

Chemistry & Industry

where science
meets business

Issue 21
1 November 2004
www.chemind.org

Energy: a balancing act

Spin off and die

High mortality in tech transfer p10

Westward ho

The best place to manufacture p18

Rubbing salt in

Is Sid the Slug right? p14

www.chemind.org

Editor Peter Mitchell

E-mail: editor@soci.org

News Marina Murphy

E-mail: news@soci.org

Features Robert Winder

E-mail: features@soci.org

Art Editor Julia Cheftel

Correspondents Lubomir Sedlak,
Czech Republic; Martin Todd, EC/Benelux;
Stuart Todd, France

Editorial Co-ordinator Princess Johnson

E-mail: enquiries@soci.org

Advertising Momenul Hoque, Vania Lobo

E-mail: advertising@soci.org

Editorial & Advertising Offices

14/15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS

Tel: +44 (0)20 7598 1500

Fax: +44 (0)20 7235 9410

Advertising by Roscoe Services Limited

International Advisory Board

Sir James Black Kings College Hospital

Medical School, London

Umberto Colombo ENEA, Rome

Roald Hoffmann Cornell University,
Ithaca, NY

Ralph Landau Listowel, NY

Lord Lewis University of Cambridge, UK

Yasunori Nishijima Kyoto University, Japan

Gerhard Wegner Max-Planck-Institut für
Polymerforschung, Mainz, Germany

Subscriptions Orders & Enquiries

Subscription enquiries: subscriptions@soci.org.

USA, Canada & Mexico subscription rate:

US\$676. Orders with payment to the Society of
Chemical Industry, Extenza-Turpin, Stratton
Business Park, Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade,
Bedfordshire SG18 8QB, UK.

T: +44 (0)1767 604 800; F: +44 (0)1767 601

640. All NA copies flown via Mercury Int'l.

USA POSTMASTER: send address changes to
Chemistry & Industry, Mercury Airfreight Int'l,
365, Blair Road, Arenal, New Jersey 07001.Periodical postage paid Rahway N.J. Canadian
GST Reg. No. R127571347.Japan orders with payment to USACO, 17-12,
Higashi-Azabu, 2-chome, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 106-0044.

Rest of world subscription rates: EU and ROW

£420. Orders with payment to Society of
Chemical Industry, Extenza-Turpin (see above).
Priority delivery outside UK.

SCI Members' Enquiries

Queries and address changes to SCI
Member Services, 14/15 Belgrave Square,
London SW1X 8PS.T: +44 (0)20 7598 1500; F: +44 (0)20
7823 1698; E-mail: members@soci.org;
Web address: www.soci.org

Chemistry & Industry

© Society of Chemical Industry 2004.
ISSN 0009-3068. C&I is published twice a
month by the Society of Chemical Industry,
14/15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X
8PS. Printed by Williams Press, Unit 21,
Clivemont Road, Cordwallis Estate,
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7BX, UK.
Chemistry & Industry is editorially
independent of, but published by, SCI

ABC SCI



Chemistry & Industry

Issue 21

Pages 1–28

1 November 2004

Regulars

News	Cash boost for UK biomass industry	5
Diary	The latest shows, exhibitions and meetings	12
Patents	Sensitive sensing and low-cost heating	13
Comment	Unsound science?	14
Reviews	Life science research and molecular dynamics	20
Highlights	Applied chemistry	23
People	Sally Davies joins the UK MRC	26

News feature

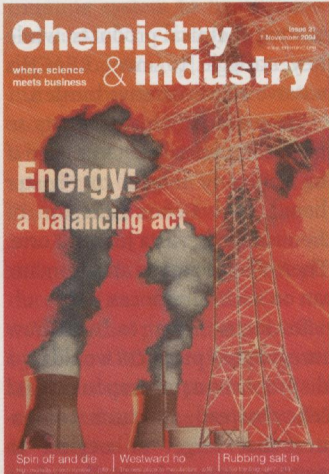
10 Spin off and out of control: the majority of university spinout companies are failing, writes **Emma Dorey**



PhotoDisc

Energy

16 Joe Kaplinsky examines the long-term future of energy production and asks whether a lack of social backing is holding back promising technologies and contributing to the current crisis — Cover story



Spin off and die | Westward ho | Rubbing salt in

Cover illustration: TH Foto-Werbung/ Science Photo Library



Orbis

Location

18 Peter Mitchell reports on the best countries to set up speciality chemicals, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology firms