As part of the employer engagement theme within the National HE STEM Programme, the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) was approached by the Head of Mathematics at London Metropolitan University to set up an industrial panel to review their maths degree and curriculum content in the context of meeting the needs of employers. The Industrial Panel was made up of an eclectic mix of people, from a range of backgrounds, experiences, age and gender. Employers involved were Corda, Unilever, NHS, Walsh Group and ex-Rolls Royce. All five employers were sent memory sticks of the maths degree curriculum content for review. The employers were then given a period of 6 to 8 weeks to review the curriculum and to fill out a review template to capture their thoughts and feedback.

A meeting with the Industrial Panel took place on 9th June 2011 at London Metropolitan University, where discussion and feedback was given to the Head of Maths, Dr Pargat Calay. Feedback from London Metropolitan University has been very positive. Dr Calay intends to work the feedback of the Industrial Panel into his curriculum development plans for 2011/12. He also intends to work with these employers on other employer-based curriculum projects.

A good practice booklet and DVD is in preparation to encourage further adoption of this process. This will showcase the experiences and process of working with employers in the context of reviewing the degree curriculum at London Metropolitan University.