

## SME Support Roadshows

### *“Supporting your drive for growth”*

SMMT has announced a series of SME Support Roadshows to take place across the country in March and April. The focus is on supporting small and medium sized companies at a regional level, providing you with an opportunity to gain a better understanding of various support services that are available, and giving an insight into success stories from other automotive companies within the region. These events aim to support your business’ drive for growth.

The roadshows will be going to:

#### **North West, Wednesday 5 March**

DW Stadium, Wigan – [Register here](#)

*Supported by:* North West Automotive Alliance and Greater Manchester Business Growth Hub

[Draft agenda here](#)

#### **Wales, Thursday 6 March**

Waterton Technology Centre – [Register here](#).

*Supported by:* Welsh Automotive Forum and Welsh Government

[Draft agenda here](#)

#### **North East, Tuesday 1 April**

Stadium of Light, Sunderland – [Register here](#)

*Supported by:* Sunderland City Council

Contact Mairi Lucas on [mlucas@smmmt.co.uk](mailto:mlucas@smmmt.co.uk) for more details.



## SMMT member case study

**Omnia (CS) gives us an insight into its business and the benefits it gains from SMMT membership**



Omnia (CS) is renowned as the lightweight composite panel specialist; valued for sourcing and delivering innovative, lightweight, solutions for next generation vehicles.

For over 10 years, it has focused on thermoplastic panel technology and the supply of sandwich panels to overcome the heavier duty alternative of traditional materials such as steel, aluminium, fibre glass and plywood.

Omnia (CS) continues to deliver new, advanced thermoplastic composite solutions for the commercial vehicle market. With today’s environmental focus, Omnia (CS) has recently sourced a new range of sheet panels for the van lining market and an alternative roofsheet material. The OmniLiner range offers excellent strength to weight characteristics and are both fuel efficient and environmentally compliant, being recyclable and, in some cases, manufactured from recycled materials.

In addition, Omnia (CS) offers its engineering services to make the transition to alternative material solutions as transferable as possible. Its services range from mechanical analysis to 3D CAD design.

Acknowledging the automotive industry to be one of its main markets and after meeting Tim Hughes, Omnia (CS) decided to join the SMMT. It aims to network with companies that can benefit from its panel technology to increase operating efficiencies through the use of lighter, innovative materials. Omnia (CS) looks forward to attending many events and being part of working groups in the near future.

If you are a member or associate of SMMT and would like to have a case study in our next Member Services bulletin, please contact Mairi Lucas at [mlucas@smmmt.co.uk](mailto:mlucas@smmmt.co.uk)

## International Business Group

27 February 2014

International Business Group meetings are open to members and non-members and provide an excellent, convivial networking opportunity as well as to listen to expert presenters on topical matters related to international trade and international markets.

On this occasion, the focus will be on **Mexico, South Africa and the USA** – all markets that have a strong automotive manufacturing base, expanding vehicle sales and particular local challenges. Speakers' details will be announced later. As usual, attendees will have the opportunity to share their own business experiences in these territories.

The meeting is open to all members and invited guests. To reserve your place, please contact Pat Shaw | 020 7344 9260 | [pshaw@smmt.co.uk](mailto:pshaw@smmt.co.uk)

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## EU Debate – survey to capture the automotive voice

As you will know, there is currently significant debate concerning the UK's relationship with the EU. With the European elections in May, a General Election next year and the possibility of a referendum on Europe a few years later, this will be a high profile issue for many months.

It is important that the automotive industry in the UK has a voice in this debate. The SMMT has therefore commissioned KPMG to undertake research and report on the role and significance of Europe to the automotive sector in the UK. However, we also want to ensure that, in establishing the SMMT position, we reflect the views of all the industry and our members as best we can.

We are undertaking a member survey to enable you to express your business' views on the role and importance of the UK's EU membership.

We would be grateful if your directors could take the time to complete the survey on behalf of your business. We are only seeking ONE response from your company.

Please complete the 10 minute survey by 14 February 2014.

[Click here to complete the survey.](#)

E-mail: [memberservices@smmt.co.uk](mailto:memberservices@smmt.co.uk)

Website: [www.smmt.co.uk/members-lounge/member-services](http://www.smmt.co.uk/members-lounge/member-services)

## Open Forum March 2014 – speakers announced

19 March 2014, Worcester

[Book tickets here](#)

SMMT invites you to Open Forum 2014. The event will bring together around 350 delegates for a day of presentations, knowledge sharing and discussion. Open Forum also offers excellent networking opportunities with leading senior figures from the automotive industry.

Speakers include:

- Mike Hawes, Chief Executive, **SMMT**
- Joe Greenwell CBE, Chief Executive Officer, **Automotive Investment Organisation**
- Nick Grout, Automotive Strategy Implementation, **BIS**
- Dave Allen, Purchasing Director, **Jaguar Land Rover and Automotive Council Supply Chain Group Chairman**
- Jerry Hardcastle OBE, Global Chief Marketability Engineer and Technical Director Global Motorsports, **Nissan Motor Company**
- Mark Adams, Vice President, Strategic Relationship Management, Corporate and Business Planning, **Toyota Motor Europe**
- Ian Malcolm, Managing Director, **ElringKlinger (GB)**
- Ian Henry, Director, **AutoAnalysis**
- More speakers to be confirmed. [Details here.](#)

The next event will focus on opportunities in the UK's automotive supply chain, with insights from industry experts and key decision makers. Attendance is charged as follows:

- Free for SMMT members - [here](#). You will need to enter your membership number as a 'promotional code'.
- £50 (+ VAT) for non-members - [here](#)

The presentations, exhibition, networking sessions will commence at 08:30 and close at 15:00 after networking lunch.

Enquiries should be directed to Rob Morbin, [supplychain@smmt.co.uk](mailto:supplychain@smmt.co.uk) | 020 7344 9265