

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000

www.breedonaggregates.com

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833

www.cemex.co.uk

CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090

www.euromix.com

Hanson 0845 845 6699

www.hanson.biz

Hugh King & Co 01294 557515

www.hughking.co.uk

John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067

(Liverpool)

Premier Mortars 0845 603 3406

www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars

RTU 02890 851441

www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast)

Remix Dry Mortar Ltd 01329 231200

www.remixdrymortar.co.uk

Smiths Concrete Ltd 01295 278177

www.smithsconcrete.co.uk (Oxfordshire)

Tarmac Building Products 08701 116116

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.

Remix helps extend Cardiff City stadium



Cardiff City Stadium, South Wales

Treforest-based contractors, Millisun Ltd, chose Remix Dry Mortar to provide factory-produced dry silo mortar to the recently completed new east stand expansion at the Cardiff City Stadium.

The £12m, six-month scheme for client Cardiff City FC, required main contractor Buckingham Group Contracting Ltd to construct a second tier to the club's Ninian Stand. This provides an extra 5,000 extra seats, private boxes and corporate hospitality facilities which will cater for approximately 1,500 additional match day members and guests. The phased expansion programme has seen a new extension cantilever over existing seating and incorporates a combination of new-build accommodation with various demolition and alteration works undertaken to the existing stadium structure.

New general admission concourse areas have been

provided on two tiers with the intention of converting the lower tier into hospitality facilities at a later date. The masonry element of the project realised a contract value for Millisun of £800k and had to be completed within a 12-week programme.

The building's architectural and interior design was developed by Cardiff-based Arup. The Remix technical department worked closely with the design team consisting of the client, Arup, Buckingham Group Contracting and Millisun, to ensure the right mortar selection to complement the masonry units being used. The team chose a designation iii natural light mortar, supplied in accordance with BS EN 998-2 via two 35 tonnes capacity mortar silos. This catered for the 7000 square metres of W D Lewis dense 140mm and 100mm, 10.5n and 7n paint grade and common concrete blocks that were specified for the masonry works.

Cardiff City FC construction manager Bob Garn said: 'The new stadium expansion has provided the football club with much needed extra capacity and high quality facilities which will not only further establish the Cardiff City Stadium as one of the best in the UK, but will also stand as an excellent example of the capabilities of Buckingham Group Contracting, its subcontractors and suppliers. Due to their diligence and application, the stadium remained functional during the construction phase, with both Cardiff City FC and Welsh national team matches unaffected by the works.'

Millisun managing director Chris White commented, 'As well as being a high intensity, fast-track scheme driven by tight deadlines, the client stipulated that a consistent, aesthetically pleasing finish to all exposed masonry units was of paramount importance and also advised that a stringent testing regime would be imposed to ensure that minimum mortar strength requirements would be met throughout the duration of our contract. Therefore, the only option was for us to specify factory-produced dry silo mortar from Remix to ensure that we complied fully with the client's mortar requirements which, to date, have been exceeded.'

Remix commercial manager Mark Leveson said, 'I am delighted that we have been able to assist Millisun by providing our material to this prestigious project. Millisun's choice of using factory-produced mortar instead of utilising more traditional means has ensured compliance with a rigorous contract specification which bears testament to their confidence in the product.'

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



essential materials
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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