

# Queen Mary

## University of London

School of Engineering and Materials Science  
7<sup>th</sup> Industrial Advisory Board 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Prof James Busfield

Director of Industrial Engagement

Head of the Division of Materials Engineering

# IAB terms of Reference

<http://www.sems.qmul.ac.uk/ilf/iab/>

Terms of reference (Agreed at the IAB on 4th March 2015):

- To provide a regular channel of communication between the School and relevant sections of industry.
- To ensure that that School receives appropriate and expert advice on the relevance of its teaching and research.
- To ensure that we maintain accreditation status with all our relevant professional bodies.
- To advise on other School activities as the Board sees fit.

Benefits to the School include:

- The quality of the School's degree programmes is maintained.
- The School is advised on which research activities might be undertaken to meet current industrial needs.
- The employability of the School's students is enhanced.
- The board can advise the School on ad hoc matters identified by either by the academic staff or by the panel members.

Benefits to board members include:

- A raised awareness of the industrial partner's activities amongst staff and the students in the School.
- To ensure that SEMS graduates have the essential skills that are required by them as future employers.
- To provide a suitable academic partner to help secure EPSRC / Innovate UK funding for research projects.
- Networking opportunities with other companies in the SEMS network.
- Access to a large student population to undertake a wide range of projects.
- Access to the extensive equipment and facilities that are available in the School.

The main methods of interacting with the School are:

- Recruitment opportunities for either work experience or for graduate positions - Staff (often SEMS alumni) from the company are invited to participate in the various ILF activities.
- College/Industrial Studentships - Ensure that panel members are made aware of the college studentships programme, where projects are funded jointly by a college scholarship with an industrial top up.
- Guest lectures are delivered IAB members.
- Industrial Visit Programme supported by visits to the IAB companies. The School undertakes about 30 industrial site visits each year.
- Prize Day - Companies will support whenever possible student prizes, that are awarded at the annual prize day. This event will coincide with the annual research focused ILF in the School.

Addition Item for Terms of Reference (Agreed at the IAB on 29 Oct 2015):

- The outcomes from each IAB meeting will generate a series of proposed actions for individual streams.
- These will be considered by the Education and Learning Committee which will then create and implement a school wide action plan.
- The outcomes of this action plan will be reported back at the next available IAB.

In summary:

- To develop graduates trained as required by industry
- To facilitate collaboration
- To work on real problems of scientific benefit to society

# Agenda for IAB meeting March 2018

- School updates / New staff / Space Refurb / New programmes
- Outline of existing mechanisms
- MEng / MSc Student Project Collaboration
- Year in Industry Options

## Potential Industrial Collaboration Mechanisms:

- CDT - Polymer Engineering (with Warwick)
- CDT - Bioengineering (SEMS lead)
- London Institute of Transport Technology (LITT) bid
- Degree Apprenticeship
- Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

# IAB Membership Today

Dr Ravi Prabakaran - Advanced Healthcare Ltd  
Dr Carolyn Small - ALCOA Manufacturing Ltd.  
Mr David Singerton - Anglian Water  
Dr Nigel Smith - Biomedical Consultancy LTD  
Dr Shiva Pingle - BP plc  
Dr Monisha Phillips - BSI Healthcare  
Dr Amy Kinbrum - De Puy  
Dr Joe Hallett - Fenner Precision  
Dr Zulshan Mahmood - Ford  
Dr Tony Harrison - Haydale Composite Solutions  
Dr Roly Whear - Jaguar Land Rover  
Mr Ashley Gillibrand - Jaguar Land Rover  
Mrs Christine Hobday - L3 Commercial Training Solutions

Dr Philip Jackson - Lucideon Ltd  
Mr Tony Kinsella - Lucideon Ltd  
Dr Kirk Atkinson - MOD  
Dr Chris Stevens - NGF Europe  
Dr Graham Deacon - Ocado Technology  
Mr Thomas Poon - Rolls-Royce Submarines  
Dr Louise Bailey - Schlumberger  
Dr Joachim Sihler – Schlumberger  
Mr Rich Walker - Shadow Robot Company  
Mr Tom Dowden - Sugru  
Mr John Thomson - Vygon  
Mr Richard Smith - Winchester Consulting

# Extended IAB Membership

Airbus

Altair Engineering

AR consulting

ARTIS

Aviation Skills Partnership

BAe Systems

Becker Group

Biocompatibles UK

Cameron

Croda Europe

Electrosiences

Ford

GSK

Infineum

Innovate UK

KTN

LRQA

Manufacturing Technology Centre

Qinetiq

Quanta Fluid Solutions

RJM International

Rolls Royce

Unilever

Weir Advanced Research

Xeno Medical

# Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)

