EMO

EUROPEAN
MORTAR INDUSTRY
ORGANISATION

2nd EUROPEAN MORTAR SUMMIT

7th June 2013 · Barcelona, Spain

conference booklet

BUILD THE FUTURE WITH MORTAR!

Following a successful debut in Paris in 2011, the European Mortar Industry Organisation (EMO), Europe's umbrella alliance of national mortar industries, is now to bring top mortar industry managers, owners and scientific experts together again, this time in Barcelona on 7th June 2013. This 2nd European Mortar Summit will focus on the future of the mortar industry, with success being shaped and influenced by enormously increased activities in Brussels.

Answers will be provided in addresses by well-known industry experts. Participants will have the opportunity at the event of interacting with important decision-makers from the industry, in order to establish personal contact. They will be discussing new and existing trends, and will also showcase themselves and their companies, with the prime aim of assuring continued competitiveness.

ABOUT EMO

EMO – the name stands for European Mortar Industry Organisation. This association has emerged from an initiative of European mortar manufacturers. The aim was and is a coordinated and positive representation of the interests of the European mortar and thermal insulation composite systems (ETICS) industry in dealing with the technical committees and panels of the EC and in drafting European technical legislation. EMO has now members from 13 European countries and represents in total 43 mio t/a of mortar production capacity, with a turnover of over 6.000 mio Euro.

www.euromotar.com

ABOUT DRYMIX.INFO

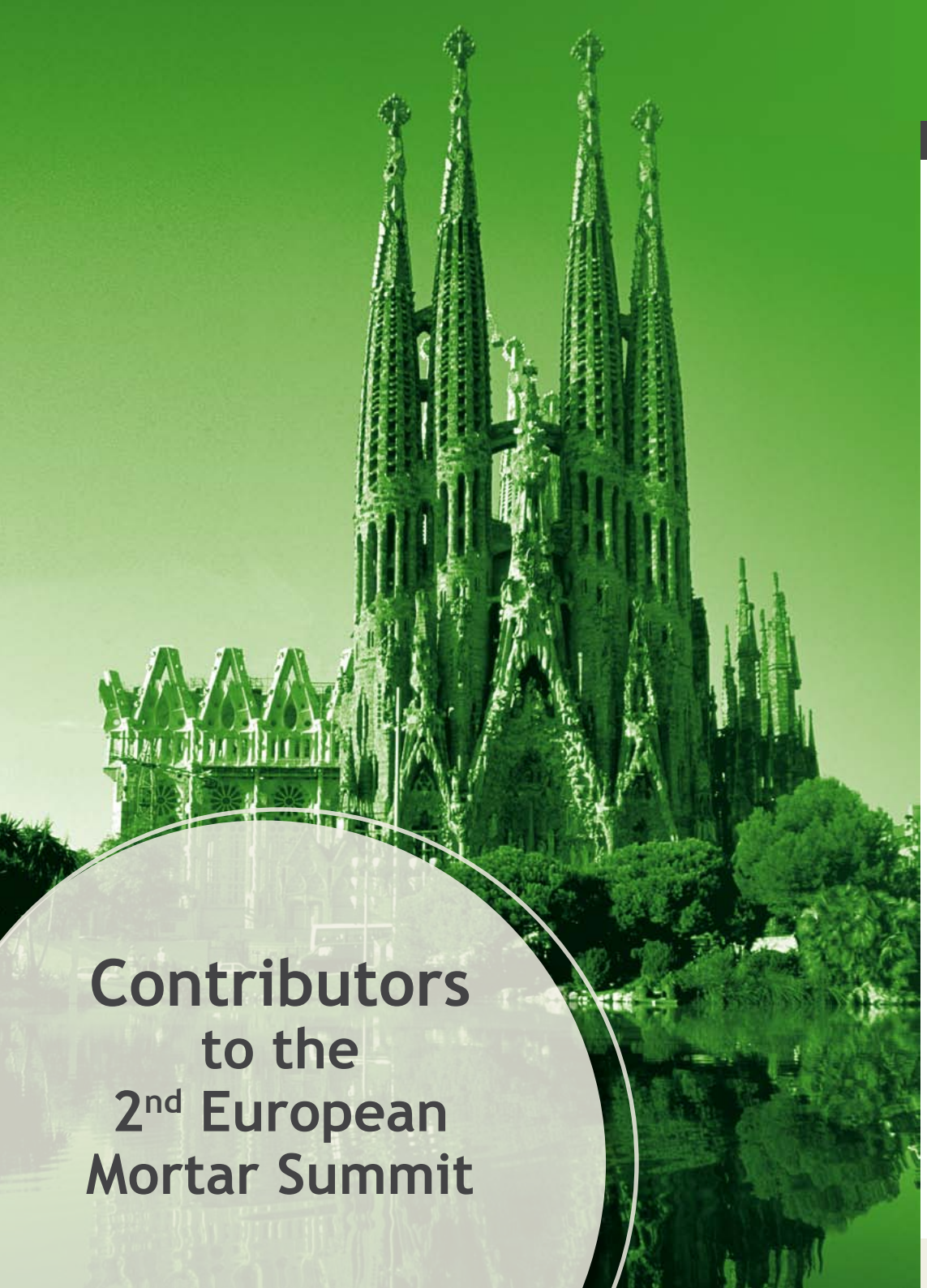
Drymix.info, the international Community for Drymix Mortars, provides networking events with technical lectures, several annual publications and an extensive industry directory for the drymix mortar industry. It operates an interactive website and reaches over 7.000 people worldwide with its monthly newsletter.

