

ACCO Defense, National Security and Climate Change Workshop

March 30-31, 2011 | Washington, DC

Hosted by McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP

ROUNDTABLE NOTES

Track 2: Non-CO₂ GHG Emissions

Session 1: Brainstorming a Potential DoD-Industry Sustainable Chemicals & Materials Consortium

Moderators: Paul Yaroschak and Darlene Schuster

Objective:

- Participants discussed the concept of establishing a voluntary effort among the Department of Defense (DoD) and interested industry representatives to promote the use of more sustainable chemicals and materials, focusing initially on industrial chemicals with high global warming potential.

Consensus Reached:

- DoD and industry can save time and money by sharing information and leveraging efforts regarding sustainable chemicals and materials.
- The consortium concept spans the spectrum from simply information sharing at workshops to more coordinated efforts involving inventories of sustainable chemicals and joint testing plans and protocols. Participants agreed that a more coordinated effort would be most valuable.
- In order to be successful, the consortium must involve technical personnel with detailed knowledge of chemicals and materials and the performance requirements for specific applications.
- There is a need to provide examples of life cycle cost savings for upper management support. Life Cycle Assessments could be used to illustrate environmental benefits.
- The consortium should focus on a full-range of toxic chemicals in addition to global warming chemicals.
- Taking collaborative proactive actions for chemical substitutions is better than reacting individually to regulations.

Next Steps / Prospective Action Items:

- Convene a small group of interested DoD and industry representatives to determine likely participants and consortium objectives and boundaries. Boundaries include the types of chemicals and materials to be addressed and the range of applications.
- Obtain DoD and corporate upper management support.