Annual Report
2001/2002
WHAT IS THE MEASUREMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

The Measurement Advisory Committee (MAC) is an advisory non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) and advises the DTI on the effectiveness of its programme of expenditure in support of the National Measurement System (NMS). Currently the level of expenditure is about £38 million per year.

The MAC, directly and through its expert advisory Working Groups, sets priorities for the NMS, advises on the formulation of NMS work programmes and the choice of suitable contractors and monitors in detail the progress, quality and relevance of the work done. Although the MAC has ‘ex-officio’ representatives from other government departments and bodies concerned with measurement, its main work is carried out by its independent chairman and 12 members whose appointments are personal, unpaid and voluntary. The Chairman and members are drawn from industry and academia and chosen, according to strict criteria set down for public appointments, because of their abilities to represent and understand the interests and needs of industrial and other users of measurement. Most MAC members chair Working Groups, each of which is also made up of unpaid, volunteer experts. Each Working Group is responsible for one of the 16 metrological programmes within the NMS portfolio.

SPONSORING MINISTER

Lord Sainsbury – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Science and Innovation
MAC MEMBERSHIP (as at 31 March 2002)

Chairman

Mr Bill Goldfinch OBE
Retired

Members

Dr Colin Gaskell CBE
Retired

Dr Penny Allisy-Roberts OBE
Bureau International des Poids et Mesures

Mr Michael Buckley
South Yorkshire Trading Standards

Dr Peter Cowley
Rolls Royce plc

Prof Les Ebdon
University of Plymouth

Dr David Ellix
The Industry Technology Facilitator

Prof Ken Grattan
City University

Mr David Holmwood
Universal Instrument Services Ltd

Dr Alan Johnson
Emerson Process Management

Dr Roger Jones
Druck Holdings plc

Mr John Latham
Coventry University

Mr Steve Lower
Sira Test and Certification Ltd

OGD Representatives

Dr John McGuinness
Health & Safety Executive

Mr John Hunt
Ministry of Defence (RAF)

(Note – Since the end of the reporting period Mr Goldfinch has, sadly, died).
MEASUREMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Objectives

To advise the Department of Trade and Industry on:

the effectiveness with which the National Measurement System supports UK industry; and

the priorities the Department should assign to programmes of work undertaken to meet the needs of the National Measurement System.

The objectives shall be achieved by:

advising on the broad objectives, balance and strategy for Government support of measurement and proposing effective means for the delivery of that message to business in general in support of wealth creation;

advising on commercial opportunities resulting from the research and development carried out by contractors, in support of the National Measurement System;

contributing to an annual longer term perspective, as input to the Department’s five year and longer forward looks;

identifying key priorities for the UK measurement system within a European and global context;

taking account of advice of technical experts (Working Groups) to advise on priorities for funding.

BUDGET

The Measurement Advisory Committee has no dedicated budget although there are running costs administered by the National Measurement System Directorate in the form of travel and subsistence expenses paid in accordance with departmental guidelines for MAC and its Working Groups, which in total consist of 150 members. The estimated total expenditure on MAC and its Working Groups for 2001/02 is £50,000.
WORK PROGRAMME – 2001/2002

April
Ionising Radiation Appraisal and Priority Setting

May
Acoustics Appraisal and Priority Setting
Legal Metrology Annual Review

July
Quantum Annual Review
Flow Orientation
Length Orientation
Mass Orientation
VAM Customer-Contractor Workshop

September
Legal Metrology Orientation
Thermal mini-Review

November
VAM Annual Review
Flow Annual Review
Software Support for Metrology Annual Review
Legal Metrology Appraisal and Priority Setting

January
Length Annual Review
Mass Annual Review

February
Electrical Annual Review
Time & Frequency Annual Review

March
MAC Meeting

In addition members of MAC and its Working Groups provided support at tender boards for competitively tendered NMS projects and provided advice and guidance on the quality and timeliness of all programme deliverables including reports, papers and other services.