Thank you very much to Ferdinand Leopolder, the managing director of drymix.info. He organises the registrations and sponsorships.

programme

FRIDAY | 07 JUNE 2013| 08:00 – 17:00

08:00 – 09:00	Arrival and Start-up with a Spanish Coffee
	OPENING
09:00 – 09:15	**Welcome by Ludwig A. Soukup** (EMO President) **and Ángel González** (President of ANFAPA)
	KEYNOTE SPEAKER
09:15 – 10:00	**Prof. Dr. Dr. Franz Josef Radermacher** (University of Ulm and member "Club of Rome"): Trends and challenges of the future with regard to energy efficiency, building materials and construction
	PART 1: "MORTAR – BUILDING FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE"
10:00 – 10:30	**Prof. Dr. Josep Gómez Serrano** (University of Barcelona): Barcelona's architecture from Gaudí until today – unthinkable without mortar!
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK
	PART 2: "NO STANDSTILL: NEW DEMANDS REQUIRE NEW PRODUCTS"
11:00 – 11:30	**Manel Guillem Ballesteros** (Cementos Molins): How the environmental responsibility of the cement industry leads to new products and processes
11:30 – 12:00	**Prof. Victor Ferreira** (Habitat Cluster in Portugal): Clustering as a competitiveness factor – the case of Habitat cluster in Portugal
12:00 – 13:30	LUNCH & COFFEE
	PART 3: "ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?"
13:30 – 14:15	**Panel Discussion moderated by Hans-Peter Braus:** Environmental requirements – opportunity or bureaucratic burden? What are the demands towards politics and associations? Where does the journey lead to? Panelists: Robert Schmid (CEO SIH and Baumit Beteiligungen), Gülden Tombas (Kalekim), Christoph Dorn (Knauf Gips KG), Frank Reichle (Wacker Chemie AG) and Manuel Guillem Ballesteros (Cementos Molins)
14:15 – 15:00	**Muck Petzet** (Architect): Reduce Reuse Recycle - Challenges for architecture in the 21st century
15:00 – 15:30	COFFEE BREAK
	PART 4: "ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS – WHAT CAN WE DO IN PRACTICE?"
15:30 – 15:50	**Dr. Christian Scherer** (Fraunhofer-Institut für Bauphysik): Environmental characteristics of mortars – first results of a unique long term study
15:50 – 16:10	**Dr. Hans van der Sloot** (Chairman of CEN TC 351/WG 5): Standardization of release of dangerous substances in construction products - an endless circle?
16:10 – 16:40	**Johannes Kreißig** (PE International): Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) – an important tool to keep the future
16:40 – 16:50	**Dr. Hans-Joachim Riechers** (EMO): The task of the European mortar industry: Prevent confusion and cut the Gordian knot
16:50 – 17:00	Closing words by the EMO President



Contributors to the 2nd European Mortar Summit

organizers

Ludwig A. Soukup

CEO Baumit GmbH

President of the European Mortar Industry Organisation

Ludwig A. Soukup studied at Vienna University of Economics and Business and started his career at Raiffeisen Zentral Bank Wien (RZB). He went through different types of businesses in Austria and Czech Republic (e. g. Universale Bau AG, Baumax AG). Today he is Chief Executive Officer of Baumit GmbH (Germany). Since 2008, he is President of the European Mortar Industry Organisation (EMO).

