

2025 - A YEAR OF CHALLENGE, COLLABORATION AND CLEAR PROGRESS

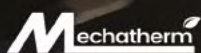
Introducing Aluminium Allies:

A new voice
for the future
of our industry

New guide
published by
the Chartered
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ABOUT US



Chief Executive Officer
Nadine Bloxsome
e: nbloxsome@alfed.org.uk



Marketing and Communications Executive
Emily Foster
e: efoster@alfed.org.uk



Membership Account Executive
Sophie Allen
e: sallene@alfed.org.uk



Technical Manager
Jan Lukaszewski
e: jlukaszewski@alfed.org.uk



Office/Admin Manager
Sharon McBride
e: smcbride@alfed.org.uk



Events Manager
Jacquey Parker
e: alfedevents@alfed.org.uk

CONTACT US

Bragborough Hall Business Centre
Welton Road, Braunston, Daventry, NN11 7JG
Tel: 0333 240 9735
www.alfed.org.uk

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WELCOME RACHEL!

Industry & Skills Development Manager
Rachel Wiffen
e: rwiffen@alfed.org.uk

We are delighted to welcome Rachel to Team ALFED as our new Industry & Skills Development Manager. Rachel joins us with a wealth of aluminium industry knowledge; starting more than a decade ago she began her aluminium industry journey as a Manufacturing Graduate Engineer and worked her way up to roles including Group Lead for Advanced Manufacturing Processes, Senior Process Engineer and Quality Systems Manager. Rachel's extensive experience in the industry coupled with her knowledge of sustainability and environmental techniques, such as Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs), have enabled her to support businesses in improving their process efficiencies, sustainability practices, and environmental footprints. We are excited to welcome Rachel and look forward to the valuable insights and increased engagement she will bring to ALFED members.

A YEAR OF CHALLENGE, COLLABORATION AND CLEAR PROGRESS

BY NADINE BLOXSOME, CEO, ALUMINIUM FEDERATION (ALFED)

As we pass the halfway point of 2025, it's an important moment to reflect on what has been a fast-paced and at times unpredictable year, not just for the aluminium sector, but for the broader UK manufacturing landscape in which we all operate. Despite ongoing headwinds, including volatile trade conditions, rising input costs and evolving regulatory demands, what continues to stand out is the adaptability and resilience of our members.

At ALFED, our role has been to ensure that your challenges are not only understood but acted upon, by government, by stakeholders, and by our industry partners. This year, that work has taken on a renewed urgency, as we've sought to engage even more directly with members across the supply chain while shaping the policy frameworks that will define our collective future.

DIRECT SUPPORT AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

From technical training and safety workshops to trade-focused sector meetings and roundtables, we've placed an emphasis this year on meeting members where they are, in operations, in boardrooms, and increasingly, in Parliament. Through our Distributors, Extrusion, Finishing, and Recycling groups, we've surfaced real-time insight into market conditions and built direct connections between businesses and decision-makers.

We've also expanded our technical and strategic training programme – including the launch of the enhanced *Aluminium Light* course – to support the development of new and existing talent. Whether through HSE-aligned worker safety sessions, supply chain risk briefings, or our Aluminium Centre of Excellence development at Aston University, we've worked to ensure ALFED members are not just reacting to change but leading it.

NAVIGATING THE GLOBAL TRADE LANDSCAPE

One of the most pressing areas of our work this year has centred around international trade – most notably the sudden imposition of steep US tariffs on aluminium products in early 2025. Following urgent dialogue with government and industry, ALFED was instrumental in supporting the UK's provisional exemption from the 50% tariff rate. While this outcome represents progress, we continue to push for clarity on rules of origin, quota allocation and the long-term structure of UK-US aluminium trade to ensure fair access and certainty for exporters.

Domestically, we've also maintained pressure on the UK Government to deliver clarity on the emerging Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), calling for a detailed impact assessment for aluminium and alignment with EU mechanisms to avoid unintended consequences for UK producers. These efforts are driven by detailed input from our Trade Committee and member consultations, ensuring we remain rooted in practical realities.

THE UK ALUMINIUM ALLIANCE: BUILDING A STRATEGIC FUTURE

Perhaps the most significant milestone this year has been the official launch of the **UK Aluminium Alliance** – an industry-led initiative spearheaded by ALFED to reshape how aluminium is understood, invested in and supported within the UK's industrial and net zero strategy.



This Alliance is not “just another working group.” It is a structured framework, built from the bottom up, that unites producers, recyclers, finishers, manufacturers, and OEMs around a shared ambition: to position aluminium as a critical enabler of clean growth, circular economy solutions, and sovereign manufacturing capability.

Launched formally at the House of Lords in June and backed by ongoing consultation with Innovate UK, DBT, and industry partners, the Alliance aims to deliver real-world outcomes, from securing strategic investment and policy support to mapping UK-wide processing capability and emissions data. For ALFED members, it offers a direct route to influence national policy, develop new markets, and ensure your business is recognised as part of the UK's low-carbon industrial future.

A PLATFORM FOR VOICES ACROSS THE SECTOR

Throughout 2025, we've also worked hard to amplify the voices of ALFED members – whether through national media engagement, policy submissions, or our new *Aluminium Allies platform*, which supports early-career professionals in shaping the sector's future. We've grown our digital reach, relaunched *Aluminium News* as a LinkedIn newsletter with over 5,000 subscribers and created new ways for members to showcase their contributions to innovation, sustainability and skills.

It's also been a year of new partnerships. From collaborating with the Chartered Institute of Export & International Trade to supporting the *Back British Metals campaign*, we are working to embed aluminium in every serious discussion about UK economic resilience, energy transition, and infrastructure renewal.



