facilities and is accredited to work according to GLP and most Global regulatory requirements.

Legal & patents

Appleyard Lees LLP

Patent and trademark attorneys. Aim to obtain the best possible patent protection for clients. Experience of product clearance against competitor patents and in due diligence for mergers and acquisitions. Advice on licensing issues and collaboration agreements relating to IP.

Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

Global legal company providing legal, regulatory and advocacy assistance to the chemical and performance material industries. Expertise that emphasises areas that mean the most to industry such as environmental, mergers and acquisitions, commercial finance, construction, litigation, IP, public policy and international expansion.

WP Thompson

Intellectual property attorneys providing high quality advice to start-ups, SMEs or FTSE 100 companies. Team of experienced IP attorneys specializing in chemistry and life sciences, with first degrees and PhDs in these fields. Securing the most appropriate, cost effective and commercially valuable protection for your intellectual investment and innovation.

Know your supply chains

REACH and chemicals services

Chemical Processing Services Ltd

[CPS] provides innovative technology and/or niche speciality polymers with a focus on an absence or reduced CMR content and regulatory compliance, sustainability, and high process or technical performance.

CIRS

CIRS Group was established in 2007 and is a leading product safety and regulatory consulting firm. It utilizes its technical expertise, resources, and international network to provide comprehensive compliance services including chemical notifications and registrations, global GHS compliance, laboratory testing, R&D, and data services across multiple industries globally.

Dr Knoell Consult Ltd

An independent service provider for the chemical and related industries. Globally the Knoell group has over 450 employees covering all aspects of regulatory compliance for industrial chemicals, agrochemicals and biocides: e.g., strategic planning, dossier preparation, exposure assessment, SDS preparation, and from REACH to K-REACH!

GlobalMSDS

A complete safety data sheet/literature and regulatory service for your entire product communications in any language, style and format required. Hazmix is a new 'pay as you go' web-browser product that is setting a new standard in SDS authoring. A Solutions service that also provides technical advice.

Intertek Regulatory Services

Health, environmental and regulatory services for implementation of chemicals management. Worldwide registration of chemicals, food contact compliance and notification, global chemicals compliance, design/optimisation of toxicological and eco-toxicological studies, hazardous substance management, EU cosmetic and biocidal products compliance, classification & labelling, SDS consulting.

WSP in the UK

Recognising that chemical companies face a wide range of regulatory challenges, WSP's centre of excellence can assist companies with chemical compliance and safety obligations. The team's role is to facilitate a company's route to compliance in areas such as chemical registration (including EU and UK-REACH), supply chain management, GHS/CLP and DGSA, amongst other safety related services.

Yordas Group

Yordas Group is a leading provider of scientific, environmental, human health and global regulatory consulting services. They offer chemical regulatory support, expert scientific services and support on chemicals management and product stewardship, global hazard communication, hazard and risk assessment, analytical and (eco)tox testing.

Recruitment

Adepto Technical Recruitment

A specialist engineering, manufacturing and scientific recruitment consultancy that focuses upon the provision of permanent staff and contract resource to the Chemicals industry. Established in 2015, Adepto has quickly become the partner of choice for many blue-chip and SME manufacturers, engineering companies and consultancies due to our deep knowledge of the industry, credibility and professionalism.

Alchem Partners

Recruitment in the chemical industry shouldn't feel transactional - and at Alchem Partners, it never is.

We are a specialist recruitment business working across engineering, operations, commercial, sales, and supply chain roles within the chemical sector, supporting clients across the UK, EMEA, and North America.

Our work is built around two things: deep market knowledge and genuine human connection. Every assignment is underpinned by a fully mapped view of the market, allowing us to identify and engage the best talent - not just the most visible.

We meet every suitable candidate personally, whether on video or in person, because people don't join companies on paper, they join them in real life. Understanding what drives someone, what environment they thrive in, and where they want their career to go is at the heart of everything we do.

From ambitious start-ups to global corporations, Alchem Partners helps chemical businesses build leadership teams that actually last.

RMG

RMG is an award-winning headhunting consultancy with a difference - we make it our business to search and understand who's who in the Chemicals and STEM sectors and have the know-how to find talented people who will deliver lasting impact and add financial value to your organisation.

SRG

SRG are industry leaders in Science, Engineering and Clinical Recruitment. We empower individuals and businesses to power the future of STEM. With true specialist knowledge, we support a full spectrum of technical roles and talent solutions across the whole product life cycle, from R&D, through analysis, manufacturing, and engineering to market access.

Winsearch

A specialist permanent recruitment consultancy placing professionals across the chemicals, pharmaceutical, and technical engineering sectors. From site-level technical roles to senior leadership appointments, we connect organisations with high-calibre candidates who drive performance. As part of the PROMAN Group, we bring commercial expertise, sector knowledge, and a people-first approach to every search.

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