Ferdinand Leopolder

Managing director of drymix.info

Ferdinand Leopolder studied at Munich and Erlangen Universities. After being a director for theatre and film, he started working in the chemical industry, for Rasching AG in Richmond, VA and then for Wacker Chemie in Munich, Germany. In 2001 he founded drymix.info, a global network of drymix mortar experts. He organizes technical conferences all around the world and publishes a monthly newsletter.

Robert Benedé

General Secretary of ANFAPA

Asociación Nacional de Fabricantes de Morteros Industriales

Robert Benedé studied at Madrid Polytechnic University of Technical Architecture. He began his professional career in the management and direction of the execution of construction works. He has combined this activity with the leadership and management and he has been the director of the delegation in Catalonia of mortgage appraisals for 10 years. Since 1997 Robert Benedé is the General Secretary of ANFAPA.

Jane Meyer

Baumit GmbH

After successfully finishing her law studies at the University of Bremen (Germany) Jane Meyer started her professional career as an assistant and purchaser at the heavy-lift shipping company Beluga Group. She has gained experience in project work, most recently at the education authority in Bremen for a nationwide learning project. Jane Meyer joined Baumit in May 2012 and holds the position of assistant to Ludwig A. Soukup.

Prof. Dr. Dr. Franz Josef Radermacher

Prof. Dr. Dr. Franz Josef Radermacher obtained his PhDs at RWTH Aachen and University of Karlsruhe, respectively, and was habilitated at RWTH Aachen. He currently holds a faculty position for "Data Bases / Artificial Intelligence" at the University of Ulm and, at the same time, is the Director of FAW/n (Research Institute for Applied Knowledge Processing/n), Ulm. Prof. Radermacher is a Member of the Club of Rome and of several national and international advisory boards as well as President of the Senate of Economy, Bonn, President of the Global Economic Network (GEN), Vienna, and Vice President of the Ecosocial Forum Europe, Vienna.

speaker

Trends and challenges of the future with regard to energy efficiency, building materials and construction

The global problems are enormous and turn out to be more pressing every day. Humankind is confronted with enormous problems of balance within itself and concerning the interaction with nature and the resource base.

Is there a chance for a peaceful future, a chance for avoiding an ecological collapse or the brazilianisation of the world population? And how is that related with technology? And what does the present crisis of the world financial system and the economy tells us in this context? The answer is not obvious but at least the following observation is possible. The key for a better future lies in the right combination of innovations in technology on the one side and innovations in governance on the other. Innovations in governance, particularly global governance, means the coordination between some 200 sovereign states.

Innovations in technology historically always opened up opportunities for a better world, in particular they reduced the specific use of resources to create value. This effect was usually counteracted, however, by the so-called "rebound" or "boomerang" effect. We create more and more environmental burdens with always more efficient technology because we increase the number of units of value created always faster than we reduce environmental burden per unit.

This is also true for real estate and the building sector. Real estate covers about one third of the material assets of our civilization. Also, about one third of our energy and resource use takes place in this important sector as do one third of greenhouse gas emissions. Rebuilding civilization, above all in the building sector, is a central topic for climate protection and for reducing the material throughput of our societies. Fortunately, there exists great potential in this respect with always better materials becoming available.

The basis for modernization is therefore promising. However, as this means in particular modernization of buildings, it can be a quite expensive process. Reasonably, it can only be done in the normal cycles of investments into maintenance and refurbishment, otherwise the cost induced are too high. In recent research projects, FAW/n has added valuable insight into those issues in studies with GdW (Bundesverband deutscher Wohnungs- und Immobilienunternehmen e.V. / Federal Association of German Lodging and Real Estate Companies) and ZIA (Zentraler Immobilien Ausschuss e. V. / Central Real Estate Committee).

In extreme cases, being forced into energetic modernization outside the standard cycles means a loss of property. Directly and indirectly, it might hit the people who are in socially difficult situations, anyhow. FAW/n analyzed this social side in a study with GdW. FAW/n also looked into the sustainability issue for the whole real estate sector in partnership with ZIA. With ZIA, we developed the sustainability codex of the sector and strongly motivate companies in the sector to take part in the Global Reporting Initiative. Particularly for brand companies, such a step is necessary for many reasons, among others, reputation.