- Founded in 1785 at the Royal London Hospital
- The People's Palace at Mile End was set up in 1887
- Russell Group university
- 4,000 members of staff and more than 25,000 students
- Annual income of £430m (£140m is research funding)



# QMUL Student Profile



- 162 nationalities
- 91% are from state school
- 60% are BAME
- 42% are first entry into Higher Education
- 27% are from households where the annual taxable income is less than £10k

# School of Engineering and Materials Science (SEMS)

- Formed by the merger of Engineering and Materials Departments in 2007
- 2014 SEMS REF results were exceptional.
  - General Engineering submission was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 62 in UK and 4<sup>th</sup> on the basis of our research outputs
- ~60 academic staff (16 new staff recruited in the last year)
- ~1400 students (76% UG, 5% PGT, 19% PhD)
- ~60 Post Doctoral Research Assistants

# Updated Division Structure in SEMS

Aerospace  
Engineering  
and Fluid  
Mechanics

Bioengineering

Chemical  
Engineering  
and Renewable  
Energy

Materials  
Engineering

Mechanical  
Engineering,  
Robotics and  
Design

## Division Leadership



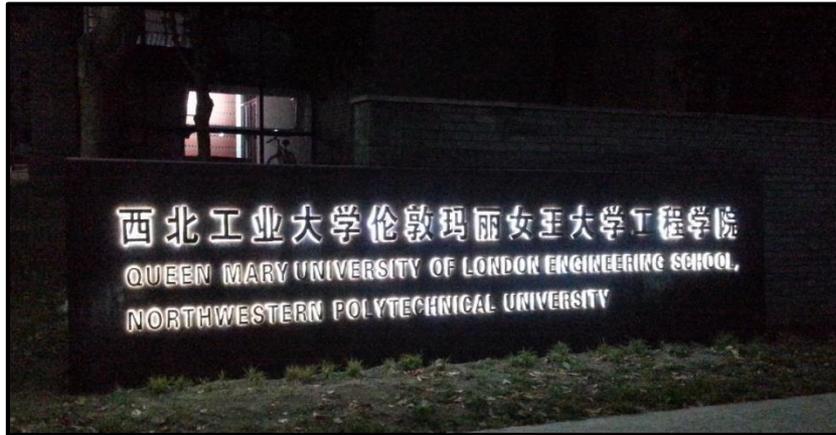
## Industrial Engagement Leads



# Recent Programme Developments

- Relaunch of “Biomaterials for Biomedical Sciences” BSc / MSci (2016)
- Robotics Engineering BEng / MEng (2016)
- MSc in Biomedical Engineering with Tissue Engineering & Biomaterials (2016)
- MSc in Biomedical Engineering with Imaging & Instrumentation (2016)
  
- Chemical Engineering MEng / BEng (2017)
- Materials BEng joint programmes with NWPU in China (2017)

# QMUL Engineering School, NPU



- 249 students on two materials degree programmes
- First semester teaching and exams completed successfully
- High student progression rate
- 5 Joint Research Centres



# QMUL Engineering School, NPU



- Adopting QMUL model for PBL based delivery
- High level of student engagement

# 16 Recent Staff Appointments

- Prof Colin Bailey - Principal
- Dr Aleksandra Birn-Jeffery - Lecturer in Bioengineering
- Dr Edo Boek - Reader in Chemical Engineering
- Dr Joe Briscoe - Lecturer in Functional Materials
- Dr Andrew Buchan - Lecturer in Engineering Science
- Dr Rafael Castrejón-Pita - Lecturer in Applied Sciences
- Dr Gabriel Cavalli - Senior Lecturer in Materials Science
- Dr Jun Chen - Lecturer in Engineering Science
- Prof Sir Colin Humphreys - Professor of Materials Science
- Dr Thomas Iskratsch - Lecturer in Bioengineering
- Prof Xi Jiang - Professor of Mechanical Engineering
- Prof Rob Krams - Professor in Molecular Bioengineering
- Dr Stoyan Smoukov - Senior Lecturer in Chemical Engineering
- Dr Petra Szilagyi - Lecturer in Functional Materials
- Dr Roberto Volpe - Lecturer in Chemical Engineering
- Dr Han Zhang - Lecturer in Chemical and Materials Engineering



# New Facilities 2016-17

£7M spent on refurbishing  
(mostly West Side)

