



## Annual Review from the CRR, April 2008

Dear Colleagues and CRR registrants,

Like many of you with businesses, it is also the end of our financial year, and a time to reflect on what has been done and achieved in that time. A time also to thank you for your continued interest and support, comments and suggestions, and to tell you about what we plan to do in 2008/09.

### Last Year

Those of you who attended our January stakeholder conferences will appreciate the variety of tasks, approaches and sectors that we tackled in 2007/08. It was our first full year of operation under Defra's funding, we weren't sure what would work, so we tried a bit of everything. Here's a short summary:

- Trying to get purchasers more interested in buying reman and reused:
  - Buy with confidence:** Having looked at a range of products we produced standards that buyers could use to buy reused with confidence, and questions to ask of suppliers. With our partner organisation, Action Sustainability, we delivered these to a range of businesses at "Purchasers meet Suppliers" events through the year.
  - Find a remanufacturer:** Our web site includes the standards for purchase and a map-based directory for locating suppliers of goods or people who might take them back. If you're not on the map, let us know.
  - Tax Breaks:** We've also had a good response from the Treasury about the idea of tax breaks for remanufactured products. It already has a scheme, the Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) scheme to encourage companies to buy listed "A rated" energy-using products; it has seen benefits of extending the scheme to "energy-containing" products, so that reman would qualify on savings made in reuse. It will be a key task to sell the benefits of this next year. Interest from purchasers should follow on closely with benefits to remanufacturers.
- Raising the profile & credibility of Remanufacturing:
  - SMMT Automotive Aftermarket group:** One of the most active groups, SMMT held two workshops to drill down to the major issues facing expansion.

We will be replicating the forum with other sectors next year.

**Standards:** This is the most talked about element in the stakeholder groups and an issue you said we should tackle. As a result, we've got BSI interested in the issue and they have set up a standards group to tackle definitions and also end-of-life practices such as remanufacture and reuse.

**Technology seminars:** We had over 60 companies attend our two technology events showcasing remediation and surface finishing techniques. We had excellent response with companies presenting techniques available now, and universities hosting to display up-and-coming technologies.

**Carbon impacts:** In one-to-one conversations, you've said that you think it's important to demonstrate the CO<sub>2</sub> impact of remanufacturing over disposal or just plain recycling. We've done this for tyres, bricks and engines – on the web – and we'll be doing it for all our products next year. We hope you can pick this information up and use it in your PR and marketing literature.

**Courses:** We decided to present an introduction to remanufacturing course at selected universities on the basis of getting to designers and business managers early to implant the idea of reuse and designing products and processes for it. Next year we hope to make the course available to all universities and present it as a CPD opportunity through institutions such as IMechE.

- Stimulating new products & markets

**Reusing batteries & tyres:** These were two well-known products where there are benefits if we did things a bit differently: In batteries, with developments in performance, we think there is a good case for switching to rechargeable batteries, like the switch to low energy bulbs. Working with manufacturers, we've got a lot of the information we need to create a new government policy, and we'll be finalising this in 2008/09. Remould tyres have had a bad press in the past, but new EU standards mean that they are as safe as new tyres, and save significant energy to make. We're doing some wear trials with major retailers to prove the performance, and we hope to get this out to other fleet managers during the year.

**Feasibility studies prove new product concepts:** We funded five projects to investigate new markets and products based on reuse and remanufacture, and they all turned out to be very good value for money. In fact, we are planning to take at least one, on reuse of corporate textiles, forward with more funding from Defra in 2008/09, involving such companies as M&S. The savings of water and energy could be very large if this comes to market. We're also looking at ways of moving the other projects on by trying to find the right partners for them. More on our web-site.

**Information on products & markets:** We've got a continuing programme to look at new product and market opportunities especially where there is high value and a growing market. Our work to date has been used by some of you as a short cut to industry intelligence in looking at new business opportunities.

Just a reminder that many reports, activities, standards etc. can be found on our web site under Resources.

## Next Year

We are focussing our efforts on those things that were especially productive. The terms of our funding mean that we can't do a lot of work with individual companies, but we will do things that benefit groups or sectors. From what you've said the following are particularly important:

- Standards
- Technology seminars
- Educating purchasers
- Making the carbon benefits case
- Working reuse into tax credits

So that's what we'll be doing. Please get involved if you want to shape the direction of the work.

Once again, thanks for your continued support, and please let us know of your reman successes.

David Parker  
Head of Remanufacturing, CRR.