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Go-ahead for merger talks with PPMA

Following the April general meeting, SHAPA's council have recommended to the members that the merger discussions with PPMA should be progressed, and have appointed a negotiating team to construct a final proposal that can be put to our membership at the July AGM.

Discussions have been taking place for some time now, resulting in the draft proposal from PPMA that proposes SHAPA as a fully integrated entity within the PPMA organisation, but with its own distinct identity and programme of activities to develop and enhance membership and services offered to the group.

Members had the opportunity to discuss these proposals at the last general meeting, and a majority vote was taken to progress the merger talks.

The benefits

The full details of the current proposal have already been circulated to members, but in essence, the key benefits of the mergers are:

- ◆ All the benefits of PPMA membership without having to pay the normal joining fee
- ◆ Greater networking

opportunities

- ◆ Wider representation on Technical Bodies and enhanced technical support for members
- ◆ More powerful voice focussed on our industry with ability to influence regulators and profit oriented Exhibition organisers
- ◆ SHAPA identity is preserved
- ◆ SHAPA structure, operating style and objectives are unaltered
- ◆ Guaranteed representation on Board for 5 years
- ◆ Improved rates for PPMA show
- ◆ Access to large relevant database

The concerns

A number of concerns related to: identity and

"the unique structure, operation and identity of SHAPA must be retained"

Doug Henry, SHAPA Chairman

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focus, fee base, size of representation on Board and affect on status of Associate members were raised and are fully understood by the Council. The negotiating team will take these concerns into the discussions with the PPMA and will be looking for firm assurances from PPMA on these issues.

It's your choice...

'Our association is at a real crossroads' says general secretary, John Whitehead.

'This is a very important decision, and of such magnitude that it will only go ahead with a 2/3 majority vote.

'I hope that all members will give these proposals objective consideration, and come to the AGM on 11th July to have the opportunity to fully debate this issue.'

SHAPA technical update

PRODUCT NOISE SEMINAR

SHAPA's very first seminar on product noise was held on 28th March, and has been declared a resounding success by attendees.

Despite being long recognised as a cause of hearing damage, 1.3 million workers are exposed to noise at harmful levels. A staggering 170,000 suffer from deafness or other conditions from noise at work - yet work related hearing loss is preventable.

Discussing why noise is a problem was **Tim Ward**, HM specialist inspector

(noise and vibration), who also explained the legislative framework regarding noise, with some sound advice on how manufacturers and suppliers can comply. "It is all manufacturers duty to produce quieter equipment - or at least state what the noise emission is."

Rukhsana Adam, technical services development manager at Sound Research Laboratories offered a fascinating and immensely practical approach to defining noise and design

considerations when trying to reduce it. "If you have a structure-borne noise, there is little merit in investing in an expensive cover that will only reduce air-borne sound"

Finally, **John Shelton**, director at AcSoft Acoustic and Vibration Analysis Systems gave advise on how to measure noise, and what you should look for when buying noise measurement instrumentation.

"It's money well spent!"

"We were delighted with the feedback from our first venture into seminars " said Dennis Allison, chairman of the SHAPA technical committee.

"Members have benefited from an excellent, informative full day seminar (plus notes), with pre-eminent speakers - and at an extremely modest sum!"

More in the '10 key steps' series

Two new publications from the technical committee are now available to SHAPA members. These are '10 key steps for achieving reliable flow from hoppers' and '10 key steps for countering aggregation in bulk solids handling'.

These publications will both make crucial additions to the technical

manual, which over the next few years will build up to be a definitive reference handbook for the solids handling industry.

Both papers are being circulated to members, but if you have not received your copy by mid May, or would like additional copies, please contact Dennis Allison at allison@carier.co.uk.

Dennis volunteers for extra year!

Dennis Allison, who amazingly finds time to be the enthusiastic, hardworking chairman of the technical committee (as well as his role at Carier) has kindly agreed to hold office for an extra year.

Show time..show time...