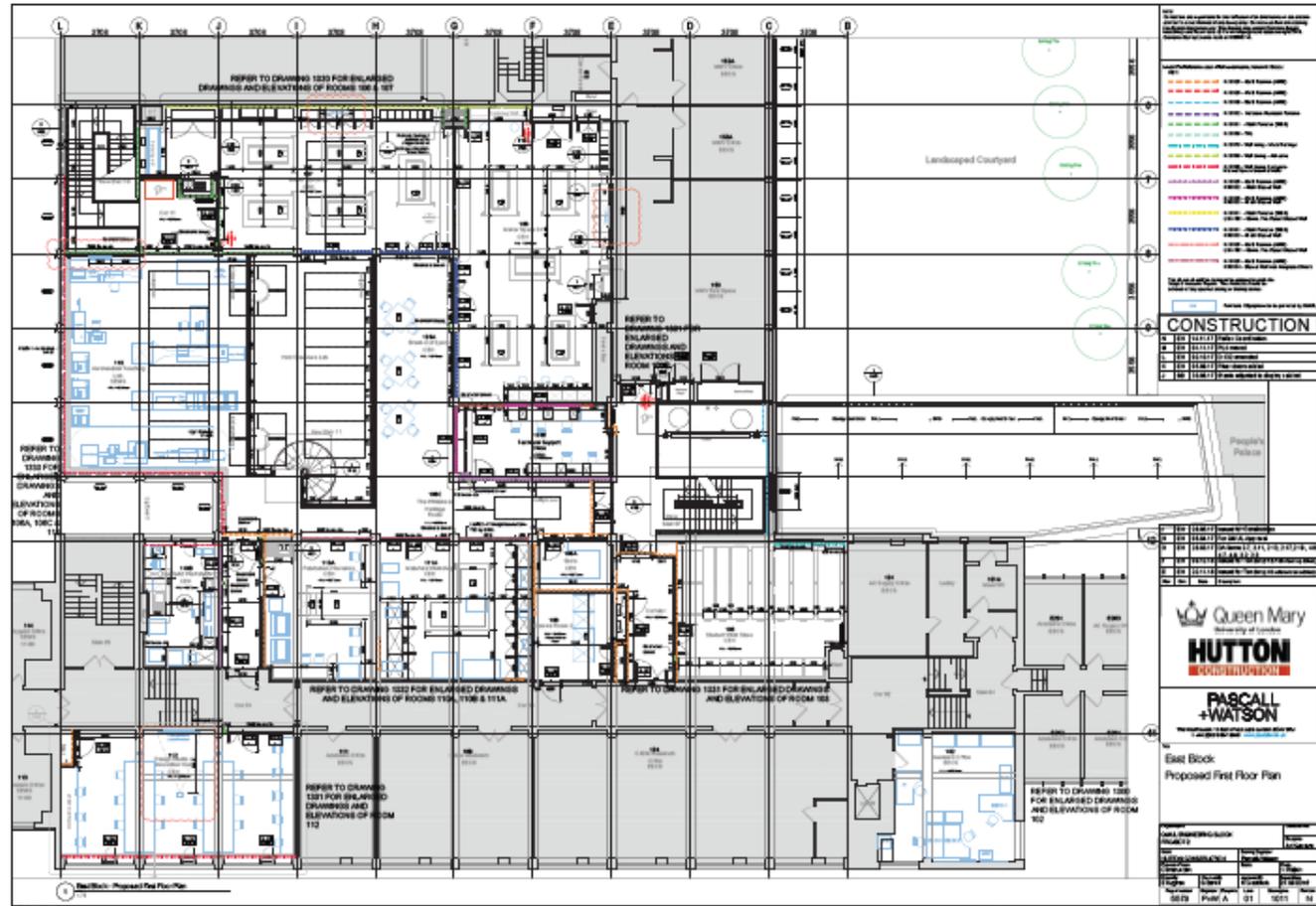
- Ground Floor Dedicated Teaching Hub
- Robotics Lab
- 1<sup>st</sup> floor research labs



# New Facilities 2017-18

£12M spent

- Aerospace
- Design Studio
- Creative Hub



# SEMS / Industry Price List

Fully Funded Post-Doctoral Research Assistant	£123,197 - £128,206pa
Fully Funded PhD studentship (any student)	£148,000 for 3.5 years
Fully Funded PhD studentship (EU national)	£115,000 for 3.5 years
Embedded Researcher in SEMS	£30,000 + facilities
Year in Industry Studentship	min £15,500 per annum
Work Experience Studentship	min £1,100 per month
MEng Group Project Sponsorship	£1,500 each group
MSc student project Sponsorship	£500 per project
BEng student project Sponsorship	Consumables
Student Prizes	£500 min recommended
Contract Research	Individually costed

