

European experts meet on Teesside

By HELEN LOGAN

BUSINESS and employment opportunities were the focus of a major business conference held on Teesside.

A European Chemical Workshop was held at Crathorne Hall, near Yarm, which brought together 18 specialists from the chemical industry, support agencies and local Government from three European countries.

It included delegates from Saxony-Anhalt in Germany and Limburg in Holland, together with representatives from key organisations based in the North-east.

Local delegates included BASE, Huntsman, SembCorp Utilities and BOC, together with representatives from the North East Process Industry Cluster which organised the event, regional development agency One NorthEast and the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit.

The event's aim was to exchange information with a view to improving commercial cooperation which could lead to new investment opportunities and employment.

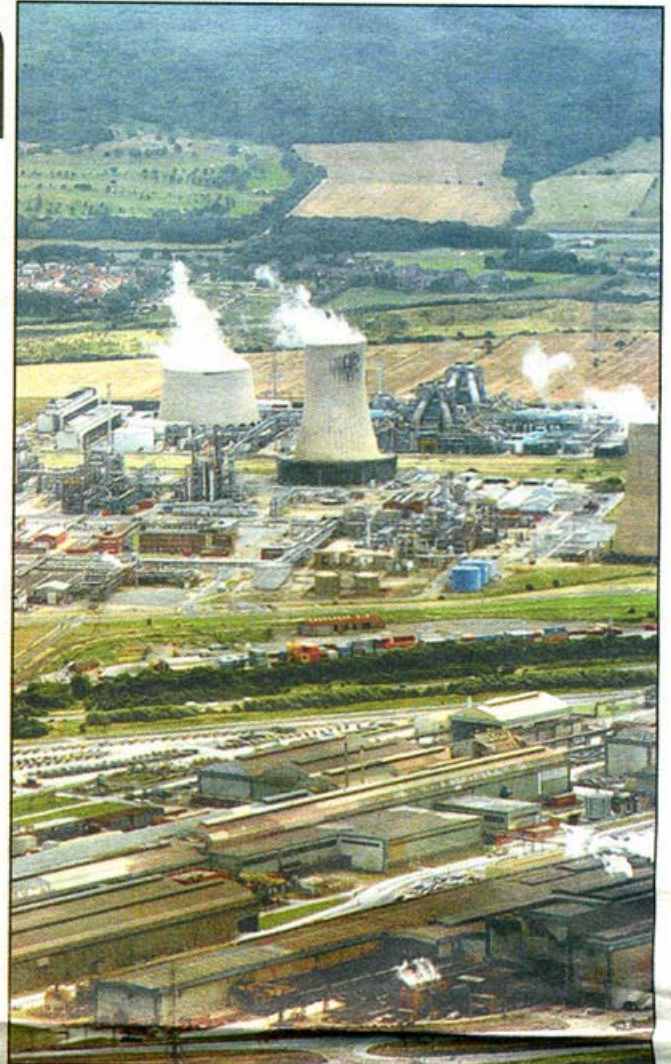


BENEFICIAL: Ian Mains

The workshop looked at the way in which large chemical sites have developed in the three regions, focusing on the Wilton International Site near Redcar, Leuna in Germany and Limburg in Holland.

Themes discussed including energy costs, safety, security, environmental protection and linkage to the local community.

The delegates agreed to the preparation of a directory of chemical companies based in the three regions, including small, medium and large organisations,



OPPORTUNITIES AND EMPLOYMENT: The Wilton International Site
Picture by IAN McINTYRE

which will be circulated to interested companies enabling commercial opportunities.

Delegates were given a guided tour of the Wilton International Site courtesy of SembCorp Utilities.

Ian Mains, business manager for NEPIC said: "This sort of pan-European project has to be beneficial to the chemical industry and we believe that real commercial opportunities can be created for companies based in

the Tees Valley."

The workshop finished with delegates joining a NEPIC network event held at Crathorne Hall involving more than 150 chemical, pharmaceutical, biotechnology and support companies and linked to a presentation given by the ASPIRE campaign encouraging companies to support the drive to engage with young people across the North-east to increase job opportunities.