

Announcement



Graham Toft to be the new Chief Executive of PITA

The Chairman and Board of Directors of The Paper Industry Technical Association (PITA) are pleased to be able to announce that **Graham Toft** (44) is to be the new Chief Executive of the Association with effect from the beginning of March 2007.

Graham has spent his entire career in the paper industry and brings a wealth of experience from both mill operations and the supply side to this challenging new role. A graduate in Paper Science from UMIST (now University of Manchester) Graham started his career with National Starch & Chemical before joining Robert Fletcher (Greenfield) Ltd as Laboratory Manager. Reverting back to chemical sales he then spent the next eleven years with Eka Chemicals Ltd in a series of increasingly responsible positions before moving to Yorkshire Chemicals PLC (Paper Division) as Technical Manager. More recently Graham has been back in a mill environment as a Process Engineer with Iggesund Paperboard (Workington) Ltd.

Graham has been a member of PITA since his days at UMIST and a real devotee of the Working Groups, having been a member of three different Groups throughout his career depending on his interests at the time. He has also presented several papers both at PITA events and at other Association conferences and was the co-winner of the Jasper Mardon Memorial Prize at the most recent PITA Papermaking Conference in 2006.

Graham is married and lives with his wife Sandra and two teenage children in the beautiful countryside of North Lancashire from where he will commute to the PITA office in Bury when not otherwise touring around the country visiting existing and potential PITA members. An accomplished musician, Graham is rumoured to dispel the stresses of life by having a good thrash on the organ which he also plays in a more disciplined manner in the local church.

Retiring Chief Executive, John Clewley who worked with other members of the PITA Board of Directors throughout the selection exercise is delighted that the Association has been able to secure the services of Graham Toft who he believes will “be aware of the traditions and accomplishments of the past whilst at the same time bringing creativity, imagination and enthusiasm to this challenging role as he leads this great Association into a successful future”.