LOOKING AHEAD

While challenges remain, our direction is clear. We must continue to build a strong, collaborative, and well-represented aluminium sector; one that is future-proofed through smart policy, ambitious investment, and a united voice. Whether it's through the UK Aluminium Alliance, technical training, trade advocacy or our growing events programme, ALFED remains committed to delivering value for every member.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. It's your input, expertise and ambition that continue to shape our work, and I look forward to everything we can achieve together in the months ahead.





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SMITHS METAL CENTRES INNOVATION DAY DELIVERS HIGH-OCTANE INSIGHT AND ENGAGEMENT – FROM BIGGLESWADE TO RED BULL RACING

On Wednesday 2nd July 2025, Smiths Metal Centres Ltd hosted an unforgettable Innovation Day that celebrated engineering excellence, customer experience, and industry collaboration. From hands-on lab demonstrations to an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Red Bull Racing's Technology Campus in Milton Keynes, the event showcased Smiths commitment to innovation and its deep ties to high-performance industries.

The day kicked off at Smiths Biggleswade head office, where delegates, including members of the Aluminium Federation (ALFED) team, were welcomed with a guided tour of the company's cutting-edge warehouse and its recently opened UKAS-accredited materials testing laboratory. Attendees were invited to roll up their sleeves and try out real-world impact testing, getting a firsthand feel for the precision and technical standards Smiths delivers across its customer base.

Innovation met play as guests went head-to-head on a bank of F1 simulators and a custom-built 7-hole crazy golf course, adding a fun and competitive twist to the day's events. Following a hog roast lunch, the group travelled to Red Bull Racing & Red Bull Technology Campus, one of

Smiths high-profile clients, for a privileged tour through one of Formula One's most iconic facilities. Excitement was palpable as preparations were in full swing ahead of the British Grand Prix.

In the evening, delegates gathered for a group dinner and drinks reception, which featured a joint presentation from Smiths and Red Bull, capping off a day dedicated to technical excellence and industry partnership.

"It was an inspiring and energising day that perfectly showcased the innovation and capabilities within the Smiths network. The access to Red Bull Racing's campus was truly special and gave our guests a unique insight into how materials and performance go hand in hand," said Nadine Bloxsome, CEO of ALFED.

"We're proud to support some of the most advanced engineering operations in the world. This event was a great opportunity to show our customers and partners the work we do, from stockholding to lab testing, and to enjoy a bit of healthy competition along the way," added Colin Ord, Purchasing Support Manager at Smiths Metal Centres Ltd.

The Innovation Day highlighted Smiths strategic role in supplying and supporting customers across aerospace, motorsport, defence, and general engineering, with a strong emphasis on quality, innovation, and customer engagement.

To learn more about Smiths Metal Centres, please visit: www.smithsmetal.com



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WHY SHOULD ALUMINIUM SUPPLIERS OFFER POLISHED ALUMINIUM FOR ARCHITECTURAL CLADDING?

As demand for high-performance, visually striking building materials grows, aluminium continues to be a staple in architectural cladding. But not all aluminium is created equal. For suppliers looking to stand out and add value for their customers, offering polished aluminium prior to anodizing, is a strategic move, one that directly addresses the needs of architects, contractors, and building owners.

Architects and specifiers are always seeking ways to make their projects stand out. Polished aluminium provides a premium, contemporary look that's in high demand for façades, curtain walls, and decorative panels. Whether it's a subtle satin finish or a mirror-bright polish, the ability to offer a range of finishes gives your aluminium products a competitive edge. By supplying polished material, you help your customers achieve the clean, modern lines and eye-catching surfaces that define today's landmark buildings.

Raw aluminium is versatile, but pre-polished aluminium instantly elevates your product portfolio. By supplying material that's already finished to architectural standards, you save your customers time, hassle, and the cost of outsourcing polishing. This added value can be a key differentiator, especially for stockholders and distributors who want to be seen as full-service partners rather than just commodity suppliers.

Polished aluminium isn't just about looks. The polishing process creates a smoother, more uniform surface that's naturally more resistant to corrosion and staining, a crucial factor for anodized cladding exposed to the elements. This means fewer call-backs, less maintenance, and longer-lasting installations for your customers, all of which reflect positively on you as their supplier.

Professional Polishing Services can achieve a wide range of finishes, from brushed to ultrabright, and can process aluminium in various thicknesses, widths, and lengths. This means you can supply material for everything from small, intricate profiles to massive façade panels, whatever your customers need. By partnering with a specialist polisher, you can confidently fulfill even the most demanding architectural specifications.

Sustainability is a non-negotiable in today's construction market. Polished aluminium is fully recyclable, and the polishing process itself is efficient, generating minimal waste. By supplying polished aluminium, you help your customers meet green building standards and demonstrate a commitment to responsible sourcing and manufacturing. Professional Polishing Services can even calculate how much CO₂ is produced when polishing your material.

When you offer pre-polished aluminium, you simplify your customers' procurement and project timelines. Instead of managing multiple suppliers and coordinating finishing after delivery, they get a ready-to-install product, reducing lead times and the risk of project delays.

For aluminium suppliers, adding polished aluminium sheets to your product range isn't just about meeting market trends, it's about futureproofing your business. By providing polished options, you position yourself as a solution-driven partner who understands the needs of modern architecture. This not only increases your value proposition but also helps build long-term relationships with your customers.

Ready to make polished aluminium part of your core offering? It's the smart move for suppliers who want to lead, not follow.

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WOMEN WITH METAL CONFERENCE 2025

The metal industry has always thrived on innovation, resilience, and strong networks. This October, the third annual Women with Metal Conference returns, offering a unique opportunity for professionals across the aluminium and wider metals sector to connect, learn, and shape the future of the industry together. Whether you're a seasoned leader, an emerging talent, or an ally seeking to champion diversity, here's why you won't want to miss this year's event.

A PLATFORM FOR MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

Women with Metal was founded to bridge gaps and foster genuine relationships within the metals community. The conference has quickly become a cornerstone event, attracting attendees from across the UK and mainland Europe. Delegates have the chance to engage in meaningful conversations that often spark lasting collaborations and friendships. In a sector where connections can be as valuable as technical expertise, this is an invaluable occasion to expand your professional circle.

