

Materials and Design Exchange

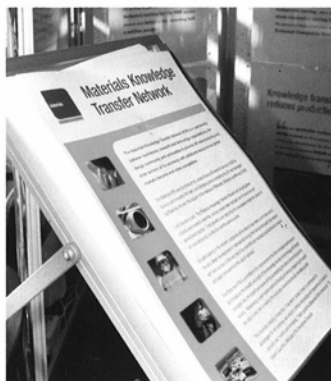
The Materials and Design Exchange aims to provide an innovation explosion. Dr Bernie Rickinson, who is set to lead the programme, describes the most recent addition to the Materials KTN portfolio of nodes.

With input from UK partners – the Royal College of Art (RCA), the Design Council, the Institution of Engineering Designers, Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) and IOM³ – the product design and materials communities will be brought together through the Materials and Design Exchange (MaDE). The programme of activity is broad and interaction with other elements of the Materials KTN will be extensive.

The Exchange has already proved its value since its launch in July 2006. It has co-ordinated a number of events including 'Materialise' at the RCA in London, UK, which highlighted the innovation potential unleashed by bringing the two industries together – a factor that has been fully exploited in a recent consultation exercise with the UK Prison Service.

There is a great environmental impact associated with the disposal of mattresses from prisons. The volume of fire retardant bedding materials consigned to landfill each year would fill an entire football field to a depth of five metres. As a network, the Materials KTN can add value to this debate, and MaDE arranged a workshop to develop solutions.

Within the last six months MaDE has contributed to the London Biennale, a bi-annual event for the architectural community, 100% Design, during the London Design Festival, and has started a new series of workshops. These were first piloted in 2005 for the benefit of the design community. The first in the new series of events, 'Over the Horizon to Infinity and Beyond', provided material insights on intelligent textiles, natural materials, advanced ceramics,



MaDE was represented at the recent Innovate 2006 event in London

auxetic materials and intelligent interfaces to a packed audience from various design consultancies.

Brian Knott, leading the workshop organising team from IOM³, confirmed the networking opportunities created and the enthusiasm generated by putting the materials and design communities together. Knott says, 'If you could bottle this innovation vibrancy, you would create a fortune'.

One of the other major undertakings associated with the initiative is the development of a materials resource centre at 1 Carlton House Terrace. The aim is to develop a large collection of materials with interesting or novel properties. Designers want to touch and feel in tune with materials, and the goal is to bring designers, materials producers and advisers together to discuss product innovation. With the combined strengths of the Exchange partners and the broader engagement of the other nodes of the Materials KTN, this is set to become an explosive experience in 2007.

For further information, e-mail: catherine.tuke@iom3.org.

Professional development

Materials World publishes every month a section on professional development, education, careers and training, which brings together news and features on this important subject. On alternate months commencing January, *Materials World* also publishes a comprehensive

DIARY OF PD COURSES

Promote your courses to more than 35,000 readers of *Materials World* PLUS over 90,000 visitors to the www.iom3.org web site every month by advertising them in our next PD feature in March 2007

To advertise, please contact
Bob Stanton at Stanton Media Sales
Tel: 01527 404295 or Fax: 01527 540503
E-mail: bob@stantonmedia.co.uk

