



Grainger & Worrall's Engineering and Technology Director, Keith Denholm discusses the benefits of using Aluminium as a global metal. Read the full transcript below.

What Are the Benefits of Having a Global Metal?

Effectively, a standardised material where the big users will look to control that market and the processing cost of material will reflect in its price, which will pass on to the consumer. Is that something that gets talked about very much? No, but I think it will start to. Steel is a great material, and it will be around for a long time. The predictions are that steel usage will not reduce, but it won't grow. Therefore, proportionately, its role will change and certain applications for which steel is the only material you would consider. But, when we're talking about structures (body structures, suspension, chassis, powertrain, interior metal work), that could apply to aviation as it does on road. Aluminium has got so many benefits: it's hugely available in the Earth's crust, but it's very expensive to get out. Once it's out, though, it's eminently recyclable. We use it as a bit of a cliché, but we can take one of our parts and we can fully recycle it almost back to its native condition within minutes. By the process, it's a very recyclable reusable material that can be measured in pounds. You can take all manner of second use materials and melt them down to reuse it. The challenge is making or recovering its intrinsic quality, which will be lost through processing- that's a metallurgical challenge. There are many people now investing lots of time and effort researching how that is best done. There's some very interesting outcomes, which show that it's perfectly possible to keep the intrinsic quality of Aluminium pretty high. It will not stay there forever, but certainly within product life cycles you would probably expect it to be not a big issue at some point in the future. That prize is worth going for because that's CO₂, and whether that becomes a mandate from the nations or a customer driven thing through product pricing, there will be pressure to do that.

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