INSPIRING AND PRACTICAL CONTENT

This year's conference features a stellar line-up of speakers who bring both inspiration and actionable insights. Confirmed presenters include Jeremy Stockdale and Steph Snade, who will lead an interactive session on gendered communication – a vital topic for any workplace striving for inclusivity and effectiveness. Additional speakers such as Sally Twisleton, Katy Deacon, Lily Samuels, and Felice Ayling will share their expertise on leadership, innovation, and career development. Alan King will be showing us how AI can benefit our working life and Dr Eun Sun Godwin will join Katy Deacon to present their findings on accessibility in the manufacturing sectors. These diverse presentations ensure that every attendee, regardless of their career stage, will find relevant takeaways.

CHAMPIONING DIVERSITY AND ALLYSHIP

The Women with Metal Conference isn't just for women; it's for anyone committed to building a more inclusive industry. The event actively welcomes allies, encouraging open dialogue about the challenges and opportunities facing women in the metal and associated industries. By attending you'll gain a deeper understanding of how allyship drives progress, not just for individuals, but for businesses and the sector as a whole.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Beyond the sessions and networking, the conference offers a rare chance to reflect on your own professional journey. Attendees consistently report that the event helps them clarify their goals, gain practical strategies for advancement, and leave with renewed motivation. With post-event feedback collected from every delegate, the conference continually evolves to meet the needs of its community, ensuring each year is even more valuable than the last.

ACCESSIBLE AND WELCOMING

With early bird rates, group discounts, and a central location, the 2025 Women with Metal Conference is designed to be accessible to as many industry professionals as possible. The atmosphere is friendly yet professional, making it easy for first-timers and returning delegates alike to feel at home.

SECURE YOUR PLACE

Whether you want to learn, network, or simply be inspired, the Women with Metal Conference offers an experience unlike any other in the metals calendar. Secure your ticket, join the conversation, and help shape the future of our industry.

For more information and to book your place, visit <https://womenwithmetal.com/> contact hello@womenwithmetal.com





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WOMEN WITH METAL 2025 CONFERENCE

8th October 2025 ICC Birmingham



Steph Snade

Jeremy Stockdale

Lily Samuels

Alan King

Felice Ayling

Dr Eun Sun Godwin

Katy Deacon

Sally Twisleton



ALFED ANNUAL DINNER & AWARDS 2025: HONOURING EXCELLENCE AND CELEBRATING PROGRESS IN THE ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY

The Aluminium Federation (ALFED) is proud to announce the return of its flagship event, the ALFED Annual Dinner & Awards 2025, taking place on Thursday 13th November at the elegant Carden Park Hotel, nestled in the heart of the Cheshire countryside.

Mark your calendars for an evening of elegance, camaraderie, and celebration, set against a spectacular northern backdrop. This exclusive black-tie affair goes beyond a traditional dinner, it's a premier occasion that unites industry leaders, innovators, and future-makers under one roof for a night of recognition, reflection, and connection.



WELCOMING A TRUE SPORTING LEGEND: FRANK BRUNO MBE!

The 2024 ALFED Annual Dinner was a powerful celebration of the aluminium sector's role in driving innovation, collaboration, and social impact. Among its many highlights was the successful fundraising effort, which raised nearly £4,000 for The Frank Bruno Foundation; a cause that struck a deep chord with the ALFED community.

Building on this incredible support, Frank Bruno MBE will join us in 2025 as our special guest and after-dinner speaker. The boxing legend and mental health advocate will share his personal journey, followed by an exclusive live Q&A session with attendees; a truly unmissable moment of the evening.

CHAMPIONING THE CHARLIE FOGARTY FOUNDATION

After an unforgettable speech in 2024 from Charlie Fogarty, ALFED is proud to name The Charlie Fogarty Foundation as this year's **official charity partner**. The Foundation supports young people with acquired brain injuries, and Charlie's story continues to inspire our industry to rally behind this meaningful cause.

To donate to The Charlie Fogarty Foundation, please contact the ALFED team at alfed@alfed.org.uk.

WREXHAM'S DECLAN SWANS TAKE THE STAGE

Hailing from Wrexham, The Declan Swans will headline the entertainment. Known for their electric performances and featured appearances in the hit series Welcome to Wrexham, the band has also supported Kings of Leon on tour. Their lively and relatable anthems promise to get the room moving and end the night on a high.



CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS: THE 2025 ALFED AWARDS

The ALFED Awards 2025, proudly sponsored by Hydro Wrexham, will take place during the dinner and will shine a spotlight on the individuals and organisations driving positive change in the aluminium sector. The awards celebrate innovation, inclusion, community engagement, and lifelong service.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

- **Diversity and Inclusion Champion** (*Company Award*)
Recognising a company that has led the way in creating an inclusive, welcoming, and equitable working environment.
- **Community Engagement Award** (*Company Award*)
Honouring a company whose outreach, charitable initiatives, or partnerships have had a measurable impact on their local community.
- **Rising Star Apprentice Award** (*Individual Award*)
Highlighting an apprentice who has shown exceptional promise, growth, and contribution to their workplace and the industry.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** (*Individual Award*)
Celebrating a distinguished career and lasting legacy in the aluminium sector.

Nominations are now open and close on Friday 26th September 2025.

Submit your entries here: alfed.org.uk/alfed-awards

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The success of the ALFED Annual Dinner & Awards 2025 would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. We are proud to be working with **Novelis** as our Diamond Sponsor, with **BOAL Extrusion UK** as Platinum Sponsor,

and **Smart Aluminium Extrusion** as our Sapphire Sponsor. Our Headline Awards Sponsor this year is **Hydro Wrexham**, with **Aluminium Shapes** supporting the Dinner as a Gold Sponsor and **Aluminium International Today** sponsoring the Business Briefing. Silver Sponsors include **Jonas Metal Software**, **Swan Alloy**, **Bridgnorth Aluminium**, and the **London Metal Exchange**. Our Bronze Sponsors are **Richard Austin Alloys**, **Avon Metals**, **Metsource**, **BASF Chemetall**, **Mypower**, and **Harsco ALTEK**. Their continued commitment and involvement are instrumental in making this event a celebration worthy of the industry it represents.