The examples given make it clear, that on top of technological innovation, innovation in governance, e. g. global political coordination, is most urgently needed, with major consequences for the financial system, as well as for the economy in general. This is probably the hardest issue to deal with given the diverging power and interests of actors in a world composed of about 200 sovereign nation states. Great challenges ahead!

Prof. Dr. Josep Gómez Serrano

Prof. Dr. Josep Gómez Serrano studied architecture at Universitat Polytècnica de Catalunya (Barcelona Technical University), where he also obtained his PhD in 1978. He is architect member of the project team that works on the "Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família" and he published several books about this project and about its architect, Antoni Gaudí. He was the architectural curator for the exhibition Gaudí 2002 at Saló del Tinell (Barcelona). He works as Professor of Structures in the Architecture Faculty of Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

speaker

Barcelona's architecture from Gaudí until today – unthinkable without mortar!

The Sagrada Familia project begun in 1882 by the diocesan architect Villar Carmona. The following year Villar resigned due to disagreements related to central masonry of the columns. Antoni Gaudí was then chosen as the new architect in order to lead the project. He filled the inside of the columns mainly with hydraulic lime mortar and bricks.

A few years later he changed the project into the gothic nativity façade and apse that we can currently see. This project ran until 1914.

Later on he made some new changes that resulted in the final solution seen in the towers made of concrete and mortar glaze as formwork. The author will give an overview of the archtiectural projects in Barcelona in the specified period with particular focus on Antoni Guadí's work and the Sagrada Familia.

Prof. Dr. Manel Guillem Ballesteros

Manuel Guillem Ballesteros has obtained his degree in Chemistry from the University of Barcelona (UB) and a Master in Ceramic Science and Technology from the UB. He graduated in total quality methodology and management techniques from the same University and completed the PDG program from IESE Business School, Barcelona. He is Industrial Manager of the Cementos Molins Industrial (CMI) S.A.U. plant in Sant Vicenç dels Horts (Barcelona) and represents CMI in technical and environmental committees of the Spanish cement industry organization (OFICEMEN).

speaker

How the environmental responsibility of the cement industry leads to new products and processes

Due to the large amount of energy and raw materials needed to produce cement, public opinion generally considers incompatible „cement" and „sustainability" concepts.

However, arguments maintaining this point of view are incomplete. To consider whether or not a product is more sustainable than another is necessary to study its complete Life Cycle Assessment, not only the stage of production. Structures built with cement have certain advantages that reduce environmental maintenance and use costs that outweigh the theoretical impacts associated with cement production. On the other hand, cement is constantly evolving. Materials, fuels and technologies currently used in cement plants have changed a lot. Nowadays our key points to reduce environmental impacts are: the use of wastes to recover materials or energy, and the application of the best available technologies to produce cement itself and to reduce the effects caused by manufacturing process.

No less important, are the cement industry contributions to other aspects of sustainability. It would be impossible economic progression of society without the contribution of cement, a key material in the construction of the necessary infrastructure. Similarly, the relative ease of use has been the reason for its wide spread worldwide allowing construction of housing or basic equipment for social progress.

Prof. Victor Ferreira

Prof. Victor Ferreira obtained his PhD in Materials Science and Engineering at Aveiro University, Portugal, and is today Professor at the Civil Engineering Department. Prof. Ferreira's main research and cooperation activities are focused on sustainability of construction products, working in materials development, recycling and waste valorization also in cooperation with the industry namely ceramics, mortars and concrete. Prof. Ferreira is also the founder and President of the Portuguese Sustainable Construction Platform since 2007. This Platform is a non-profit association, leading the Habitat Cluster in Portugal and gathering 115 members in a network of companies, R&D centres, industrial associations, municipalities and other public and private agents of the Habitat chain value, aiming to promote Innovation and Competitiveness with Sustainability as the driving force.

speaker

Clustering as a competitiveness factor – the case of Habitat cluster in Portugal

The Sustainable Habitat Cluster, recognized by the Portuguese Government in 2009 as a Collective Efficiency Strategy, is a very broad cluster since it involves areas from the extraction sector to processing of building materials, as well as construction and other activities involving suppliers of goods and equipment for the built environment (our Habitat).

This cluster aims to create synergies for the development of new products, technologies and building systems, a new practice in designing space and surrounding areas, leading to an attitude of innovation through the built environment sustainability, aiming to generate competitiveness.

