DISCUSSION

Authors: Newley

Rolf Sandström: As you emphasized it is very important to take into account earlier considerations on material selection. Unfortunately this is not a simple task. Previously used selection criteria are rarely documented. In fact design engineers in many cases find it difficult to recall why a material has been selected. It is our hope that the use of databanks will enable the selection criteria to be stored directly.

Richard Newley (author's response): This certainly should be the way databanks are developed, indeed it would not be very difficult to set up.

Nosa Evbuomwan: What methods do you employ in translating your customer requirements into product design parameters? How do you carry out your trade off analysis, when you have conflicting design requirements (parameters) to satisfy.

Richard Newley (author's response): The Product Development activity is aimed at working so that we are prepared to respond to a customers requirements. In general the customer provides a comprehensive product specification and we work closely with the customer in the development of the specification prior to the contract award and afterwards as the design concept is refined. We study how rational alternative materials together affect component weight, size, shape and overall product performance.