# SEMS / Industry Price List

PhD Case Award from EPSRC with Industrial Support (UK National)  
~£84,900 from EPSRC and £28,300 from a Company for a full  
studentship

Half funded PhD studentship with Industrial Support (China Scholarship,  
Principal's Scholarship ...)  
~£62,000 for a 36 month or £82,000 for a 48 month studentship

Industrial support for RCUK (EPSRC, BBSRC, NERC, STFC or MRC),  
Innovate UK or a QM Proof of Concept bid  
Individually costed depending upon the research collaboration

# Forthcoming Calendar of Interactions

27 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2018	Proposal deadline for collaborative (BEng / MEng / MSc) projects (Sept 2018 start)
1 <sup>st</sup> Jun 2018	Confirm sponsorship of student prizes awarded in November
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jul 2018	Last possible date to advertise work experience opportunities (summer 2018 start)
5 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2018	Semester 1 Field Trips
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2018	Research Focus ILF / Autumn IAB

# Year in Industry 2017 Starts

Altair Engineering	HiETA	Smith Medical
Aparito	Lucideon	Toyota
Arconic x 2	Network Rail x 2	Trelleborg
Cummins	QMP Quality Metal	UKAEA
Delphi	RDG x 2	UTC Aerospace
Dornan Engineering	Rolls Royce x 6	Vauxhall
GE x 2	Schroders	Vertex
GKN Aerospace	Siemens Traffic Solutions	Zimmer Biomet
GSK	Siemens	Zotefoams

# EPSRC funding for Doctoral Training

## Doctoral Training Partnerships

- Block grants to universities for flexible PhD support, based on research income

## Industrial CASE

- Highly user focused, company chooses project and university

## Centres for Doctoral Training

- Cohort-based in areas of national need

# Centres for Doctoral Training (CDT)

- Each CDT will last for 9 years
- 5 entry cohorts of at least 10 students
- 20-40% of funding from non RCUK
- Compulsory element of training
- Limitations on the number of applications
- Outline deadlines 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- Full proposal deadline 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- If awarded first intake Sept 2019

# CDT in Predictive Bioengineering for Healthcare Innovation

- Bid for 60 students (40 funded by EPSRC) over 5 intake cohorts
- Aim to develop a bioengineering-based toolkits for accurate, predictive testing of healthcare innovations for safety, reliability and efficacy.
  - 1) organ-on-a-chip devices for testing pharmaceuticals
  - 2) experimental in vitro models for predicting the behaviour of biomaterials and medical devices

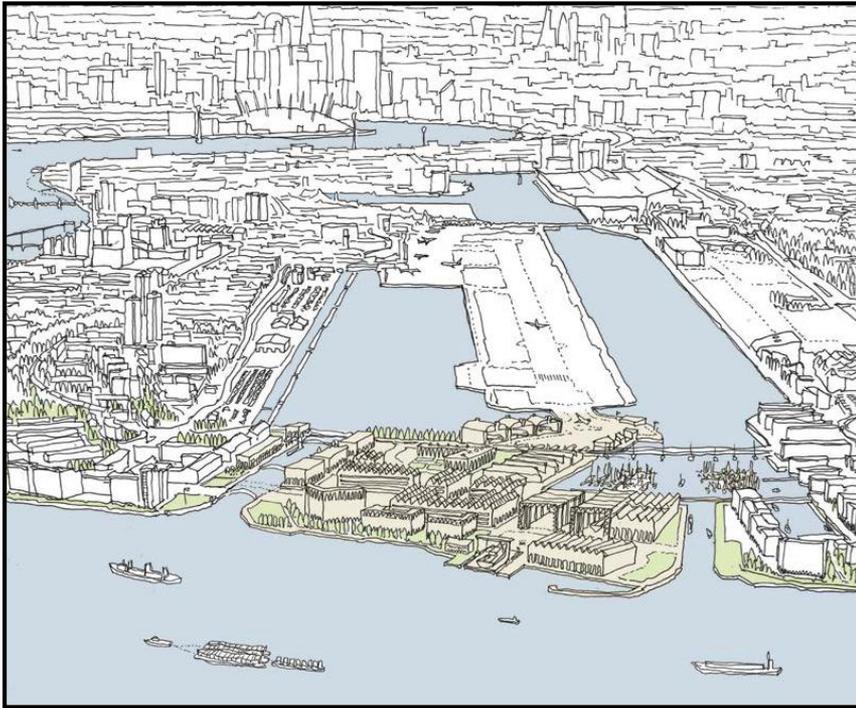
# CDT in Predictive Bioengineering for Healthcare Innovation

- Building upon QMUL's reputation in this area.
- Extensive in-house bioengineering-based understanding of biomaterials, biocompatibility, biomechanics, mechanobiology, sensor technology, microfluidics and computational modelling
- All of which is coupled with a multidisciplinary knowledge of the biological, industrial and the regulatory environment.