This cluster has adopted the subject of Sustainability as a dynamic factor to its strategic development, aiming to contribute for a more "Sustainable Habitat". Sustainability is the driving force for innovation and the desired transformation for the cluster, with impact on economic, social and environmental aspects.

Strategic projects were launched in this 2009-2012 period and this communication will also report them emphasizing the ones related with construction products, namely, the build-up of the national system for registration of environmental product declarations.

Picture from 1st Mortar Summit in Paris 2011

BUILD THE FUTURE WITH MORTAR!

- Environmental requirements – opportunity or bureaucratic burden?
- What are the demands towards politics and associations?
- Where does the journey lead to?

Panel Discussion

Robert Schmid

Mag. Robert Schmid completed his studies of business economics at Vienna University of Economics and Business in 1994 and joined the family business at Wopfinger Baustoffindustrie GmbH. In 1997, he was appointed CEO. In 2008 Robert Schmid took over the operational management of Schmid Industrie Holding (SIH) and Baumit Beteiligungen from his father Friedrich Schmid. SIH is a family-owned group of companies and active throughout Europe in the construction and insulation materials sector (brands include: Baumit, Austrotherm, Murexin, Lorencic). Mr. Schmid is member of the Austrian Association for Building Materials and Ceramic Industries and member of the Association of the Austrian Cement Industry.

Gülden Tombas

Gülden Tombas obtained her BSc degree in Chemical Engineering at Middle East Technical University, Turkey. She then started to work for Kaleterasit (since the joint venture in 2003 a part of Kalekim) in 2000 as a R&D Engineer responsible for the development of water based decorative coatings. Since then, she worked at different positions for Kalekim Construction Chemicals being responsible for paints and/or construction chemicals. She works as R&D Manager for the same company since 2011.

Christoph Dorn

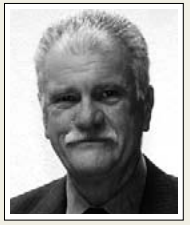
Christoph Dorn joined Knauf Gips KG as sales director in 2012, in 2013 he was appointed CEO. He has a degree in civil engineering and started his career as construction engineer and site manager at HOCHTIEF in Munich. He then worked in HR as a career and recruiting manager. From there he joined the building material industry at Lafarge. In 1998 he transferred to the sales operation as a sales executive for Lafarge Gypsum. From 2003 to 2012 he worked for Fermacell, as sales director, and in 2008 - 2012 as CEO.

Frank Reichle

Frank Reichle studied Business Administration at Augsburg University and obtained his Diploma there. After his studies, he joined Air Products Polymers in Munich, Germany. He joined IDS Scheer AG as Senior Consultant in 2000. Frank Reichle started with Wacker Chemie AG (Siltronic Division) in 2003 as Regional Sales Manager. In 2007 he became Key Account Manager for Wacker Polymer Systems. Today he is the Director Western Europe for Wacker Construction Polymers.

Manel Guillem Ballesteros

Manel Guillem Ballesteros has obtained his degree in Chemistry from the University of Barcelona (UB) and a Master in Ceramic Science and Technology from the UB. He graduated in total quality methodology and management techniques from the same University and completed the PDG program from IESE Business School, Barcelona. He is Industrial Manager of the Cementos Molins Industrial (CMI) S.A.U. plant in Sant Vicenç dels Horts (Barcelona) and represents CMI in technical and environmental committees of the Spanish cement industry organization (OFICEMEN).



Hans-Peter Braus (Moderator)

Hans-Peter Braus studied law at the Universities of Cologne and Bonn, Germany, and passed both bar exams. After his studies he worked in various functions for the Alliance of the German Employers, for the Organisation of the German Textile Industry and from 1980 for the German Federation of Building Materials Producers Associations. From 1998 until 2011, he acted as Chief Executive of this organisation in Duisburg, Germany, and as Managing Director of several industry associations.

Muck Petzet

The architect Muck Petzet was General Commissioner of the German contribution to the International Architecture Exhibition, Biennale di Venezia 2012. His exhibition „Reduce Reduce Recycle“ introduced a new system of values into the context of architecture. After studying in Munich and Berlin, Petzet initially worked with Herzog & de Meuron in Basel. He opened his own office in Munich in 1993, since 2012 he runs it in partnership with Andreas Ferstl. His many years of practical engagement with conversion strategies form the foundation for his theoretical work.