SECURE YOUR PLACE – TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST!

The ALFED Annual Dinner is not just an event, it's a celebration of everything that makes the UK aluminium sector resilient, dynamic, and future-focused.

Whether you're attending to celebrate achievements, connect with industry peers, or support two incredible charitable causes, this is an evening you won't want to miss.

Accommodation at Carden Park might be sold out, but dinner tickets still remain... For now. Get yours now via the ALFED website: www.alfed.org.uk/event/alfed-annual-dinner-2025/



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INTRODUCING ALUMINIUM ALLIES:

A new voice
for the future
of our industry

BY NADINE BLOXSOME, CEO, ALUMINIUM FEDERATION (ALFED)

As our industry continues to respond to evolving economic, environmental and technological demands, one message has been consistently clear: the future of UK aluminium depends not just on investment and innovation, but on people. That's why I'm delighted to introduce **Aluminium Allies** – a new initiative designed to bring visibility, connection and opportunity to emerging talent across the sector.

Aluminium Allies is a peer-led programme created to empower early and mid-career professionals working across the UK aluminium value chain. It provides a platform for individuals who are not only passionate about their roles, but eager to shape the industry's future, whether through sustainability, trade, digital transformation, manufacturing or leadership.

This initiative has, so far, been driven with energy and purpose by **Sophie Allen, ALFED's Membership Account Executive**, whose commitment to bringing new voices into the spotlight has been instrumental to the programme's development. Working closely with members, Sophie has helped shape a structure that is collaborative, practical and open to all.

Over the coming months, the Allies will take part in a programme of activity, beginning with visibility campaigns, events, and mentoring opportunities. They'll help judge ALFED's Rising Star Apprentice Award, support our presence at UK Metals Expo, and participate in new peer-led site visits and roundtable discussions. There will also be opportunities to contribute to policy consultations, join sector groups, and influence themes at the 2026 ALFED Business Briefing.

We've been inspired by the enthusiasm of member companies who've nominated their teams to take part in this first cohort. The initial group of Allies, whose names and roles will be announced shortly, includes professionals working in production, innovation, compliance, sustainability and commercial roles across the country. Each brings a valuable perspective on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Our long-term goal is to create a visible, inclusive and sustainable structure that supports cross-sector learning and allows new voices to feed directly into ALFED's wider strategic work. As the programme

grows, we'll offer further opportunities for member engagement, from hosting visits and speaking sessions to contributing to shared learning resources.

We know that collaboration is key to progress. Through Aluminium Allies, we hope to support a new generation of leaders who are equipped, connected and confident to take our industry forward, and who reflect the depth of talent and ambition that exists across the UK aluminium community today.

If your organisation would like to nominate a colleague, support an upcoming session, or simply learn more about the programme, we'd love to hear from you.





FROM WAREHOUSE FLOORS TO INDUSTRY VOICES:

THE NEXT GENERATION
OF ALUMINIUM ALLIES



At the heart of the UK's aluminium industry lies not just cutting-edge technology and resilient supply chains, but people. Passionate, driven, and ambitious professionals who are building their futures in this vital sector. Two such individuals are Andy and Lewis, both now rising stars at **Smart Architectural Aluminium**, and both expressing their interest in joining the **Aluminium Allies** initiative – ALFED's platform for early- and mid-career leaders across the UK aluminium ecosystem.

Their stories are as authentic as they are inspiring and together, they represent exactly why **Aluminium Allies** exists.

Andy's Journey: A Curiosity for Craft, A Passion for People

Andy's path into the aluminium world wasn't linear and that's precisely what makes it compelling. Starting out with aspirations of becoming a pilot, Andy's career veered through IT, machine programming, fabrication, CAD design, and finally, sales. That breadth of experience gave him a unique perspective on the aluminium supply chain, from technical process to commercial conversation. His time at a Manchester-based firm gave him hands-on exposure to profile design and extrusion fundamentals, before a move into sales gave him his first taste of customer-facing life.

Now 13 months into his role at Smarts, Andy says what stands out most is the *people-first culture*. "You can build all the tech in the world, but if you don't have the right people, you have nothing," he shared. "What inspires me daily is connection. Sitting down with someone, hearing their story, and using that to build something together. That's what this industry is really about."

His words mirror one of Aluminium Allies' founding principles: to strengthen relationships and share knowledge across disciplines, roles and companies.

Lewis' Story: From Publishing Dreams to Aluminium Realities

For Lewis, the journey into aluminium began with a leap into the unknown. Graduating into the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, he took a job in the warehouse at Smarts in Yatton, expecting a stopgap, and discovering instead a long-term career.

"Walking into a 60,000m² facility with massive aluminium bars stacked metres high... it was a wake-up call," he laughed. But that introduction sparked something. Over the next few years, Lewis worked his way from the warehouse floor into internal sales, and now into an external sales role, looking after clients across the region. It's that curiosity, persistence, and work ethic that defines him and it's why his journey is one we're proud to highlight.

Together, Andy and Lewis form a team that balances experience, perspective and drive, challenging and supporting each other in equal measure. As Lewis puts it, "We bounce off each other. Andy's got experience I'll never have, and I've seen parts of the business that were new to him. We grow through that."

Aluminium Allies: A Platform for Leaders Like These

Andy and Lewis are exactly the kind of professionals the **Aluminium Allies** initiative is here to support, ambitious individuals carving out careers, building relationships, and pushing the sector forward from the ground up.