# CDT in Polymer Engineering

- Bid for 50 students (28 funded by EPSRC) over 5 intake cohorts.
- Joint application with Warwick University
- Building upon QMUL and WMG's reputation in this area
- This CDT will span polymer science, engineering and manufacturing by combining chemistry, physics, characterisation, processing and modelling of polymeric materials

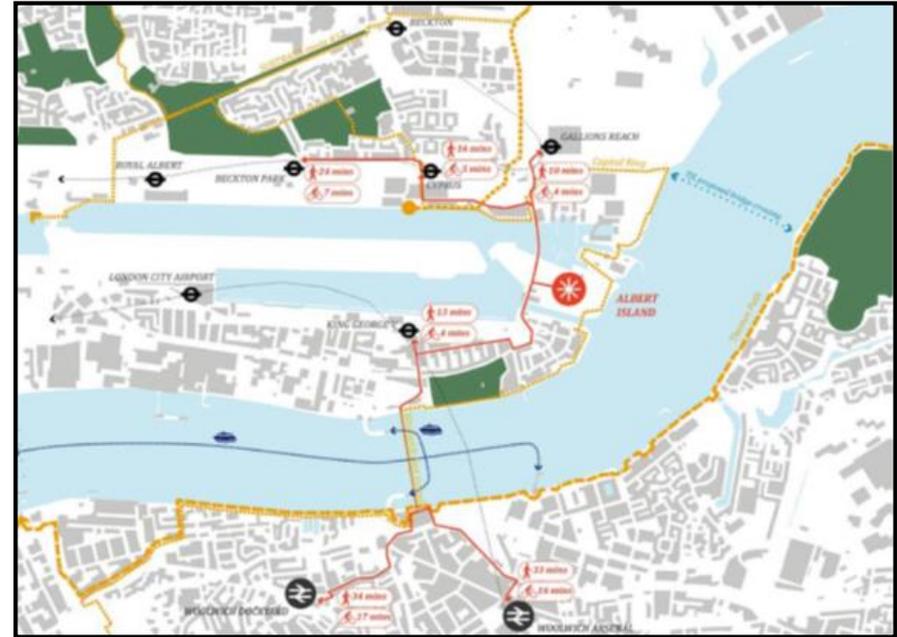
# Albert Island Partnership



- GLA has confirmed London & Regional Properties as the development partner for Albert Island in the Royal Docks.
- The development will create a transport technology hub, serving a unique cluster of businesses to serve the “4R”: road, river, runway and rail.

# Albert Island Partnership

- Over 5,900 net jobs will develop on site, with over 6,900 net additional local jobs.
- Over 80% of all the jobs will be at advanced and higher skill levels.
- QMUL is the HE Educational Partner to the Redevelopment Project



# Institutes of Technology

- The Department for Education launched a competition to establish new Institutes of Technology (IoTs) in 2017
- Stage One proposals were due last week
- Total funding from a £170m capital fund
- QMUL led an £18M bid for the London Institute of Transport Technology (LITT)
- If successful the first intake is in 2020

# London Institute for Transport Technology (LITT)

QMUL is the lead HE partner with 3 FE partners:

- Newham College (Rail & Road)
- Brockenhurst College (River)
- Norwich City College (Runway)

Current plans are for:

- ~1850 learners at steady state
- 20% at level 3 apprenticeship
- 51% at levels 4 & 5 apprenticeship
- 29% at degree apprenticeship (level 6 or 7)

# LITT Industrial Partners

## Our IOTs anchor partners:

Siemens

Port of London Authority

London & Regional Properties

## Other partners include:

Serco

City Cruises

AECOM

Network Rail

CVU

WYG

Livetts & Bennett's Barges



# Degree Apprenticeships

- All employers with a wage bill over £3M now pays an apprenticeship levy of 0.5% of your salary costs.
- This money is allocated to your own apprenticeship service account.
- Two types of apprenticeship already exist
  - apprenticeship standards - each standard covers a specific occupation and sets out the core skills, knowledge and behaviours an apprentice will need; they are developed by employer groups known as ‘trailblazers’
  - apprenticeship frameworks - a series of work-related vocational and professional qualifications, with workplace- and classroom-based training
- You can invest in the training of your staff to degree (level 6) or higher degree (level 7) apprenticeship.