Petzet has, for instance, carried out exemplary conversion projects in the shrinking cities of Hoyerswerda and Leinefelde. He is currently teaching Architecture as Ressource as a visiting Professor at Technische Universität München (TUM).

speaker

Reduce Reuse Recycle - Challenges for architecture in the 21th century

Saving natural ressources by using smart architecture, design, technology and materials has rapidly become a key focus of the entire industry. The question is how do we reach the “common“ goal of avoiding further CO_2 pollution into our atmosphere in the most effective and rapid way?

In Germany the rising standards of “efficient“ energy saving have lead to an absurd situation: it is so expensive to reach the desired goals that – if you do it “right“ – your tenants will have to find another place to stay. Buildings in general have intrinisuc values, so-called “Gray Energy“, which describes the sum of all the energy required to design and construct a building from ground up. It is considered as if that energy was incorporated or “embodied“ in the house itself and would be lost if the building is demolished.

In his lecture Muck Petzet describes an architectural and urban planning approach that reflects the need to act sustainable in design decisions, valuing what is already there rather than destroy and rebuild. He also comments on Cradle-to-cradle (C2C) criteria and how these conform to today‘s sustainable building discussion. Regenerative design, or C2C, means a permanent lifecycle assessment of any material, describing the full re-usability of such material, without any deficits, loss or “downgrading“.

Dr. Christian Scherer

Dr. Christian Scherer studied chemistry at Ulm University and Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich. He did postgraduate studies in analytical chemistry and spectroscopy at Leipzig University. From 1991 on he worked as a scientist at different institutions and since 2003 he is working at the Fraunhofer-Institute for Building Physics. In 2006 he became manager of the chemistry (since 2012 chemistry and sensory) group and in 2013 he was appointed deputy head of the dept. building chemistry, building biology and hygiene.

speaker

Environmental characteristics of mortars – first results of a unique long term study

In 1988 the Construction Products Directive (CPD), the predecessor of the European Construction Products Regulation (CPR), was issued by the European Commission. The CPD set up six so called Essential Requirements (ER) for buildings and construction products. ER 3 and its successor BR 3 (Basic Requirement No. 3) in the CPR are titled “Hygiene, health and the environment”. Therefore harmonised product standards for construction products should also describe how to test and to declare the product’s properties with regard to ER 3. In the first generation product standards this topic was handled in a very inconsistent way. So in 2005 the EC gave the mandate M/366 “Horizontal complement to the mandates for the development of horizontal standardised assessment methods for harmonised approaches relating to dangerous substances under the construction products directive (cpd)” to the European Standardisation Organisation CEN. In 2006 CEN/TC 351 started its work. Two working groups have developed standards to determine the release of dangerous substances either into soil and water or into indoor air. Up to now it is not sure whether the standard proposed for the evaluation of the leaching behaviour does reflect the substance release from irrigated construction materials like façade coatings in the right way. CEN/TC 139 WG 10 created a different leaching standard for the estimation of substance release rates from irrigated construction materials. At the Fraunhofer-Institute for Building Physics IBP in Valley (Germany) a long term study is conducted to examine the substance release from mortars and plasters with mineral and organic binders under real climatic conditions. Therefore test specimens are exposed to the climate at Valley and are also tested according the draft given by CEN/TC 351 WG 1 (Dynamic Surface Leaching Test DSLT) and DIN EN 16105, the test standard given by CEN/TC 139 WG 10. The leachates will be tested for inorganic anions and cations, sum parameters and selected organic compounds. The emissions of volatile organic compounds into indoor air from plasters and renders for indoors are evaluated according to the German AgBB-Scheme which is quite similar to TS-16516, the technical specification given by CEN/TC 351 WG 2. The concept of the study and first results will be presented.

Dr. Hans Albert van der Sloot

Dr. Hans van der Sloot obtained his M.Sc. in Chemistry and Biochemistry as well as his PhD at Free University of Amsterdam in 1976. After his studies, he worked for the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN) until 2009. In 2009, he founded HansvanderSlootConsultancy in Langedijk, The Netherlands, where he is active as independent senior scientist in the field of environmental impact assessment for release of contaminants from waste, soil, sediments, stabilised waste, and construction products.

speaker

Standardization of release of dangerous substances in construction products - an endless circle?

