Date of Event:
Wednesday 25th January 2017

Event Location:
University of Strathclyde, Business School, Glasgow

Number of Attendees:
The event attracted 32 attendees.

Summary of Event:
Mr Jerome Finlayson, Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (see picture) introduced the circular economy detailing how remanufacturing and preventative maintenance practices can ‘add value in modern production environments. Jerome went on to introduce the first of the talks from

The University of Sunderland’s maintenance forum led by Dr’s Roger O’Brien and David Baglee supported by Mr. Peter Usher, Technip FMS presented a thoroughly interesting series of case studies that demonstrated that providing a sound maintenance set of practices into the manufacturing lines could provide additional profit and job satisfaction.

The scope and aim of this part of the event was to show how an effective maintenance process when implemented effectively using analysis tools and good engineering techniques could add great benefit to any manufacturing company.

The second part of the event was to show how the Scottish Institute for Remanufacture was making inroads into changing and increasing awareness of this form of manufacturing. Dr Jacqueline Balfour, Scottish Institute for Remanufacture Manager presented case studies from across industry demonstrating the commercial viability of how remanufacturing practices can be extremely profitable and aid sustainability. Dr. Balfour suggested that this method of making product has a £38bn potential and a key reason for The Scottish Governments support. The discuss outlined and covered manufacturers and remanufacturers with interests in fast moving consumer goods (FMCG), low volume/high value oil and gas support technologies, engine remanufacturing, IT infrastructure and bicycle production.

The final talk came from Mr. John Muir, Financial Director, IBM who oversees IBM’s European asset recovery operation and has a focus on remanufacturing large-scale computing equipment as a result of IBM’s hardware recovery and upgrade to new status for customers who need to minimise disruption to operations. John also highlighted that good housekeeping and maintenance of IT hardware enables IBM to take well cared for equipment back from their customers allowing a remanufactured product to be cost effective.
The examples illustrated that both remanufacturing and a structured approach to plant/equipment maintenance can enhance a manufacturer's competitive advantage and provide a measurable return-on-investment (ROI).

The two common threads across the maintenance and remanufacturing examples provided were the commercial viability of these practices as well as the associated supply chain sustainability. Indeed, the approaches detailed during the event were not an industrial ‘future-state’ requiring substantial development with limited ROI, but an achievable ‘current-state’ option for many modern production companies.

Dr. Derek Little CEng FIET
IET Scottish Forum Chair & Member of the Manufacturing Technical Professional Network.

If these events are of interest, please contact me at theietscotlandchair@theiet.org