The Aluminium Allies framework aims to connect, inspire and empower the next generation of leadership in our sector. With site visits, speaking opportunities, judging panels, and peer-to-peer engagement, it's a platform designed for growth and for showcasing people like Andy and Lewis.

Their stories are not just great reads, they're powerful reminders that the future of aluminium is already here. And it's in very good hands.

HYDROLUMINUM: PIONEERING CLEAN ENERGY THROUGH CIRCULAR ALUMINIUM

BY KEVIN GRAY, CEO OF HYDROLUMINUM

As we pursue a sustainable future, renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and electric mobility often take centre stage. Yet, the materials enabling these technologies rarely receive the spotlight they deserve. At Hydroluminum, we focus on aluminium – not merely as a structural component, but as a powerful catalyst for clean energy and a cornerstone of the circular economy.

UNLOCKING ALUMINIUM'S CLEAN ENERGY POTENTIAL

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 - o Heat: Significant thermal energy, ideal for district heating or industrial processes.
 - o Aluminium hydroxide: A valuable industrial compound.

From just 1,000 kg of aluminium and 2,000 litres of water per hour, Hydroluminum generates:

-  110 kg of hydrogen gas
-  2,800 kg of aluminium hydroxide
-  Over 4 MW of thermal energy

Our zero-emission method doesn't involve combustion or fossil fuels. Instead, energy is released from the chemical reaction itself – specifically, the hydrogen from water and the exothermic reaction facilitated by aluminium.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ALUMINIUM HYDROXIDE

Aluminium hydroxide, produced as a byproduct, has significant value:

- It can be used directly in industries such as water purification, pharmaceuticals, and fire retardants.
- Alternatively, it can be refined back into alumina and subsequently new aluminium, ensuring a genuinely circular process.

This fully closed-loop system enables infinite recycling, significantly enhancing sustainability:

Aluminium → Clean Energy + Aluminium
Hydroxide → Alumina → New Aluminium

ADDRESSING THE UK'S ALUMINIUM TRADE IMBALANCE

In 2023, the UK exported around 605,000 tonnes of aluminium waste, valued at over \$1 billion, while importing about 64,000 tonnes of aluminium hydroxide costing nearly \$49 million. Hydroluminum's localised processing method not only retains economic value within the UK but also reduces reliance on imports and aligns with national waste-reduction goals.

AVOIDING ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Traditionally, aluminium hydroxide production via the Bayer process is energy-intensive and generates hazardous waste such as highly alkaline bauxite residue. Hydroluminum's approach avoids these ecological risks entirely, negating the need for bauxite mining and the potential environmental disasters historically associated with traditional methods.

INTEGRATION WITH UK'S CLEAN ENERGY GOALS

Hydroluminum supports the UK's ambitious environmental targets through:

- Reducing waste exports by localising aluminium processing.
- Lowering emissions through clean hydrogen and heat production without fossil fuels.
- Enhancing circularity with infinitely recyclable aluminium.

Additionally, the thermal energy produced can seamlessly integrate into existing district heating networks, supporting decarbonisation initiatives in the heating sector—one of the most challenging areas for carbon reduction.

BUILT FOR A GREEN FUTURE

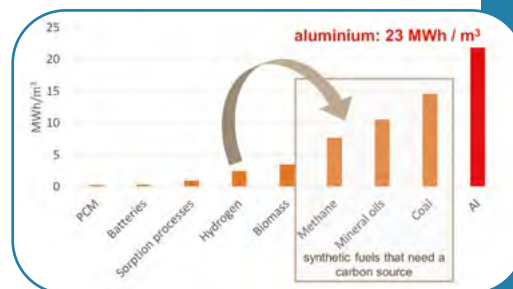
-  Decarbonising heat production.
-  Generating clean hydrogen gas without electricity or emissions.
-  Eliminating aluminium scrap waste by converting it into valuable resources.

-  Establishing a circular economy by regenerating aluminium continuously.

Hydroluminum's modular, scalable, and grid-independent solution is ideal for integration into local heat networks, hydrogen hubs, recycling facilities, and sustainable manufacturing zones globally.

WHY ALUMINIUM?

Aluminium's versatility, abundance, and infinite recyclability make it ideal for clean energy solutions. Remarkably, 75% of all aluminium ever produced remains in use today. Hydroluminum further enhances this sustainability, unlocking aluminium's potential as an efficient energy carrier without traditional fuels or batteries.



MADE IN THE UK, BUILT FOR THE WORLD

Proudly based in the UK, Hydroluminum aligns with national Net Zero strategies, contributing significantly to clean heat targets and the country's growing aluminium recycling performance. The solution's potential, however, extends globally, offering any aluminium-producing or consuming nation a low-cost, local, zero-emission pathway to sustainability.

CONCLUSION: ALUMINIUM'S NEW PARADIGM

Hydroluminum is transforming aluminium from an overlooked waste product into a critical enabler of a clean energy future. Our innovative approach to energy generation and aluminium recycling not only closes the loop but also opens up new avenues for economic resilience, environmental conservation, and global sustainability.



UK METALS EXPO 2025

Date: 10th – 11th September 2025

Venue: Hall 11 & 12 – NEC, Birmingham

UK Metals Expo 2025 is the leading event that brings together the entire metals supply chain, from primary metal manufacturing to the forefront of engineering, manufacturing, and construction. With a comprehensive focus on metal processing, metalworking, fabrication, CNC machinery, surface finishing, recycling, supply chain management, design, and policy, UK Metals Expo 2025 is the definitive meeting place for advancing the metals industry.

To learn more:

www.alfed.org.uk/event/uk-metals-expo-2025/



ALFED ALUMINIUM LIGHT TRAINING COURSE

Date: 30th September 2025

Venue: Bragborough Hall Business Centre, Daventry, NN11 7JG

Course Duration: 1-Day

Building on the feedback received from our earlier courses, we're excited to announce the launch of a new and enhanced version of our Aluminium Light course. This iteration blends the best elements of both Aluminium Light and World of Aluminium, providing a broader, more comprehensive overview that bridges foundational knowledge with wider industry context – ideal for those looking to deepen their understanding of the aluminium sector.