Powder and Bulk Solids, Chicago

For the 4th year running, SHAPA is a sponsor of the Chicago Powder and Bulk Show (7-11 May 2001)

Robin Huggett, once again, has volunteered the onerous task of flying the SHAPA flag over there, and will be manning the SHAPA stand. If anyone wants any literature taking over, there will be a charge of £20 for 20 items. Contact Robin Huggett on 01483 772941 for details and deadlines.

Eurochem

SHAPA will be promoting its members' products and services at Eurochem, 5-7th June 2001 at NEC, where 25 pieces of your literature can be displayed for £20.

PPMA

We are continuing to support PPMA (ExCel, London, 25-27 September 2001) as the show with maximum relevance to our industry sector. Over 60 SHAPA members participated last year, and we encourage you to join member companies such as Carier, Neu Engineering and Spiroflow who have already signed up for this year.

Sweet talk by Nestle

In an extremely interesting debate at the January general meeting, entitled 'Supplier dynamics from an international customer's point of view', Fred Aherne, group chief engineer of Nestle UK Ltd, discussed Nestle strengths and weaknesses, its manufacturing objectives and what the company requires from suppliers.

'We were delighted to have such an influential

speaker at one of our regular meetings,' said new SHAPA general secretary, John Whitehead. 'Our members make up a sizeable (and growing) proportion of the UK's solids handling and processing community, making SHAPA the voice of the companies within our industry and a valuable point of contact for end users wanting solids handling and processing equipment, systems and services.'

Member's news

A new research and development facility has been opened at the headquarters of UK load cell manufacturer, **Applied Weighing International**.



Mucon has appointed Noone Engineering Ltd as its new distributor throughout Ireland.



New members

We are pleased to welcome four new members to the Association:

**Dresser Roots,
Nederman,
Northey Technologies,
St. Gobain Industrial
Ceramics.**

If you have any news items for SHAPA News, please send them to John Whitehead.
**Tel/Fax 0116 271 3704
shapaltd@aol.com**

Notice board

Sales manager, located in south of England, with experience in mechanical handling field, is seeking a new position following structural changes in his present company. Further details can be obtained from SHAPA secretary, John Whitehead.

Over 2000 visits/week to shapa.co.uk

But is your company missing out?

The SHAPA web site (www.shapa.co.uk) has really taken off since being regularly registered with all the top search engines.

Your on-line search engine

Numbers of visitors to the site are **around 2000 per week**, and we expect the figure to increase as word spreads and we develop and enhance the web site.

Already, a company has been commissioned to provide regular maintenance of the site, that will include regular updates of news, events and technical articles. This will give members and non-members alike a reason to book-mark shapa.co.uk and to visit it frequently.

It is also expected that there will soon be an increased number of hotlinks to our site from other high profile industry web pages.

However, we are still aware that a number of

members could be missing out on this increase in website traffic - quite simply because details of their companies have not been submitted!

Be on the web free!!

As part of the membership package, SHAPA offers to put 150 words and a picture FREE on the SHAPA web site, and to make a charge of just £45 if a hyperlink is included.

Don't forget that this is a one-off charge, so your details will remain on our web-site – potentially putting your company in front of a staggering 100,000 companies.

Can you afford to miss inclusion on this first point of call for companies researching the UK solids handling world?

Contact John Whitehead at shapaltd@aol.com with your company details *right away!!*

Dates for your diary

EXHIBITIONS

7-11 May 2001

Powder & Bulk Solids Conference & Exhibition, Chicago

5-7 June 2001

Eurochem, NEC

25-27 September 2001

PPMA, ExCel, London
show@ppma.co.uk

COURSES

3-4 April 01

Mixing and Blending
Caledonian University,
Glasgow 0141 331 3715

15-17 May 2001

Pneumatic conveying of
bulk solids

Wolfson Centre
020 8331 8647

wolfson-courses@gre.ac.uk
www.bulksolids.com

**NEXT AGM &
GENERAL
MEETING**

11th July, Lichfield

**Make your vote
count!**