



Chairperson: *Angela Alderman (Johnson Matthey)*

17 April 2009 (10:30 - 15:30 CET)
METALS CONFERENCE CENTRE - GOLD ROOM
RUE DU DUC 100, 1150 BRUSSELS (BELGIUM)

PARTICIPANTS

Angela Alderman	Johnson Matthey	UK
Zuzana Hugonin	EPMF	Belgium
Michael Husakiewicz	Lipmann Walton	UK
Karl Kunkel	Heraeus	Germany
Jochen Schlessmann	Heraeus	Germany
Gary Van Riper	Climax Molybdenum	US
Ewa Zygnerska	KGHM Ecoren	Poland

APOLOGIES

Caroline Braibant	EPMF	Belgium
Aad Van Meerkerk	Climax Molybdenum	Netherlands
Mark Raffray	Johnson Matthey	UK
Andras Szep	SEKOM	Austria

MINUTES

- *post-meeting notes are highlighted in gray*
- *action points are summarized in Actions tracking table on the last page*

1. Introduction and welcome to Consortium

- 1.1. Participants were reminded by A. Alderman of **confidentiality and competition law**.
- 1.2. **Minutes of the last conference call** (2 March 2009) were approved and the **action points** listed in these minutes **were reviewed** as follows (numbering corresponds to the minutes of the last conference call):
 - (2.2) Companies interested in the three remaining substances should tick the SFF box. The action has been completed and was further discussed at this meeting (agenda item 3.1)
 - (2.2) The document prepared by the Nickel consortium for Lead Registrant Duties was to be adapted for use by the PMC and Re Consortium. The action has been completed and was further discussed at this meeting (agenda item 3.2).
 - (3.2) The Nickel Alloy was scheduled for further discussion at this meeting (agenda item 3.4).
 - (2.4) The read-across potential of Rhenium pre-registered substances was discussed at this meeting (agenda item 4.3).
 - (2.5.1) The presentation letter of the consortium was discussed at this meeting (agenda item 3.3.1).
 - (3.1) The in-house studies concerning Rhenium materials were currently being translated from Polish into English by KGM Ecoren.
 - (1.2.1) An update on the Phase II Pilot project was presented under section 4 of the Agenda.
 - (1.2.1) The Uses Questionnaire was further discussed at the meeting (agenda item 4.2.2).
- 1.3. **The Agenda** for this face-to-face meeting was **approved**.



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2. Administrative issues

- 2.1. Gary van Riper (Climax Molybdenum) was elected as co-chair of the Work Group.
- 2.2. The work behind the **Budget 2009** is highly appreciated, but it was mentioned that the lay-out of the document is difficult to use for the approval. It shall state clearer what part of the budget was committed and what savings move to next year. One page summary of the budget sheets circulated at the December assembly would be appreciated. It is suggested to break down the costs into total overheads. It shall be also understandable how the cost was divided up amongst Members and what formula will be used to apportion costs for individual substances (give the formula but not an actual figure). In conclusion, matrix for cost exposure and timing shall be constructed. Further, in connection to software - ReachSuite, it is necessary to ensure that the cost is well specified in the contract with BayTouch together with well defined service to be provided against these expenses. Concern about the manpower at Consortium's Secretariat level was raised.

3. SFF and Collaboration within pre-SIEF

- 3.1. **SFF's within Consortium Members** - Consortium members have ticked the SFF box for five out of the six substances falling within the remit of the Rhenium Working Group. Unfortunately, Ecomundo, who offers a wide range of REACH consultancy services, had previously ticked the SFF box for Dirhenium heptasulphide. This is not an uncommon situation and will be resolved by the Secretariat on C. Braibant's return from her maternity leave. Meanwhile A. Alderman is kindly asked to contact Ecomundo with the request of leaving the SFF position to inspect what their reaction might be¹. Even though the SFF role was taken by the WG Members, the presentations letters were not sent out to the pre-SIEF colleagues. The letter shall be prepared by the Secretariat and distributed by using software ReachSuite.
- 3.2. The document prepared based on the Ni Consortium model, detailing **Lead Registrant Duties and Liabilities** was reviewed. It was emphasized that the role was to act as a figurehead for the consortium who would do all the required work. Climax Molybdenum had previously volunteered as lead registrant for Sodium rhenate; Lipmann Walton volunteered to be the LR for Ni-alloy, KGHM Ecoren volunteered to be lead registrant for Rhenium and Ammonium perrhenate; Heraeus would discuss being lead registrant for Perrhenic acid with superiors and Johnson Matthey would be lead registrant for both Dirhenium heptaoxide and Dirhenium heptasulphide (once the Ecomundo issue had been resolved.)
- 3.3. **Contact with non-consortium SIEF members** was discussed. Situation appears quite quiet at the moment. As mentioned previously, the presentation letter from the Consortium will be circulated to non-consortium members within the SIEFs once the REACH-IT system was in use.