# How does it work

- A business identifies a strategic need for a new product or process
- An academic with experience in the relevant field supervises the project for its duration (1-3 years)
- A graduate is employed to work on the project under the supervision of the academic and company

# Typical Funding Model

[grey = fixed] [blue = variable]

p/a

Associate Employment Costs		£ 27,000 – 45,000
Associate Development		£ 2,000
Travel & Subsistence		£ 2,250
Equipment & Consumables		£ 1,500
Academic supervisor (average estimate)		£ 12,500
Associate Estates costs		£ 1,600
Associate indirect support costs		£ <u>13,650</u>
<b>Total Partnership Budget p/a</b>		<b>£ 68,500</b>
Government Contribution	67% or 50% (EPSRC/Innovate UK)	
Company Contribution:	SME 33% of total budget	£ 22,605
	Large Company 50% of total budget	£ 34,250

# Benefits

## Business Benefits:

- Access qualified people to spearhead new projects
- Access experts who can help take your business forward
- Develop innovative solutions to help your business grow
- Improve your performance/business operations

## Studies show:

- An increase of over £240,000 in annual profits before tax
- The creation of two genuine new jobs
- An increase in skills of existing staff

# LMK Thermosafe KTP case study

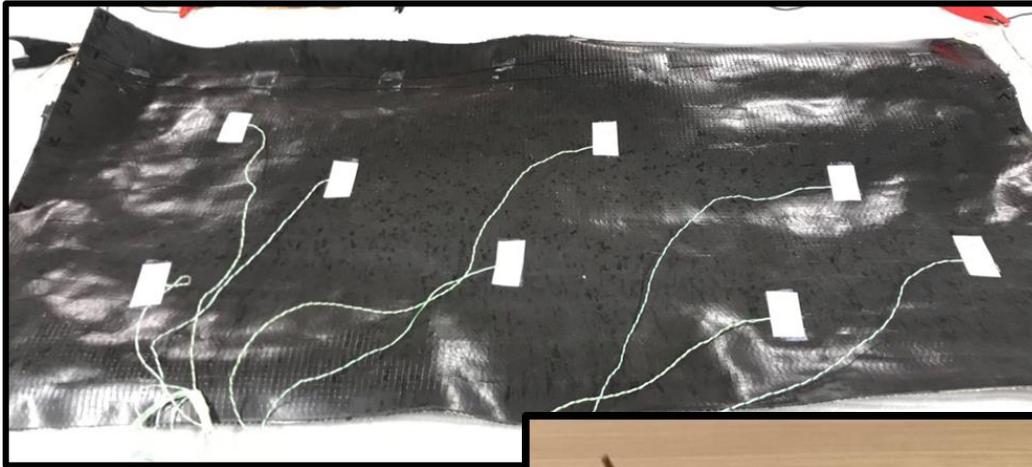
## Initial Project Aim

- To develop conductive polymer composites that exhibit self-regulating heating properties
- For use in specialist industrial heating applications
- Industrial applications in potentially explosive environments governed by the strict safety standards



# LMK Thermosafe KTP

A three year KTP developed



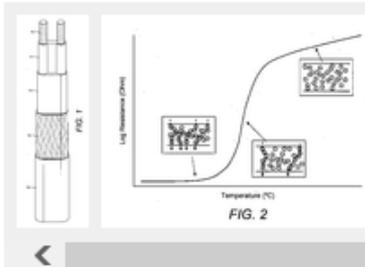
# LMK Thermosafe KTP

## Conductive polymer composite

### Abstract

A conductive polymer composite comprising a first polymer matrix comprising a first polymer and a second polymer are immiscible; and a heating element comprising a first polymer composite of any preceding claim comprising a second polymer, wherein the first polymer composite comprising first conductive particles in the first polymer and the second polymer. A heating element comprising a first polymer composite disposed thereon comprising this heating element.

### Images (6)



### Classifications

## Heating element

### Abstract

A self-regulating heating element comprising a heating core disposed between a pair of electrodes, the heating core comprising: a first conductive polymer composite comprising first conductive particles dispersed in a first polymer matrix, the first conductive particles having an aspect ratio greater than 100; and a second conductive polymer composite comprising second conductive particles dispersed in a second polymer matrix, the second conductive particles having an aspect ratio of from 1 to 100 and a longest dimension of greater than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , wherein the first conductive polymer composite and the second conductive polymer composite are arranged in series between the pair of electrodes.

