mortar industry association

Mortar news

MIA sponsors National Bricklaying Awards



Winner of the junior section of the Guild's north west region competition, Joe Higginson of Bury College, receives his trophy from the guild's vice president, John Howe (right) and regional chairman, Jeff Dunn.

Guild of Bricklayers national bricklayers' competitions in 2015 are being sponsored by the Mortar Industry Association (MIA).

Association members are supplying free of charge, factory-produced mortars for each of the ten regional competitions and for the grand final to be held at the Leeds College of Building on 17 June. MIA has also sponsored a trophy for the ultimate winner.

Competitions are organised by the Guild of Bricklayers and held at colleges around the country offering construction courses. There are two competition grades: junior for new industry entrants with little or no site experience and working towards S/NVQ / diploma level and senior for trainees working towards S/NVQ/diploma level 3.

Each college within a region is allowed one competitor at each level

Four regional competitions have already been held, those for Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, the North West, Wales and the West Midlands. At a recent MIA executive meeting, representatives of the guild emphasised there is no shortage of quality bricklayers in the UK, contrary to many recent media reports. Their message was simple: if you need a bricklayer contact your nearest college offering construction courses for help and advice.

MIA director, Brian James, said: 'MIA member products play such a fundamental role in the UK construction industry it makes great sense for us to help support the training and development of young bricklayers to ensure we have the necessary skills available to continue to build the houses, schools and commercial buildings we so desperately need.'



The MIA sponsored trophy

Producer members

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MIA news appears via the Mineral Products Association Twitter site while there is a UK mortar industry interest group on Linkedin.

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CPI Euromix the choice at Kings Cross redevelopment



A view across the Kings Cross redevelopment

A range of coloured mortars from CPI EuroMix has been selected to meet the exacting requirements of developers and architects at one of London's most ambitious redevelopment projects – the transformation of Kings Cross.

After 150 years of industrial use, the area to the north of King's Cross station is being transformed into a vibrant new city quarter. Once complete, the project will comprise new homes, shops, offices, cultural venues, bars and restaurants and a university. The scheme is seeing a number of historic buildings carefully restored and complemented by contemporary new architecture.

Limited Partnership, property developers Argent and London & Continental Railways, working together with a number of planners, architects and main contractors.

CPI EuroMix is responsible for the production and delivery of the large amounts of mortar for the various brick and blockwork packages across the scheme. Working with a number of brickwork contractors, the company has provided a range of mortar colours and mixes to meet the various building specifications. So far it has provided Swift Brickwork, working for Mansell, with a light charcoal mix; Precision Brickwork working for BAM Construct a dark charcoal mix; Pyramid Builders working for Kier, a medium charcoal mortar; and Galostar, also working for BAM Construct, a range of special cream mortars.

In addition, the company has supplied a silo mixing station to ensure a constant supply of mortar across the project. Capable of holding up to 35 tonnes of dry mortar, the silo mixing station is plugged into water and power. As required, at the simple touch of a button, the silo produces a perfectly mixed mortar. As well as maintaining mix and colours, the system also minimises waste, helping to reduce the environmental impact of projects during construction.

All in all, CPI EuroMix is helping to ensure the Kings Cross redevelopment remains on track.

The project is being delivered by King's Cross Central

MIA exhibits at Eco Build



MIA demonstrations at Eco Build

Block laying demonstrations at the MIA exhibit within the Concrete and Masonry Pavilion at this year's Eco Build exhibition in London drew great interest from visitors.

Trainee bricklayers from Barking & Dagenham College demonstrated their skills on a stand that also showed a mini dry mortar dispensing silo/mixer and a range of standard details for where floors go into walls, with weatherproofing and thermal requirements

New home registrations up

New homes registered in the UK increased by 23% in the rolling quarter December 2014 to February 2015 compared to the same period last year, says the NHBC.

A total of 36,505 new homes were registered compared to 29,681. The private sector recorded 28,139 registrations compared to 21,373 (+32%) a year ago with the public sector showing a marginal one per cent increase with 8,366 new homes compared to 8,308.

NHBC chief executive, Mike Quinton, said: 'We are very pleased that the growth we saw throughout last year has continued into 2015, with our latest figures clearly showing that registrations are up on 2014 levels for the last three months, which is great news for the industry.

'However, we have been clear that we are building way below the level of homes that our country so desperately needs, therefore it is important that we keep up this momentum.'



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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