¹ **Post-meeting note:** A. Alderman has contacted Ecomundo via e-mail on 19 April 2009, no reply was obtained by 1 June 2009.



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It was mentioned that a standard response letter was also in preparation².

- 3.4. **Nickel alloy scrap** - after much discussion it was simply decided that the synonym for the ID card should be Nickel Super Alloy. The Revised Proposed Concentrations ranges for the nickel alloy scrap as presented in the slide (please consult the presentation) were accepted with the following amendments: aluminum 2-10%, iron 1-6% and molybdenum 0-3%. The Nickel Super Alloy would be classified as a Transported Isolated Intermediate with registration due in 2018. It was emphasized that confirmation of Isolated Intermediate/Strict Control Conditions status was required by all those in the supply chain.

4. Update on Rhenium project/work programme

- 4.1. Z. Hugonin updated the participants of the **Phase II - Pilot project** (Platinum Group Metals & Rhenium). Reporting was based on the Pilot project draft report received from WCA/Bibra on 20 March 2009 and included following steps (for more details, please consult the presentation):
- The timeline as the project developed.
 - Objectives of the Pilot project.
 - Differentiation Phase I and Phase II purpose/actions.
 - Annex III derogations.
 - Availability of the water solubility and the eco-tox data for the Pilot project
 - Testing recommendations for water solubility and eco-tox testing.
 - Cost prediction for “full” Phase II of the PGM & Re Project.
 - Current status of the Phase II Project.

Members requested clear scope on what shall be tested regarding Re and its substances and proposed to identify different testing facilities than accessible by WCA.

- 4.2. **ECHA list of pre-registered substances** was reviewed by Z. Hugonin prior to the meeting. Participants were informed about the changes at the web site as well as about the actions taken by ECHA in order to finalize the list. The main impact was given on the registration deadlines for Re substances. All the substances declared by Consortium appeared on the pre-registration list with the registration deadline of 2010. Such development is expected based on the experiences gained with other PM families covered by Consortium. Moreover it was explained by G. van Riper that some of the Re substances may have been pre-registered indicating registration deadline 2010, simply because the pre-registrant assumed to finalize the registration in 2010.

- 4.2.1. **The request for physico-chemical data and in-house (eco)toxicology studies** was sent by the Secretariat on 2 March 2009. The only study received was on Ammonium perrhenate in Polish and this was promised to be translated to English. Further a suggestion for the handbook was made (*Gmelins Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie (Berlin, 1941)*). The reference was sent to Consultant for

² **Post-meeting note:** After contacting C. Braibant it was confirmed that the standard response letter to pre-SIEF surveys was circulated at the beginning of March 2009. Standard response letter to pre-SIEF members willing to join the Consortium was not produced yet.



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the evaluation³.

It was reminded to the participants what information regarding e.g. phys-chem properties may be useful and reliable.

In conclusion, there are some data available in the literature⁴ and from member's submissions, but it is necessary to investigate on their source as well as their reliability. Members were kindly asked to search for the origin of data they have submitted. Re and its substances are data poor area and Members were kindly reminded of submitting any information available on those to the Secretariat.

4.2.2. The request to fill in **Re uses questionnaire** was sent to the Members prior to last teleconference and there were three companies who have responded. The request was repeated in the minutes from the last teleconference and an additional filled questionnaire was received. Ammonium perrhenate is the substance which is the most widely chosen among the Members and this reflect well the number of Members declaring this substance. Only four uses were covered out of 14 proposed. This reflect on a very few uses known for Re and its substances.

The role of General Exposure Scenario was summarised and the procedure in building the Exposure Scenarios within Consortium for the case of Ag and it substances. In the end the desired input of the Members in building up the Exposure scenarios was presented (for more details, please consult the presentation).

4.3. Members of the WG were asked to reflect on **priority rhenium substances**. A. Alderman investigated on the grouping and **read-across** prior to the meeting.

4.3.1. **Physico-chemical properties - water solubility** was discussed as the key element for the read-across. Proposed water solubility list was assembled by A. Alderman with the help of M. Raffray and was circulated to the Members of the WG prior to the meeting for further judgement. Members' contribution would be highly appreciated. Climax Molybdenum promised to investigate on Sodium rhenate properties, Heraeus colleagues have committed to look into Ammonium perrhenate and Perrhenic acid properties.

