

plastics and rubber division

The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining
Working with the Plastics and Rubber Industry

The new **Plastics and Rubber Division** provides a focus for the polymer community within the Institute of Materials Minerals and Mining . The Division aims to support the plastics and rubber industry by helping to provide appropriately educated and trained materials scientists, engineers and technicians and to help meet the industry's future technological needs in polymeric materials and their applications. The Division's interests include polymer manufacture, processing and applications and cover all technical, educational and strategic considerations of polymers and materials where polymer content is significant.



The Plastics & Rubber Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining brings together the activities previously covered by separate Polymer and Rubber Divisions. Where topics may be of interest to other Divisions of the Institute, eg applications, the Plastics and Rubber Division liaises closely with the other Divisions. The aims of the Division are as follows:

Industry

- ▶ To encourage companies to become members by joining the Industrial Affiliate Scheme to take advantage of the benefits of the Institute's industrial services, eg Information Services, to improve their business prospects and competitiveness. The Division provides an interface with the polymer industry, relevant trade bodies and Government which are all represented on the Divisional Board.

Technology Transfer

- ▶ To develop and deliver an ongoing programme of events: national and international conferences, seminars and workshops to review recent advances and disseminate knowledge in materials, processing and applications. The programme includes previously successful conference series such as PVC. Events are organised by the Division's Committees; those currently active are the Applied Polymer Science; Plastics Design; Polymer Processing and Engineering; PVC; and Rubber in Engineering Committees, or by ad hoc committees, or in collaboration with other Divisions and Institutions.

Education and Training

- ▶ To promote understanding and awareness of polymers, plastics and rubber, and career opportunities they offer.

- ▶ To support the Institute's education and training activities to ensure the polymer sector's interests are catered for, particularly the promotion of polymers in schools. To continue to support competitive Design Awards programmes through the Plastics Design Committee.

Membership and Career Development

- ▶ To encourage individuals in the polymer sector to join the Institute to take advantage of the many membership benefits. Younger members in particular will be encouraged to take an active role in their industry and the Institute.
- ▶ To support the provision of professional activities relevant to the career development and job needs of members of the polymer community and their employers.

The Division's activities are co-ordinated by a Board which has overall responsibility for promoting the subject of polymers and working with other parts of the Institute to ensure appropriate products and services are available to members in the polymer community. Board membership includes representatives from companies in the polymer supply chain, trade bodies, Government and academia as well as the Institute regional local polymer groups. The Division advises the Institute on its policies to ensure they meet the needs of members and companies in the polymer sector.

More details about the Plastics and Rubber Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining are available from the polymer co-ordinator, Andrew Cluley, on 01455 636609, email: Andrew.Cluley@iom3.org

For more information about the Institute, visit the website at www.iom3.org