

Trade groups should educate banking sector about recycling

(WW) – Waste and recycling industry associations can help companies to invest in raising material quality by educating lending institutions about the business. Thomas Braun, the managing director of the German recycling association bvse, drew attention to the difficulties faced by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in obtaining loans at the paper division session of the Bureau of International Recycling's (BIR) recent Autumn Convention in London.

Commenting on the discussion of the impact of Chinese import restrictions, he noted that the speakers had repeatedly called current recovered paper market conditions "challenges" or "opportunities". However, he said, when SMEs tried to get credit for new sorting equipment, banks didn't want to hear the words "chances", "opportunities". "They want facts," said Mr Braun. He called on the BIR to familiarise banks, or perhaps banking associations at the European level with the recycling business and to inform them about the "real opportunities, not dreams" which the industry offered.