ALFED members are eligible for up to 5 places free of charge.

To register, please visit:

www.alfed.org.uk/event/aluminium-light-training-course-2/



WOMEN WITH METAL CONFERENCE

Date: 8th October 2025

Venue: ICC, Birmingham

Join Women with Metal at **The International Convention Centre** for a day filled with inspiring talks, workshops, and networking opportunities. This event is all about celebrating and empowering women and allies in the metal, manufacturing and engineering sectors. Hosted by CEO and Founder **Kirsty Davies-Chinnock**, this is set to be the 3rd annual conference aiming to create a more inclusive community for women in the metals sector.

To learn more:

www.womenwithmetal.com



ALFED ANNUAL BUSINESS BRIEFING & DINNER

Date: 13th November 2025

Venue: Carden Park Hotel, Cheshire

Mark your calendars for an evening of elegance, camaraderie, and celebration set against the exquisite northern backdrop of the Carden Park Hotel in Cheshire on Thursday 13th November 2025! This exclusive black-tie affair is more than just a dinner – it's a premier networking opportunity, bringing together industry leaders, innovators, and visionaries under one roof. Engage in meaningful conversations, forge new connections, and celebrate the strides made within the aluminium sector.

To learn more and book tickets:

www.alfed.org.uk/event/alfed-annual-dinner-2025/

ALUMINIUM POWERS THE FUTURE: NEW DIGITAL SERIES SPOTLIGHTS UK'S MOST STRATEGIC METAL

The Element of Choice: A Sustainable Future explores how aluminium is driving innovation, sustainability, and economic growth in the UK and beyond.

The UK aluminium sector has been on a rollercoaster in recent months. Following significant concern over punitive US tariffs, the recent UK-US Economic Prosperity Agreement delivered an important reprieve, removing the 25% duty on aluminium and restoring confidence for exporters. ALFED played an active role in championing the sector's position, and this development only reinforces why a louder, unified voice for British aluminium is needed, both in Westminster and globally. With decarbonisation, resilience, and strategic autonomy at stake, aluminium is no longer a background player, it's central to the UK's future economy.

As a result, a new digital series launched in June 2025, *The Element of Choice: A Sustainable Future*. It is set to reshape public perception of one of the UK's most vital but overlooked materials: aluminium. Produced by Content With Purpose (CWP) in partnership with the Aluminium Federation (ALFED), the series explores how aluminium is accelerating innovation, sustainability, and energy security, and why it's become a material of strategic importance across industries.

Premiering as global conversations around decarbonisation and resource resilience intensify, *The Element of Choice* highlights aluminium's unique role in supporting net zero targets, enabling circular economies, and bolstering the UK's green industrial strategy.

The series features **powerful interviews, short films, and expert insights** from across the aluminium supply chain, exploring themes such as skills, research and development, production, and recycling.

"Aluminium is no longer just a building block - it's a strategic enabler of the future," said Nadine Bloxsome, Chief Executive Officer at ALFED. "This series brings together the voices and stories that show how the UK aluminium sector is rising to the challenges of our time."

The launch of the series also supports ALFED's national advocacy to secure formal recognition of aluminium as a **strategic material**. As the UK develops its Critical Minerals and Industrial Strategies, ALFED is calling for a full value chain approach that includes aluminium, from scrap and secondary production to high-performance applications. Aluminium enables everything from renewable energy infrastructure and electric vehicles to lightweight defence systems yet remains overlooked in critical resource planning.

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION AT ITS CORE

Developed with support from leading content partners, *The Element of Choice* brings together real-world perspectives from across the sector. Featured partners include:

- BOAL Extrusion UK
- Scanmetals
- Countrywide Metals Ltd
- Novelis Inc.
- Aluminium Shapes
- Durbin Metal Industries
- Capalex

Each partner shares insights into how they're innovating across the value chain, from sustainable sourcing and low-carbon production to design-led engineering and workforce development.

EXPERT VOICES LEADING THE CONVERSATION

The series features exclusive commentary from some of the industry's most influential voices, including **Nadine Bloxsome**, CEO of ALFED, **Kirsty Davies-Chinnock**, Founder of Women in Metal, **Chris Bayliss**, Climate Change and Decarbonisation Director of the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative, **Simon Forrester**, Founding Association Member of Back British Metals and **Daniel Paterson**, Director of Policy at Make UK. Together, they unpack the opportunities and challenges facing the sector, and why aluminium should be front and centre of the UK's green economy transition.

"We created *The Element of Choice* to help uncover the full story of aluminium, not just as a material, but as a powerful driver of progress. This series brings the sector's innovation, leadership and real-world impact to life through authentic voices and inspiring examples. It's a timely reminder of the role aluminium can play in building a better tomorrow," said Max Smith, Managing Director of CWP.

The Element of Choice is now available to explore in full on the dedicated series website.

Visit: <https://contentwithpurpose.co.uk/alfed/theelementofchoice> and discover how aluminium is shaping a smarter, greener future.





ALLOY HEAT TREATMENT – or AHT – serves the leading names in **aerospace**, **automotive** and **advanced engineering** from its Peartree Lane premises.

AHT is the largest subcontract heat treater in the UK offering only heat treatment of aluminium alloys. As well as offering its extensive range of heat treatment services, the business offers several ancillary processes such as Vapour degreasing, using a “state of the art” SED compliant sealed unit, dye-penetrant inspection, and shot blasting.

The business also owns what it believes is a unique drop-bottom system, boasting 5 rapid quench, fully automated ovens, with other ovens offering cold, warm, hot water and polymer quench facilities.

AHT is a 24-hour operation and employs 43 people at two units on the Grazebrook Industrial Park.

