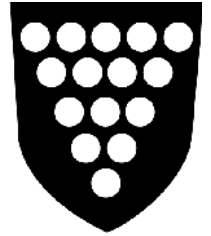


CORNWALL MANUFACTURERS FORUM



c/o SBD Associates Ltd: South Pill Cottage, South Pill,
Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6HS
Tel: 01752 847623
Email: info@sbdassociates.co.uk

1. The Cornwall Manufacturers Forum is a voluntary grouping of the larger manufacturing/production companies in Cornwall which come together to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. There are currently approximately 20 members, employing circa 4000 in Cornwall and contributing around £100m annually to the Cornish economy in wages and local sourcing.
2. The objectives of the Forum are-
 1. To provide a convenient means of exchange of information, experience and opinion between Members on matters affecting the interests of their companies, their employees and manufacturing industry in Cornwall.
 2. To encourage and assist the development of manufacturing in Cornwall.
 3. To provide a channel of communication between Members of the Forum, the local authorities and other appropriate organisations, including but not confined to the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA); Government Office South West (GOSW); South West Manufacturing Advisory Service (SWMAS); Business Link; Convergence and the Cornwall Development Company.
3. Membership of the Forum is by invitation when endorsed by the existing membership. It is normally at Chief Executive or General Manager level though named substitutes are allowed.
4. The Forum meets at least four times a year usually, but not always, at members premises and can include a tour of those premises and a guest speaker. Light refreshments are normally provided by the host company.
5. The Forum does not hold its own annual dinner but takes tables at the Cornwall Business Awards dinner at St Mellion usually in May. Members have always been among the winners in the various appropriate categories.

6. The Forum is not a public lobbying body and does not seek publicity but it has made its views known on issues such as transport when members felt it appropriate. Most recently we responded to the public consultation on the expansion of Newquay Airport for example. We also worked with the LSC to relax their rules on allowing large companies access to training funds.
7. The Forum is linked with the Plymouth Manufacturers Group and the Chair, currently Andrew Holland of Pall Newquay, sits on the wider South West Manufacturing Network. We also have a close working relationship with the Engineering Employers Federation which provides both speakers and advice from time to time.
8. The Forum is supported by a secretary who organises the meetings and also sends members hopefully interesting and informative material that might not otherwise come across their desks. All communication is by email wherever possible.
9. Much of the benefit derived from the Forum is through the informal interactions between members outside of the meetings where problems or thoughts can be shared and tested with peers. Members have reported significant financial savings through this networking when compared to paying outside service providers for advice so the payback on the fee can be rapid.
10. The Forum has created two sub groups for HR and Health & Safety which meet separate to the main meeting and is made up of the appropriate personnel of members. It is now possible to be a member of those groups without being a main member for a reduced fee.
11. The Forum is also one of the managing bodies for the Engineering strand of the ESF Convergence training project and member companies are actively participating in programmes such as BIT under that project.
12. There is a small annual subscription (currently £250.00) to cover running costs. Joining the sub groups alone is £100.00. The standard year runs from May to April with the AGM in April, May or June.

For more information please contact the Secretary – Ken Martin of SBD Associates Ltd – as above.