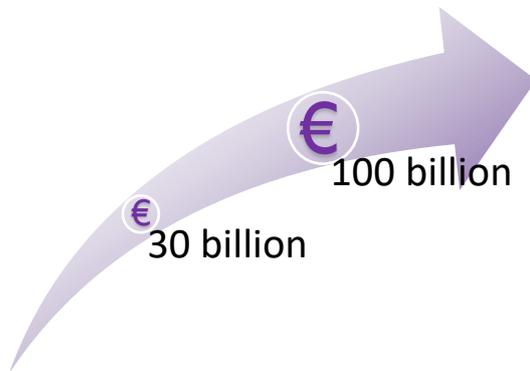


## Review of our first six months

by David Fitzsimons

August 2017

[www.remancouncil.eu](http://www.remancouncil.eu) Edition



### Off the starting block

It has been a promising, first six months. Our sense is that the timing has been almost perfect, with policy makers convinced of the huge resource efficiency benefits on offer from expanding the existing €30 billion remanufacturing sector to €100 billion by 2030. Hugo-Maria Schally from DG Environment said at the launch of the Council in January that it is time to bring together the many sectors in which remanufacturing occurs: automotive, digital, aviation, electrical, off-road vehicles, marine, rail, medical instruments and many others; time for European innovation in this field of the circular economy to be promoted and coordinated. And that is exactly what we plan to do.

### Recruitment

Thanks especially to our first-year founding member companies and to the trade association members who have offered us support and guidance. Lexmark was the first to join the CER and Maxime Furkel has been a constant source of advice. Our membership target when we launched at the Stanhope Hotel in Brussels in January 2017 is being exceeded and by the end of July we had welcomed such members as Volvo, IBM, SKF and Panalpina amongst others. Over the next three years we are aiming to attract a membership that is representative of the 500 to 750 remanufacturing and refurbishment companies that are growing sales and employment in Europe across a dozen business sectors. We plan also to be in regular communication with the more than 1,000 businesses that are part of the €30 billion sector in Europe.

### Network and relationships

Key components of the network and relationships we are building:



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- The Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF) is changing the way businesses design and sell their products and services. We work closely with EMF on the innovation agenda for remanufacturing and see our relationship as a source of ideas, contacts and mutual benefit.
- China's leadership and ambition have been an important feature of the circular economy. We awarded Professor Binshi Xu our first certificate of honour and continue to build ties with the research, business and investment community through the China Association of Circular Economy and National Key Lab.
- Having attended the first, invitation-only World Circular Economy Forum in Helsinki – a hugely successful event – we will be lending our support to the second in 2019.

The bridge with the European Remanufacturing Network (ERN) research community is under development. Oakdene Hollins manages both organisations. We will be highlighting innovation priorities at a workshop on Remanufacturing (ICoR) at Linköping University on 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October.

### Publications and resources

Case studies on member companies Lexmark and ARP were prepared and published, and two more such studies will be produced later this year. The list of resources available on the Members' area of the website is beginning to grow.

### Staff and organisation

With Brussels being the perfect place to meet businesses and policy makers, our office on Square de Meeus has proved to be a useful base as we continue to grow the membership. Oakdene Hollins provides staff resources and is financing the office and activities during these early years of development. With one eye on the future, we are in early-stage discussions to relocate in 2019 to strengthen our links with other European organisations building a circular economy.

David Parker, expert in the remanufacturing sector and a chemical engineer, has provided invaluable support and is currently rebuilding the ERN web site at [www.remanufacturing.eu](http://www.remanufacturing.eu) to ensure that it dovetails with the services offered to members through [www.remancouncil.eu](http://www.remancouncil.eu). Edward Sims joined EY in Paris after helping to get us launched. We wish him well in his recent marriage and in his promising career in politics and business.

#### The question on everyone's lips...

*"Why have you used French for the name of the new European Remanufacturing Council?"*, is a question lots of people have asked us over the past six months. There are two reasons: firstly, to distinguish us from the Remanufacturing Council in the USA. While we acknowledge the inspirational early work of the US Council and especially Nabil Nasr, the European Remanufacturing Council aims to be distinctly European. Secondly, we are based in Brussels – where French is widely used.

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### The next six months

We will be organising our first members' meeting later this year, with an agenda that will include deciding on work plan priorities for 2018 and the election of a president and a management advisory group. We plan to hold this meeting either at the OECD in Paris or at our office in Brussels.

New CEN and ISO standards as well as the on-going discussion on material efficiency in proposed Product Eco Design will continue to feature in the background. However, it is the repositioning of major brands and OEMs with respect to the circular economy that will generate immediate opportunities for our member companies.

### New audiences

Rodney Copperbottom and the *Robots* movie continue to attract attention. Oddly, this aspect of our communications has been especially appreciated by some of the traditional audiences – amongst policy makers and even some of those at the ReMaTec conference in Amsterdam.

Thanks again everyone for your support and for your ambition to grow remanufacturing activity across a wide range of business sectors.



For additional information please contact:



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David  
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(on  
maternity  
Leave until  
Jan 2018)  
Rachel  
Waugh