

PRESS RELEASE



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Appointment

EAMA elects new chairman **ABB's Martin Walder to lead engineering alliance**

The Engineering and Machinery Alliance (EAMA) announced today that Martin Walder, managing director of ABB Robotics in the UK, has been elected chairman of the group.

EAMA's nine associations¹ represent 1,300 mechanical engineering firms with 60,000 employees and an annual turnover of some £7 billion.

Martin Walder, 44, has held senior positions in Rockwell (1989-2001) and more recently at ABB.

Martin Walder said: "Mechanical engineering is an important UK exporter, consistently running a positive trade balance. However, last year export sales were only very slightly up on 2006 and the net trade balance shrank to £3.2 billion, the sector's smallest contribution since 1995.

"EAMA is keen to continue to engage with government on exporting and other issues on a positive basis and in a practical way. But the UK cannot sustain a forty percent decline in net mechanical engineering export earnings over the longer term.

"We understand the government's concerns with developments in the financial sector. But this should not blind ministers to what's happening elsewhere. For example, the MACH trade show last week was an excellent showcase with many illustrations of UK-based manufacturing success. It was good to see Ian Pearson the minister for science and innovation and shadow secretary of state for business Alan Duncan taking an interest in MACH and in manufacturing.

"I am also delighted that we have been able to persuade EAMA's outgoing chairman Graham Hayes to take on the new role of EAMA president."

Graham Hayes was EAMA chairman for four years 2004-2008.

(ends)

Notes to Editors:

1. EAMA associations: British Automation and Robot Association; British Turned Part Manufacturers Association; British Plastics Federation; British Paper Machinery Suppliers Association; Confederation of British Metalforming; Gauge and Toolmakers Association; Manufacturing Technologies Association; Printing, Papermaking and Converting Suppliers Association; Processing and Packaging Machinery Association
2. Photo or information contact:
Rupert Hodges, the alliance secretary 020 7298 6450 or 07939 722 447
3. Mechanical engineering exports and balance of trade (£ billion)

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total exports	18	20	22	23	22	22	24	23	24	24	26	28	29
Trade balance	3.2	3.9	5.3	5.5	4.6	4.3	5.6	3.8	5.3	4.1	3.9	5.6	3.2

Source: ONS Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics January 2008

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