Further, it was discussed, whether there is a common ion to the Rhenium substances declared by Consortium and if the similar approach for read-across can be used as applied with the molybdenates. G. van Riper is going to contact Dr. Mitchell (cooperating previously with Mo Consortium) and request about his opinion and possible cooperation with PMC⁵.

4.3.2. The lists of additional out-scope **substances** was circulated to the WG prior the meeting. The experiences gained with the PGM's and Au substances could maybe be applied with Re substances - data rich out-scope substances are identified for

³ **Post-meeting note:** The reference was judged as unreliable without further supporting evidence. The literature is quite dated and most of all it does not appear as reliable sources in the ECHA guidance documents.

⁴ **Post-meeting note:** The list of references identified by WCA/Bibra was provided to the participants prior to last teleconference. Meeting files for this meeting contained the information provided by Members to the Secretariat.

⁵ **Post-meeting note:** Dr. Mitchell was contacted by G. van Riper on 17 April 2009.



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read-across to data poor in-scope substances. The “first sight” read-across possibilities were explained by A. Alderman (please consult the presentation for further details). The judgement shall probably stay up to Consultants, but Members are expected to contact their commercial departments in order to identify the key players in Rhenium substances business.

- 4.4. The composition of the declared materials (in anonymized form) was presented to the participants in order to find a strategy to tackle the “**substance sameness**”. It was agreed that each substance shall have the ID card/sheet which will be reviewed by Members and later on by SIEF members. So far, some of the data which appears to be a mistake, shall be confirmed by Secretariat, e.g. Re metal content = 58%.
- 4.5. **Project plan and future path** was presented in the form of schematic capturing all the phases and their overlaps. It was mentioned that at the moment the project is running as scheduled, but due to the amount of substances covered by PGM & Re project and maybe some unexpected test results, there may be some delay. It was mentioned that the schedule shall be broken into smaller pieces and contain the budgeting and the cash flow.

5. AOB, next meeting

In conclusion it was summarized:

- Maybe a representative from BayTouch could be present during the following meeting.
- An independent IT expert could be a part of the audience.
- Could a remote demo be arranged?
- It shall be cleared out what resources are needed for what period of time to fill in the database - ReachSuite.
- Could the contract be available for inspection - checking all the clauses etc.
- Could a representative of WCA/Bibra be present⁶?

- 5.1. **Next face-to-face meeting** was scheduled to be on 15 June 2009 in MMTA offices in London.

⁶ **Post-meeting note:** The cost of attendance by the Consultant was likely to be £1000 + expenses. It would be appropriate to delay this until there were significant advances in the project to discuss. However, the Chair of the TAP will be available at the meeting to up-date the participants on the project progression.



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ACTIONS TRACKING TABLE

	Action	Status⁷
1.	Secretariat shall construct the matrix for cost exposure and timing.	
2.	A. Alderman shall contact Ecomundo with the request of leaving the SFF position to inspect what their reaction might be. The situation shall be completely resolved once C. Braibant is back from her maternity leave.	Completed by A.A. 19 April 2009
3.	Secretariat shall prepare the standard response letter to pre-SIEF surveys and to the Companies who would like to join the Consortium.	Partly Completed March 2009
4.	Lead registrant volunteers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lipmann Walton - Ni-alloy• KGHM Ecoren - Rhenium and Ammonium perrhenate• Heraeus - would discuss being lead registrant for Perrhenic acid• Johnson Matthey would be lead registrant for both Dirhenium heptaoxide and Dirhenium heptasulphide (once the Ecomundo issue had been resolved.)	Completed by Heraeus 08 June 2009 In progress Johnson Matthey
5.	Nickel alloy - written confirmation of Isolated Intermediate/Strict Control Conditions status is required along the whole supply chain.	
6.	Clear scope/testing proposal is required for Re and its substances.	In progress
7.	Members proposed to identify different testing facilities than accessible by WCA.	
8.	Members were asked to search for the origin of data they have submitted to the Secretariat.	Completed by Heraeus 08 June 2009
9.	Members have offered to investigate on physico-chemical properties with the impact on the water solubility properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climax Mollybdenum - Sodium rhenate properties• Heraeus - Ammonium perrhenate and Perrhenic acid properties.	Completed 08 June 2009
10.	G. van Riper shall contact Dr. Mitchell and request about his opinion and possible cooperation with PMC.	Completed 17 April 2009
11.	Read-across potential from out-scope substances: Members are expected to contact their commercial departments in order to identify the key players in Rhenium substances business.	Completed by Heraeus 08 June 2009
12.	The data submitted by the Member, which appears to be incorrect, shall be confirmed by Secretariat, e.g. Re metal content = 58%.	In progress

⁷ **Post-meeting note:** Status as to 11 June 2009.