It also has in place a robust environmental policy and is committed to maintaining the highest possible standards and seeks to continually improve its performance.

Ultimately, AHT has built its reputation on delivering an excellent service to customers and a commitment to absolute quality.

To complement its heat-treatment processes, AHT offers an advanced Quantum E ScanArm for an efficient scanning service, not only to our heat treatment customers, but also to customers that require a scanning

service without our heat treatment services.” The business places great emphasis on seeking approvals and is particularly proud of being part of NADCAP (National Aerospace and Defence Contractors Accreditation Programme). With some of the biggest names in engineering and includes Airbus SAS, BAE systems, Boeing, Rolls Royce and Westland Helicopters.

For more information, please visit: www.alloyheat.co.uk

To speak with a member of the team, please email sales@alloyheat.co.uk or call on 01384 456777.



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NEC Stand #D22

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17&18 Sept 2025
NEC
Stand #CAR-D340



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*From handheld speed to lab-grade accuracy,
ARUN Technology delivers breakthrough solutions
for the aluminium sector.*

With a legacy of precision engineering, ARUN Technology remains at the forefront of metals analysis. Based in the UK, ARUN develops high-performance equipment tailored to aluminium producers and recyclers worldwide. Discover our innovations in person at the **UK Metals Expo** and **ESS/CARS Expo** this September.

CALIBUS AL – ALUMINIUM SORTING ON THE SPOT

The **CALIBUS** series, ARUN's handheld LIBS (Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy) solution, is transforming how the aluminium industry handles metal sorting and verification.

CALIBUS AI is specifically designed for aluminium applications. It provides fast, accurate identification of aluminium alloys without sample preparation or argon gas. The unit is lightweight, rugged and ready for real-time use in scrapyards, foundries and production lines. CALIBUS AI's intuitive operation makes it ideal for rapid decision-making, helping users streamline quality checks and reduce delays.

*Sort with certainty.
Analyse on the move.*

LAB-GRADE ACCURACY: ARTUS 8 AND MERLIN

For more detailed elemental analysis – especially of critical light elements like magnesium and silicon, ARUN's **OES (Optical Emission Spectrometry)** range offers best-in-class performance.

The **ARTUS 8** is ARUN's flagship benchtop OES instrument, built for industries including Foundries, Aerospace and QA/QC environments. It delivers accurate and precise analysis of aluminium alloys with fast turnaround times, powered by advanced optics.

Need a more compact solution?

The **MERLIN 4** analyser offers robust OES performance in a smaller footprint. Perfect for on-the-floor operations,

MERLIN provides repeatable results with intuitive software and durable design – deal for busy foundries and manufacturing settings.

*From trace elements
to alloy certification,
OES you can trust.*

MEET ARUN TECHNOLOGY THIS SEPTEMBER

Visit ARUN Technology at two leading UK trade events:

● **UK Metals Expo**

10–11 September 2025 |
NEC Birmingham | **Stand D22**

● **ESS/CARS Expo**

17–18 September 2025 | NEC
Birmingham | **Stand CAR-D340**

From LIBS to OES, see the latest technologies powering the aluminium industry – live and in action.



2024 APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR SPOTLIGHT: SETH IMRAY, MECHATHERM INTERNATIONAL LTD

ALFED is proud to shine a spotlight on the remarkable achievements of Seth Imray, recipient of the inaugural ALFED Apprentice of the Year Award. Seth's journey exemplifies the energy, ambition, and excellence that apprentices bring to the UK aluminium industry, and why recognising this talent is more important than ever.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Seth was honoured with the Apprentice of the Year Award at the 2024 ALFED Annual Dinner, a prestigious event bringing together leaders and innovators from across the UK aluminium sector. Reflecting on the moment, Seth shared:

"It was certainly a very proud moment, and being named in front of everyone at the dinner was really special. Most importantly it was great to be able to share the moment with my girlfriend and my colleagues, whose support was insurmountable during my whole apprenticeship."

THE APPRENTICESHIP JOURNEY: FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE US

Seth began his apprenticeship at Mechatherm International Ltd in 2022 while studying for his HNC at Dudley College. What started as a drawing role in the sales department quickly evolved into something much bigger. As Seth gained experience, he was entrusted with increasing responsibility – developing his understanding of industrial contract sales and tenders and eventually working more independently while pursuing a degree.

"I felt drawn to an apprenticeship out of school... I wanted to get into a strong career early, especially with the uncertainty of leaving university without a job and entering a competitive market. Plus, no student debt and the chance to earn while learning made it a no-brainer."

His journey has already taken him far, literally. One of Seth's proudest moments came when he travelled to the United States on his own for a work assignment, having never flown before.

"Setting off from Heathrow by myself was certainly a bold move, but it was something I had to do. I enjoyed every moment, and it created so many cherished memories."

A THRIVING FUTURE IN ALUMINIUM

With a passion for the aluminium industry's global potential and innovation, especially

in areas like recycling, Seth is excited about his future in the sector.

"Particularly from my perspective, the industry outlook is very positive. The global demand for aluminium continues to grow and the technology involved is set to grow with it. For me the most exciting aspect is certainly the potential growth for the industry, mainly driven by its increasing demand, especially within the recycling industry."

MORE THAN JUST A TROPHY

For Seth and the team at Mechatherm, the award represented more than recognition, it was a celebration of hard work, progress, and potential.

"Personally, it meant a lot. I was really appreciative that my work was recognised by my company and by ALFED. Everyone on the team, especially the sales guys I work with day to day, were super proud and happy for me."

It also marked a key moment in Seth's professional development, helping him solidify his place in the team and boosting his confidence at a pivotal time.

"The award coincided with a transition in my role where I began working more independently. It gave me confidence in the decisions I was making on projects, but after the celebrations, it was straight back to work. My career is still young, and I've got a lot to learn."

LOOKING AHEAD

Seth remains focused on delivering excellence in his current role while setting his sights on completing his degree and growing his career in sales.