### Classifications

H05B3/146 Conductive polymers, e.g. polyethylene, thermoplastics

[View 1 more classifications](#)

WO2018002633A1

WO Application

Find Prior Art

Other languages: [French](#)

Inventor: [Emiliano BILOTTI](#), [Newton](#), [Jamie EVANS](#)

Original Assignee: [Lmk Ther](#)

Priority date: [2016-06-30](#)

Family: [GB \(1\)](#) [WO \(1\)](#)

Date	App/Pub
------	---------

2017-06-29	PCT/GB2
------------	---------

2018-01-04	WO20
------------	------

Info: [Patent citations \(4\)](#), [Similar Applications](#)

External links: [Espacenet](#), [Glo](#)

# LMK Thermosafe KTP

## FULL PAPER

Flexible Devices

## Universal Conductive Polymer Composites with Self-Regulating Heating Properties

Yi Liu, Han Zhang,\*†, James J. C. Busfield,†

Smart heating devices with relatively high efficiency, combined with additional features of particular interest in healthcare applications, are highly desirable. Unfortunately, the development of such devices is hampered by the conflicting requirements of high thermal efficiency, low Joule heating performance, and a design strategy based on a series of conflicting requirements. Here, we show that a conductive polymer composite (CPC) is shown to exhibit self-regulating heating properties. Hooke's and Kirchhoff's laws predict the overall pyroresistive behavior of parallel configurations, hence the design of mechanically flexible Joule heaters is characterized by a self-regulating temperature coefficient of around 10<sup>6</sup>. Flexibility and thermoplastic polyurethane matrices and conductive fillers are obtained.

## 1. Introduction

Conductive polymer composite smart materials that have attracted both academia and industry interest

Y. Liu, Dr. H. Zhang, Dr. H. Porwal, Dr. E. Bilotti  
School of Engineering and Materials, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, UK  
E-mail: han.zhang@qmul.ac.uk; e.bilotti@qmul.ac.uk

Dr. H. Zhang, Dr. H. Porwal, Dr. W. T. Nanoforce Technology Ltd.  
Joseph Priestley Building  
Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, UK  
E-mail: h.zhang@nanoforce.com

## Journal of Materials Chemistry

### PAPER



Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/c7tc05621d

## Tailored by introduction of elastomeric (GNP) filler self-regulating heating properties

Yi Liu,<sup>†</sup> Han Zhang,<sup>†</sup> Mark Newton,<sup>†</sup>

Flexible and conductive polymer composites are highly desirable for healthcare devices. Unfortunately, the development of such devices is hampered by the conflicting requirements of high thermal efficiency, low Joule heating performance, and a design strategy based on a series of conflicting requirements. Here, we show that a conductive polymer composite (CPC) is shown to exhibit self-regulating heating properties. Hooke's and Kirchhoff's laws predict the overall pyroresistive behavior of parallel configurations, hence the design of mechanically flexible Joule heaters is characterized by a self-regulating temperature coefficient of around 10<sup>6</sup>. Flexibility and thermoplastic polyurethane matrices and conductive fillers are obtained.

Received 7th December 2017  
Accepted 7th February 2018

DOI: 10.1039/c7tc05621d

rsc.li/materials-c

## Introduction

Conductive polymer composites (CPCs) have attracted amounts of attention due to their ease of fabrication and range of applications.<sup>1–3</sup> Many novel devices in the monitoring and wearable electronics are made of various functionalities including sensitivity to strain, humidity, and temperature.<sup>4–9</sup> Self-regulating heaters benefit from another intrinsic feature found in CPCs: the temperature coefficient (PTC) effect, where the electrical resistance increases with increasing operating temperature. The increment in resistance of these materials is in the range of 10<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>†</sup>School of Engineering and Materials Science, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, UK. E-mail: han.zhang@qmul.ac.uk

<sup>†</sup>Nanoforce Technology Ltd, Joseph Priestley Building, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, UK. E-mail: h.zhang@nanoforce.com



## Effect of particle size and shape of conductive polymer composites

Eric Asare<sup>a</sup>, Jamie Evans<sup>b</sup>, Mark Newton<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Queen Mary University of London, School of Engineering and Materials Science, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, UK  
<sup>b</sup>LMK Thermosafe Ltd, 9–10 Moonhall Business Park, Helions Bumps, Helions Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk, UK  
<sup>c</sup>Nanoforce Technology Ltd, Joseph Priestley Building, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, UK

### ARTICLE INFO

Article history:  
Received 5 November 2015  
Received in revised form 16 February 2016  
Accepted 19 February 2016  
Available online 22 February 2016

Keywords:  
Pyroresistivity  
PTC effect  
Resistance-temperature behaviour  
Conductive polymer composite  
Model system

### 1. Introduction

With the increase of functionality and 'smartness' of consumer products, there is an urgent need for technological fields like wearable electronics, flexible displays and quick new materials and devices able to respond, positively, to a number of stimuli. Conductive polymer composites (CPCs) promise to address some of the above challenges, as demonstrated capability in sensing strain [1], liquid damage [4–6] and even degradation [7]. CPCs can also exhibit pyroresistive behaviour with large positive temperature coefficient (PTC) effects, as demonstrated since the 1970s [8], applications in self-regulating heaters and over-current protectors.

