

# Chemical Sciences Scotland

Progress to date





I would like to update you on what has been happening since we endorsed the strategic plan for **Chemical Sciences Scotland** - at Airth Castle. To meet our objective that **a vibrant and competitive chemicals industry exists in Scotland in 20 years time**, we set up five topic groups to implement this plan. These groups are focused on:

- Sustainability
- Innovation
- Reputation
- Skills
- Investment

and they are the key to our ultimate success. Whether private or public, from the industrial, academic or support sectors, the people in these groups will make our objective a reality. I would like to share with you what each of the groups has been doing so far.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Dobbie".

**Dr Sandy Dobbie**  
**Chairman**  
**Chemical Sciences Scotland**  
**October 2007**

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## Sustainability Topic Group

### Initial priorities established

- Promote waste as raw material in the supply chain.
- Encourage the adoption and increase the uptake of available support programmes.
- Increase our understanding of the regulatory process and influence the improvement of the regulatory environment in Scotland.

### Activities

- A **global competitiveness benchmarking initiative** between Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS), Process Industries Centre for Manufacturing Excellence (PICME) and companies in the industry in Scotland is now under way.
- A **Scottish Chemicals Regulatory Forum** has been set up with enthusiastic representation from the key stakeholders.
- The Group is reviewing the activities of service providers in the sustainability field with a view to coordinating them to optimise their impact on the sector.
- Performance indicators are being developed.

Led by **Peter Wormald of Ciba UK**

## Innovation Topic Group

### Initial priorities established

- Raising awareness of the support available for innovation in Scotland. (This was an eye-opener for most of the participants as the breadth and depth of assistance available was much greater than members realised).
- Encouraging greater interaction between Scotland's academic chemistry base and its industrial companies.
- Creating more new businesses focused on chemistry applications.

### Activities

- A road show, introducing SE's **Proof of Concept** programme to University Chemistry departments generated three successful applications, the first ever with a chemical designation.
- Awareness sessions outlining **DTI technology programmes (now BERR), EU Framework 7** opportunities and support from **Chemistry Innovation KTN** have taken place.
- A sub-group is identifying barriers to interaction between the University research sector and the chemical industry in Scotland.
- A further sub group is supporting ScotCHEM in the development of a second round funding bid to be submitted to the Scottish Funding Council.

Led by **Sandy Dobbie, Chairman of Chemical Sciences Scotland**

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## Reputation Topic Group

The Reputation Group had the advantage of building on and developing work already started by the Chemicals Industry Association (CIA). It has been quick to take up the reputation challenge and has made significant progress in a short time.

### Activities

- The Group's first task was to define the key messages associated with the Scottish chemical sector and the audiences to whom these messages should be directed. Feedback confirmed that the messages were right and the audiences were appropriate.
- This work led naturally into the development of a marketing strategy for the whole initiative. Originally, this had been planned as a separate activity but the excellent progress this group had made led to it taking on the task, demonstrating the power of the group structure and the capabilities of the individuals within the groups.
- This led to the development of the brand identity package for **Chemical Sciences Scotland**.

Led by Gordon Grant of INEOS Manufacturing Scotland Ltd.

## Skills Topic Group

### Initial priorities established

- Careers In Chemistry.
- Curriculum development, including
  - i. collaborating with other priority industry sectors that recruit people with expertise in the Chemical Sciences and
  - ii. working with colleges, universities and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to ensure that curricula meet industry needs.
- Workforce development.
- Future skills.

### Activities

- Chemistry-specific support to Careers Scotland, the national careers body.
- The group is collaborating with the Scottish universities, colleges and the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) to develop a proposal for "Chemistry for our Future" to be submitted to the Scottish Government.
- The group also contributed to the consultation on a "Science and Innovation Strategy for Scotland".
- Additionally, the group is assisting the education sector in trying to lift the cap on the number of funded places available to colleges and universities.

Led by Linda MacKay of Forth Valley College

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## Investment Topic Group

### Initial priorities established

- Development of an international strategy for the sector by the Investment Group, in conjunction with the Scottish Enterprise Chemical Sciences Team and Scottish Development International (SDI). (Prior to this the chemical sector did not feature in the spectrum of inward investment targets for Scotland).

### Activities

- Marketing materials are now being prepared for domestic and international use by SDI and other partners and, once agreed by Chemical Sciences Scotland, the SDI field staff around the world will start marketing Scotland as a location for placing new chemical investments.
- This will also help indigenous businesses access opportunities in international markets. In 2008 we hope to see Chemical Sciences Scotland represented at a major international chemicals event.

**Led by Sandy Dobbie, Chairman of Chemical Sciences Scotland**

## Leadership Team

This is the co-ordinating body and consists of the topic group leaders, plus Ken McKendrick, Chairman of ScotCHEM, Campbell Gemmill, CEO of SEPA, Tom Shields, MD of Kemfine, and Caroline Strain, Head of the Chemical Sciences Team at Scottish Enterprise.

The support of Scottish Enterprise and, in particular, its Chemical Sciences team has been critical to our progress and we welcome their ongoing commitment.

We are also grateful for the support and involvement of a wide range of government agencies, trade associations and professional organisations, including the Scottish Government, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), the Chemical Industry Association (CIA), the BioIndustry Association (BIA), Chemistry Innovation (the chemical industry's Knowledge Transfer Network), the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE), Cogent (the Sector Skills Council for the chemicals industry), Careers Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Intellectual Assets Centre (IAC), Interface, ScotCHEM, the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS) ....to name just a few!

We look forward to a continuing partnership with these organisations – and others - to deliver our objective.

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## Topic group membership

We already have over 80 of the top people in the Chemical Sciences sector in Scotland actively involved in our topic groups, but there is always room for more. If you are not already involved and feel that you can actively contribute to this long-term plan, please contact us

**Sandy Dobbie**  
([sandy.dobbie@cogency.biz](mailto:sandy.dobbie@cogency.biz))  
07785254259

**Caroline Strain**  
([caroline.strain@scotent.co.uk](mailto:caroline.strain@scotent.co.uk))  
01786452118