

## Appendix I General background to the study

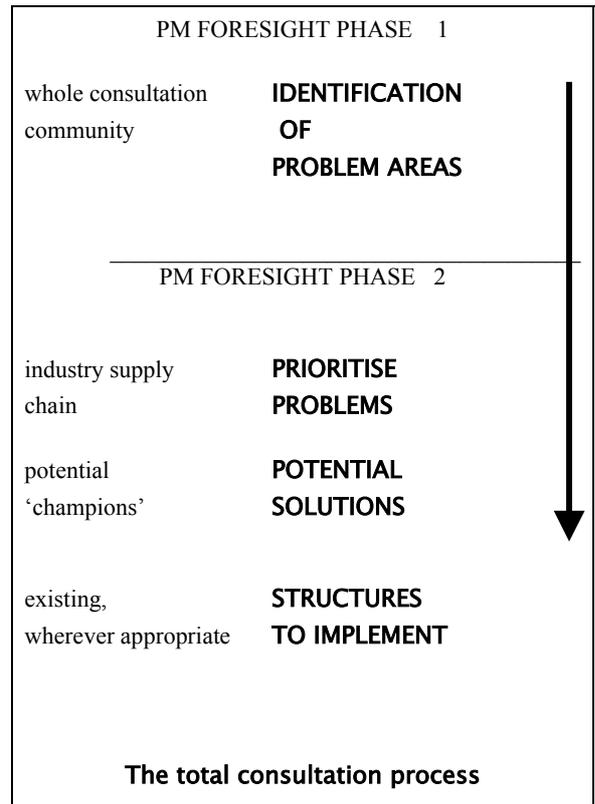
### THE PROGRAMME

This study on the immediate future of the powder metallurgy industry in the UK was carried out in two phases. **Phase 1**, which ran from November 1998 to March 1999 identified issues and problem areas which were felt by individuals and organisations in a ‘Consultation Community’ to be likely to influence and shape the future of the industry.

Even given the rather tight timetable, Phase 1 generated extensive commentary and a large number of recommendations.

The recommendation list led to the decision by DTI to approve **Phase 2** aimed at: prioritisation of the problems and opportunities, plus the formulation of concrete proposals for doing something about them.

Throughout, the study was not, and could not be, confined to technical areas, but also covered commercial reality, human resources and the pressures from legislation on a national and global scale.



### INDUSTRY SCOPE

<b>Phase 1:</b>	structural components	magnets	hardmetals
<b>Phase 2:</b>	structural components	magnets	

A general definition of the sectors covered by this present Report is given on page iv of the preliminaries.

### PHASE ONE REPORT

The text of the Phase 1 Report to the DTI can be found on the following websites:

EPMA website ( <a href="http://www.epma.com">www.epma.com</a> ) under ‘News’	(summary)
Institute of Materials ( <a href="http://www.materials.org">www.materials.org</a> )	(in full)
Office of Science and Technology ( <a href="http://www.foresight.gov.uk">www.foresight.gov.uk</a> )	(in full)

### PHASE TWO OBJECTIVES

The central objective of Phase 2, with which this present Report is concerned, was to consider the context within which the PM industry will be operating over, roughly, the next decade, and to specify the potential for efficient strategies, responses and actions.

Phase 2 was based upon a refinement of the Phase 1 list of issues into priority areas through discussion, as before, with the industry supply chain. The intention has been throughout that responses to the issues will be developed among all the role players,

i.e. trade associations, professional institutions, universities, RTOs, research funding bodies, and Government, as well as companies themselves.

### **WORKING METHOD**

The main effort has been supplied by a small Project Executive team (Appendix IV). The core PE team which handled Phase 1 was expanded by the addition of a member with specific magnets expertise, and the inclusion of a representative of the Contractor and a key member of the relevant DTI staff.

Broadly speaking, the working method successfully devised for and used in Phase 1 was repeated:

- Project Executive members were in virtually constant contact; monthly formal meetings reported on progress, discussed issues arising, and managed the Project schedule.
- Project Executive members also collected data and carried out literature research.
- Interviews with targeted organisations and individuals - the 'Consultation Community' - were conducted in person and by structured telephone interview over the period October 1999 to April 2000.
- A Workshop held on 2 March 2000 provided the opportunity to share information on findings to date and to hold syndicate discussions.

### **THE CONSULTATION COMMUNITY**

The Consultation Community consisted of a broad range of organisations and some independent individuals and consultants with commitments in the field; some were consulted quite specifically in terms of their potential role as 'Solution providers' for the problems and challenges identified:

- companies in the supply chain
- RTOs
- universities
- trade associations
- a few key individuals for 'strategic interviews'
- certain institutions/learned societies for 'strategic interviews'

The database used to define this community ran to more than 250 representative records. Formal interviews were held with 16% of these, informal discussion covered a further 15% and the Workshop attracted also 16% of the community, with almost no overlap with those interviewed. Comprehensive information was also available to the Project Executive from the extensive response to detailed questionnaires processed as part of Phase 1 of the Project.