Different theories have been proposed for the PTC effect, all somehow addressing the mismatch of the temperature coefficients of polymer matrix and filler but from different perspectives: percolation behaviour [12], void formation [14], tunnelling current [15,16], or potential barrier [17]. Nevertheless, none of the above concepts explain the PTC effect, indicating there is still a lack of understanding after more than four decades. We believe this is primarily due to the complexity of the inter-relationships between (mixed) conductive fillers and the PTC effect.

## Nanocomposites

Original Article

## Effect of mixed fillers on positive temperature coefficient of conductive polymer composites

Eric Asare<sup>1</sup>, Al Basir<sup>1</sup>, Wei Tu<sup>2</sup>, Harshit Porwal<sup>1,3</sup>, Han Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Yi Liu<sup>1</sup>, Jamie Evans<sup>1</sup>, Mark Newton<sup>3</sup>, Ton Peijs<sup>1,2</sup> and Emiliano Bilotti<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Engineering and Materials Science, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, UK

<sup>2</sup>Nanoforce Technology Ltd., Joseph Priestley Building, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, UK

<sup>3</sup>LMK Thermosafe Ltd., 9-10 Moonhall Business Park, Helions Bumpstead Rd, Haverhill, Suffolk, UK

**Abstract** This paper investigates the trade-off between low percolation threshold and large positive temperature coefficient (PTC) intensity in conductive polymer composites (CPCs). Conductive particles with low aspect ratios and large dimensions have been demonstrated to induce large PTC intensity in CPCs. Conversely high aspect ratio conductive (nano)particles like carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are desirable because of their extremely low percolation threshold (typically well below 1 wt.%), providing benefits in terms of reduced density, brittleness, costs and improved processability. Herein we report on combinations of different conductive fillers to explore the possibility to obtain both low percolation threshold and high PTC intensity. For the first time we use model systems in which at least one of the two conductive fillers is of relatively homogenous size and shape to facilitate unraveling some of the complicated inter-relationships between (mixed) conductive fillers and the PTC effect.

**Keywords** Pyroresistivity, PTC effect, Resistance-temperature behavior, Conductive polymer composite, Self-regulating heaters, Over-current protectors

**Cite this article** Eric Asare, Al Basir, Wei Tu, Harshit Porwal, Han Zhang, Yi Liu, Jamie Evans, Mark Newton, Ton Peijs, Emiliano Bilotti: *Nanocomposites*, doi: 10.1080/20550324.2016.1192796

## Introduction

Conductive polymer composites (CPCs) are promising materials for a series of challenging new applications like wearable electronics, smart textile and soft robotics, owing to their demonstrated capability to sense and respond to a number of stimuli such as strain,<sup>1</sup> liquid and gasses,<sup>2,3</sup> damage<sup>4–6</sup> and degradation.<sup>7</sup>

One of the first phenomena observed in CPCs, which have found commercial exploitation since the 1980s,<sup>8</sup> was the pyroresistive effect, commonly referred to as positive temperature coefficient (PTC) effect. PTC is defined as the increase in electrical resistivity over a relatively narrow temperature range,<sup>9–14</sup> usually in correspondence of a phase transition of the host polymer matrix (melting temperature or glass transition temperature). As the temperature increases and exceeds a certain range, the continuous network formed by the conductive filler is disrupted causing the composite to exhibit a sharp decrease in resistance.

applications like self-regulated heaters and over-current protectors.<sup>15–18</sup>

A pyroresistive material would exhibit characteristics including: a very large positive temperature coefficient (PTC), a low negative temperature coefficient (NTC) effect, tuneable switching over a large number of heating/cooling cycles, and the ability to respond to other external stimuli (e.g. environment, humidity, etc.), combined with additional applications like flexibility, etc.

A lot of approaches have been explored for the above including polymer blends, fillers and networks,<sup>24–30</sup> fillers of various shapes, aggregates, mixed fillers, etc.

# Breakout - Specific Themes

- CDT - Polymer Engineering (with WMG)
- CDT - Bioengineering (SEMS lead)
- London Institute of Transport Technology
- Degree Apprenticeships
- Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

# Next Meeting



14<sup>th</sup> November 2018