"My main goal is to maintain a high quality of work. But long-term, getting my degree is key to taking my career to the next level. And of course, I want to keep pushing for more success in sales."

Whether it's through his day-to-day contributions at Mechatherm, or his long-term vision for shaping a sustainable aluminium industry, Seth's dedication and humility mark him as a rising star to watch.



ADVICE FOR FUTURE APPRENTICES, AND THEIR EMPLOYERS

To those just starting their apprenticeship journey, Seth offers clear advice:

"Always put your best foot forward; be on time, ask lots of questions, and show initiative. The little things go a long way, especially when you're just starting out. They help you build the soft skills you'll need as you grow in your career."

AND FOR EMPLOYERS?

"If you believe your apprentice deserves recognition, definitely nominate them. There's nothing to lose, and the ALFED Annual Dinner is a fantastic event to be part of if you make the shortlist."

LOOKING AHEAD: THE 2025 ALFED AWARDS

The 2024 ALFED Annual Dinner was a landmark celebration of innovation, sustainability, and emerging talent in the aluminium industry. Seth's award highlighted the importance of recognising young professionals and the critical role they play in shaping the sector's future.

The next chapter will be written at the 2025 ALFED Annual Dinner on the 13th November at Carden Park, Cheshire, where outstanding companies and individuals will once again be honoured.

To learn more about the 2025 ALFED Awards, please visit: www.alfed.org.uk/alfed-awards/

NEW CUSTOMS CONFIDENCE GUIDE PUBLISHED BY THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF EXPORT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Aluminium Federation (ALFED) is pleased to share a new resource from the Chartered Institute of Export & International Trade to help businesses across the aluminium supply chain improve their customs knowledge and international trade processes.

The guide, titled **"Building Customs Confidence"**, is designed to support companies in navigating the complexities of customs procedures and regulatory requirements, with a particular focus on:

- Increasing efficiency and compliance in international trade
- Strengthening customs processes and internal capability
- Identifying common challenges and ways to overcome them
- Highlighting the importance of accurate and strategic trade planning

To access the full guide, please visit: www.export.org.uk/resources/building-customs-confidence-guide

This comes at a time when ALFED is seeing increased demand from members for practical and strategic support in managing customs, especially in light of growing trade pressures, changing tariff frameworks, and the broader UK aluminium sector's global competitiveness.

A NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Following a successful announcement at the ALFED House of Lords Lunch in June 2025, ALFED has formally launched a new strategic partnership with the Chartered Institute of Export & International Trade, designed to strengthen the UK aluminium industry's global trade capabilities and technical preparedness.

Unveiled to industry leaders, parliamentarians and government officials at the prestigious annual gathering, the partnership represents a shared commitment to supporting UK aluminium producers, processors and recyclers through the complexities of international trade. As the UK transitions into a new regulatory landscape, including the implementation of the UK's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and emerging Free Trade Agreements, ALFED and the Chartered Institute will work together to provide members with trusted insight, training, and policy access.

Nadine Bloxsome, CEO of ALFED, said:

"This partnership comes at exactly the right time for our members. As we look ahead to the practical implications of CBAM, growing digitalisation of trade procedures and the increasing scrutiny on emissions, it's never been more important to ensure that UK aluminium businesses are confident, well-informed and globally competitive. We're proud to be working with the Chartered Institute to provide expert support and shape the future of responsible UK trade."

Anna Doherty, Customs Practice Director at the Chartered Institute, added:

"In today's evolving international trade landscape, customs regulations are more complex than ever. Managing compliance, optimising costs, and avoiding penalties are critical to keeping businesses competitive. We look forward to supporting ALFED's members in their exporting and importing activities, empowering them to trade compliantly and competitively in the global marketplace."

This partnership is open to all ALFED members and will play a core role in shaping future trade support as part of ALFED's wider strategy, including the UK Aluminium Alliance and the development of a National Aluminium Action Plan.



For more information or to access trade support resources, visit:
<https://alfed.org.uk/policy-areas/trade/>

To learn more about the partnership between ALFED and the Chartered Institute of Export & International Trade, please visit: www.export.org.uk/alfed/



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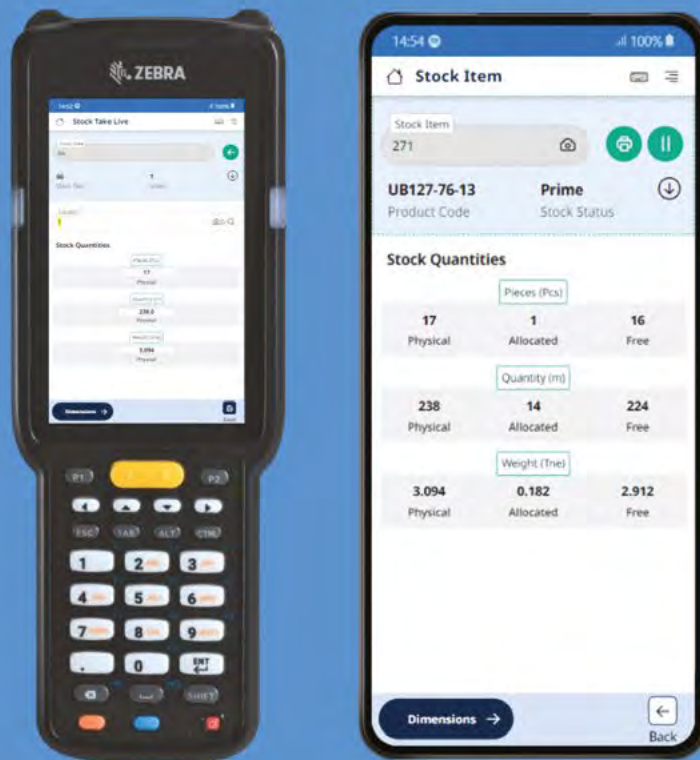
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