

The PPMA and BARA* join forces!

*the British Automation & Robotics Association



Dr Ken Young, Chairman of BARA (left), and Chris Buxton, CEO of the PPMA, celebrate the amalgamation.



On the 26 February 2009 PPMA directors and British Automation & Robotics Association (BARA) Council members met to finalise the amalgamation of BARA into the PPMA as a special sub-group. PPMA CEO Chris Buxton said of the resolution that it was "combining and consolidating the strengths of both parties."

President of BARA Mike Wilson, who will play a prominent part of the PPMA:BARA management, said of the alliance: "This is a real opportunity to strengthen both BARA and PPMA. The combination is much more than the sum of the parts. It is particularly important that in the difficult current environment, our automation message is spread to as many people in industry as possible. Combined, BARA and PPMA have the resources (people, financial and knowledge), background and profile to be able to make a real difference to UK industry and our success as a manufacturing nation."

The initiative will be of great benefit to both parties explains Chris: "With ever increasing pressure to

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NEW member benefit...

PPMA has joined LogBuy, a business specialising in the management and negotiation of benefits within the business and loyalty markets. This online service provides PPMA members with the opportunity of offering their employees access to a wide range of national and local supplier discounts and offers.

Using the LogBuy service PPMA members can save between 5-15% on shopping, excursions, holidays, entertainment and lots more without any cost to the company or employee. Using the combined purchasing power of our membership base we can command discounts from some of the UK's leading suppliers, such as computers from Apple Store and HP, wine from Laithwaites, fuel from Esso, magazine subscriptions from Lets Subscribe and much more.


See the Membership Noticeboard on p 19 for more info.

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Mike Wilson, President of BARA, will join the PPMA management team

respond to the global market and the inexorable growth of the low overhead economies, the need for UK machinery suppliers to innovate and differentiate themselves from what is now world-wide competition has evolved from being a preferred option to one that has become essential. Add to this, the increasing pressure from the environmental lobby combined with a recession that the tabloids are likening to the great depression of the last century and one is drawn to an inevitable conclusion – if there is an opportunity to reduce the overheads associated with high energy costs, a disproportionately costly workforce and the increasing burden of UK regulations, UK industry would be irresponsible not to at least consider it!

The presence of BARA as an integral part of the PPMA represents a positive move by the two associations to recognise current market trends and it will augment the PPMA membership to provide a community of like minded members better equipped to address the challenges that face them whether they be, technological, political or environmental.”

“The current economic climate is slowly making the government realise that SMEs are the backbone of the economy. Many of the initiatives that have been put in place to help companies ride the storm have been introduced because of the pressure put upon government by the ‘voice of the people’ – associations like ours, educating the MPs. The union between PPMA and BARA can only strengthen our voice and our position in this constant battle to improve the lot of our members.

Alan Yates, PPMA President

“Members from both associations should look out for opportunities to engage with their new colleagues and take advantage of the new events that this initiative brings. Any new or existing PPMA member may become a part of the BARA-led automation and robotics sub-group free of charge. They will have their own ‘council’ of representatives and there will be a new PPMA board director with a portfolio for automation and robotics.



Who'd have thought - a mushroom picking robot!

Another significant benefit of this initiative is the incorporation of the BARA User or Academic members, who are leading individuals (as opposed to companies), within their sector and who have a particular interest in the industry. PPMA will accommodate these individuals through establishing a PPMA:BARA Institute for individual rather than company membership. The terms of reference for the Institute will be determined with the Automation & Robotics director and any existing PPMA or BARA members wishing to make a contribution. It is anticipated that a members institute will do much to enhance the experience for the membership of both associations.

Whether they are simply interested in exploring the world of automation for the first time or are well established users of this technology, existing PPMA and BARA members will find a warm welcome from their new colleagues. This is both a market and member driven initiative which will do much to further the interests of the industry and will significantly enhance the benefits of PPMA membership,” revealed Chris.

For further details on the amalgamation please go to www.ppma.co.uk and www.bara.org.uk

PPMA News welcomes BARA members!



To celebrate the amalgamation of BARA and the PPMA, this issue has a robotics theme running through it and includes comments from members on ‘how they have benefited from robotics automation’ p4-5, and an overview of the Food Processing Awards for Robotics and Automation p9. Our congratulations go to KUKA which won the robotics award and the three other awarding winning PPMA members for their achievements in food processing.

For those companies that have just become

members (robotics or otherwise), I want to take this opportunity to tell you to add me to your PR list. I am always looking for news, technical case-stories, and application stories as this newsletter is an opportunity for both the Association and the membership to promote themselves - and there is no cost to be included.

Lastly, there's still time for PPMA members to enter the Starpack award for Packaging Machinery Excellence - see page 20 for how to enter and don't delay!

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Publishing Services Bill Lake (PPMA)
Membership Services David Harrison (PPMA)
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Why exhibit at the PPMA Show?

1 The 2008 Show attracted 9775 registered visitors (including 3580 from the co-located Interplas) in probably one of the toughest weeks for the UK economy.

www.ppmashow.co.uk

If you miss it,
you'll miss out!

29 Sept - 1 Oct '09



2

Operations Manager, Martin Ball of Dorset Cereals said of the '08 Show: "It is the most prestigious event of its type in this country and is a good opportunity to catch up with what machinery is available. The thing I always hope for when I go to an exhibition is that I will find a company or a piece of kit that I wasn't aware of and it ticks all my boxes. Seeing machinery in the flesh and seeing how companies behave at shows is the only way this can happen."

3

The exhibition is the only UK show dedicated to the processing and packaging industry and caters for all major sectors; from food & drink and household products through to pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and chemicals.



4

"In the light of the current economic downturn, I was expecting a poor show, however, I was extremely delighted with the potential new business we gained - we took the most leads we have taken at the PPMA Show for some years," comments made regarding the '08 Show by Steve Bradley, Sales and Marketing Director of AVE UK.

5

The Show organisers provide many opportunities for exhibitors to promote their business before, during and after the event.

One example of this is the Show website where exhibitors with an internet listing can upload a wealth of information including press releases, brochures, product information and company logo from the moment they sign up to exhibit. In 2008 the site received 72,759 visits and 434,730 page views giving exhibitors valuable exposure far beyond the exhibition!

6



Full members of the PPMA Association receive an exclusive discount to exhibit - the price is £191 per m² instead of £255 representing a saving of £1920 on a 30m² stand!

(NB excludes internet listing and insurance)

For more details on booking a stand at the PPMA Show 2009 (29 Sep - 1 Oct at the NEC), please contact Graham Earl on +44 (0)20 8910 7890
E graham.earl@reedexpo.co.uk - www.ppmashow.co.uk

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