The Construction Product Directive (CPD; Council Directive 89/106/EEC) and the Construction Products Regulation (CPR; Council Directive 305/2011) form the basis for the CE marking of products. In order to adapt these regulations to additional requirements (”Essential requirement...nr. 3 on Health and Environment”), CEN/TC351 – Working group 1 is elaborating assessment methods relating to dangerous substances regulated under the CPD – emission to indoor air, soil, surface water and ground water with focus on monolithic products (including mortars). In the CPR, which will officially replace the CPD by July 2013 recyclability and End-of-life considerations need to be addressed additionally. Proposed assessment methods to determine these requirements are being shownwill be presented. The building products industry (e.g. the concrete and mortar industries) is aiming at demonstrating compliance with existing regulations through so-called FT (further testing) and WFT (without further testing) classifications. For this, dossiers per product group are being drafted whereeverwherever appropriate. The status of the development of the Dossier for Mortars will be presented.

The paper gives portrays the history and status of this research and also gives an overview of the chosen methods for granular and monolitic construction products.

Johannes Kreißig

Johannes Kreißig studied and obtained Master degree in Mechanical Engineering from University of Stuttgart. He has 20 years of sustainability consulting expertise, specialized in the construction sector. At PE INTERNATIONAL, a globally active software and consulting firm for sustainable development he was responsible for Sustainable Construction including development of EPDs, sector related databases and certification of buildings. Today he is responsible for Business Development. Johannes sits on the board of directors of the World Green Building Council and DGNB (German sustainable Building Council), serves as an Executive Director of DGNB and is German delegate at TC 350 WG3 (sustainability of construction works). For the German EPD system IBU he serves as secretary of the advisory board.

speaker

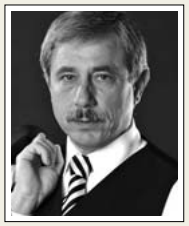
Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) – an important tool to keep the future

Sustainable development as a concept to keep the future.Already in 1987 the Brundtland report presented a definition of sustainable development: “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs“ and gives guidance what to consider when thinking about the future. Today the triple bottom line concept (“people, planet, profit”) became the dominant approach. The European standardization in TC 350 (Sustainability of construction works) is following this concept as well as several policies of the EU. The EU construction product regulation (CPR) requires information about the sustainable use of natural resources and life cycle indicators like a carbon footprint.Future requirements on environmental information

To anticipate future requirements we have to look at today’s trends in the construction sector:

- Investors and the finance industry expect sustainable buildings (proven by certificates like DGNB, BREEAM or HQE). This market segment is growing fast.
- Building rating tools in Europe will follow a life cycle approach, which reduces the risk for the investor.
- Consumers ask for transparency. EPDs provide transparent and reliable information about the environmental performance of construction products.

The development of EPDs using a common tool EN 15804 is providing the framework for EPDs in Europe. National EPD system operators are taking care on the process and verification. To allow the German mortar industry to generate EPDs easily, templates were developed using a classification system for different types of mortar. To get an individual EPD, the manufacturer can calculate a screening result for the composition of his specific product which allows assigning the product to an template for a specific “class”. These EPD templates could be adapted to other European countries using national boundary conditions.



Dr. Hans-Joachim Riechers

Dr. Hans-Joachim Riechers studied Construction Engineering at RWTH Aachen (Germany) where he also received a doctor‘s degree. At present he is Managing Director of the German mortar industry organisation IWM (Industrieverband WerkMörtel e.V.) and EMO‘s General Secretary. Under his responsibility environmental matters became one of the main issues to be dealt with in both associations. He initiated several important research projects and involved the leading research institutes. Today “Let‘s take the initiative - NOW“ is a flagship project of the European Mortar Industry.

speaker

The task of the European Mortar Industry: Prevent confusion and cut the Gordian knot

Environmental matters are currently extremely fashionable, and are also of great interest politically. When our health or our environment is concerned, there is no hesitation to take a strict approach even if current evidence does not allow to draw a definite conclusion. If the worst comes to the worst these restrictions could mean the disappearance of numerous construction products due to excessive requirements. The only effective countermeasures are preventive research and ensurance of maximum transparency.

Industry faces a complex array of laws, regulations, marking requirements and directives - therefore it is difficult to keep the overview. This should not frighten us but rather motivate us not to lose sight of the main objective, i.e. to examine the environmental characteristics of our products and to collect all data being available in Europe.

The EMO project “Let‘s take the initiative - NOW!“ is an excellent example of how to bundle forces and how to act at an early stage.

EMO EUROPEAN MORTAR INDUSTRY ORGANISATION

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