

**Producer members**

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

**Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000**

[www.breedonaggregates.com](http://www.breedonaggregates.com)

**CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833**

[www.cemex.co.uk](http://www.cemex.co.uk)

**CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090**

[www.euromix.com](http://www.euromix.com)

**Hanson 0845 845 6699**

[www.hanson.biz](http://www.hanson.biz)

**Hugh King & Co 01294 557515**

[www.hughking.co.uk](http://www.hughking.co.uk)

**John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067**

(Liverpool)

**Premier Mortars 0845 603 3406**

[www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars](http://www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars)

**RTU 02890 851441**

[www.rtu.co.uk](http://www.rtu.co.uk) (Belfast)

**Remix Dry Mortar Ltd 01329 231200**

[www.remixdrymortar.co.uk](http://www.remixdrymortar.co.uk)

**Smiths Concrete Ltd 01295 278177**

[www.smithsconcrete.co.uk](http://www.smithsconcrete.co.uk) (Oxfordshire)

**Tarmac Building Products 08701 116116**

[www.tarmacbuildingproducts.co.uk](http://www.tarmacbuildingproducts.co.uk)

**MIA sponsors architects' category in Brick Awards**

MIA is sponsoring the 'Architect's Choice' category of the annual Brick Awards organised by the Brick Development Association..

The 2014 awards presentation ceremony will take place in London in November.

'This category is especially relevant to the mortar industry because of the aesthetic effect factory-produced mortar can have on a project which is very much the architect's province,' said MIA marketing group chairman David Stewart.

## Demonstrating environmental credentials



**Market pressure seems one of the main driving forces behind acceptance of the increasing number of requirements to define construction products' environmental credentials.**

That is the view expressed recently at a meeting of the MIA's executive committee when discussing the industry's need to develop environmental product declarations (EPDs).

Under the European standard EN 15804, EPDs are defined as 'environmental declarations which provide quantified environmental data using predetermined parameters – based on life cycle assessment – and, where relevant, additional environmental information'. BRE has likened them to the nutritional information found on food products, although they are not primarily aimed at consumers and so far are voluntary. But that could change with EU legislation. EPDs could become effectively mandatory under the Construction Products Regulation's Basic Requirement for Construction Works no 7, 'Sustainable use of natural resources'. Indeed, the March 2013 version of the Green Construction Board 'Carbon routemap to 2020' already suggests generic EPDs could become compulsory after 2017.

But what will the market demand be for EPDs on factory-produced mortar?

Construction products are already widely covered by environmental reporting. BRE's 'Green guide' draws on EPD-style information and, in turn, BRE's BREEAM and the civil engineers' CEEQUAL both award credits based on that guide.

However, specifiers may struggle to understand how to use EPDs and to compare and assess the significance of the 24 parameters covered. Some industry experts balance this by saying more tools and methods will become available to help. In particular, a wider use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) as it develops is being suggested. BIM is already being used by some design teams and major contractors on projects but BIM will become even more widely used following a government mandate requiring all large public sector contracts from 2016 to be BIM-enabled.

In short, will market demand ultimately dictate the need for the factory-produced mortar industry to supply generic EPDs? With no initial agreement on the way forward it is a question for debate by MIA members over the coming months.

## CPI mortar solution for £70M London development



An artist's impression of the finished Hallsville Quarter development

**For the construction of almost 200 new homes and a large retail outlet at the new Hallsville Quarter mixed-use development in Canning Town, East London, dry mortar manufacturer CPI EuroMix has provided a constant supply of material to help keep the £70 million project on course for its early 2015 completion date.**

Designed by Haworth Tompkins Associates and built by Bouygues Development, the

Hallsville Quarter development forms part of the £3.7 billion Canning Town and Custom House Regeneration Programme. For Phase One – 179 new homes, a food retailer and underground car park – Swift Brickwork Contractors Limited was appointed to carry out all elements of internal brickwork, blockwork and stonework.

With mortar required in a colour that would complement the brickwork and achieve the

desired aesthetics, Swift turned to CPI EuroMix for approximately 2,000 tonnes of mortar in two colours – natural and black – to meet the client's exacting specification.

For the efficient production and delivery of dry mortar, CPI EuroMix provided its innovative silo mixing stations. Capable of holding up to 35 tonnes of dry mortar, the silo produces a perfectly mixed mortar at the simple touch of a button. As well as maintaining mix and colours, particularly important on a project where colour is a key element of the design, the system also minimises waste.

The system is also space saving. Once installed on-site in a convenient location, it takes up much less area than skips of sand and cement. It also protects the material from the climate, ensuring that it maintains its quality and all important colour.

The Hallsville Quarter development is a perfect demonstration of CPI EuroMix's ability to provide an efficient, economical and reliable supply of mortar. With the first phase of the development set for completion in early 2015, the specification of factory-produced mortar has helped to keep this challenging project on time and on budget.

## Mortar learning texts revamped

**The MIA learning text package has been relaunched in a new format for use by colleges and for company induction purposes.**

Thirteen texts are now available designed to guide a user through the whole process of mortar use and production, from its origins 10,000 years ago to the application of the modern factory-produced materials that are so widely used on building sites today. MIA director, Brian James said: 'We believe the contents of the texts are as relevant to an apprentice bricklayer as to a seasoned specifier. The texts range from an introduction to mortar, through properties of masonry mortar and from production to quality assurance.

'The redesign makes the text more readable and the fact they are sitting on our website for free download means they are highly accessible too.'

As added learning aids, each text contains a glossary of terms, a bibliography and a set of self-assessment questions and answers.

The full list of learning texts is:

- Part 1 Introduction to mortar
- Part 2 Cementitious materials
- Part 3 Aggregates
- Part 4 Admixtures, additives and water
- Part 5 Brick and block production
- Part 6 Properties of masonry mortar
- Part 7 Production, delivery and storage of mortar
- Part 8 Mortar testing
- Part 9 Specifications
- Part 10 Quality assurance
- Part 11 Construction
- Part 12 Properties of rendering mortar
- Part 13 Best practice - potential site problems

Link to the learning text page on the MIA website is [http://www.mortar.org.uk/technical\\_information/learning\\_texts.php](http://www.mortar.org.uk/technical_information/learning_texts.php)



essential materials  
sustainable solutions

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MIA is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, lime, mortar and silica sand industries