

Editorial February 2008

by Richard Ogden - Chairman

You will probably have noticed that following the recent Government reshuffle there has been a change of Minister with special responsibility for the Construction Industry.

Stephen Timms has now taken up a new post at the Department for Work and Pensions with Shriti Vadera moving to the Department for Business,



Stephen Timms



Shriti Vadera

Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and taking on the Construction portfolio.

I met with Stephen shortly after the New Year break and as with his predecessors it was heartening to experience his awareness of the importance of the construction industry and to discuss the opportunities for Ministers to play a vital role in supporting the work that Buildoffsite and other industry organisations are progressing in

support of continuous improvement in all its forms. Stephen is MP for East Ham in the East End of London and I suspect that he is acutely aware of the importance of construction led regeneration projects such as the Olympics 2012 as an engine for economic growth, for opportunity and as a stimulus to community confidence within a deprived inner city area.

I don't know Shriti but I have absolutely no doubt that she will be equally enthusiastic in her new role and will make a positive contribution to the ongoing development of the industry. I hope to have the opportunity to meet with her as soon as possible.

I am acutely aware that I have been able to speak directly to Construction Ministers not because of who I am but because of the change organisation

that I represent and the excellent working level relationship we have with the civil service team in the Construction Sector Unit. I have really enjoyed these opportunities because they serve to put you on your mettle in order to promote effectively what it is that Buildoffsite is doing, why it is doing these things and to lay out fairly and honestly the tangible ways in which Buildoffsite is helping to make a difference. In my experience you will invariably be asked how Ministers can help. In responding it is absolutely essential to bear in mind that Ministers are the guardians of public policy and will generally be prepared to give their support if what you are doing will or is already delivering benefits which are clearly in the public interest. I have absolutely no doubt that Ministers will be unlikely to see it as being their job to step in to provide cover if the industry itself is failing either to engage with and to carry through those changes that, as a service provider, it should in any event be addressing to meet the growing demands of customers and the wider market place. In fairness I think this line is equally justified even when set against the context of the Government and the wider public sector collectively accounting for approximately 40% of all construction activity. Working in support of collaboration between clients and suppliers seems entirely reasonable because we need clients to be more knowledgeable and to use that knowledge to demand realistic improvements in industry performance. However, expecting the client to shoulder the entire burden in bringing about change in the performance of suppliers seems an unlikely basis for the continuous improvement that the construction industry along with all other industries needs to strive for in an increasingly global market place.

I am delighted from its inception Buildoffsite has always operated on the basis of collaboration between clients, suppliers and all the other interest groups that have a role to play. We have recently signed off the Buildoffsite Yearbook for 2007/08 and it is only when you pull everything together in this way that you get a clear oversight of the range of activities that Buildoffsite is already undertaking, the relationships that we have established, the activities and agendas that we will be progressing during this year and the benefits that are being delivered. Members will be receiving their copies shortly and we will also put a downloadable

version on the Buildoffsite web site. I think that we can be pleased with what we are achieving but as I shall tell the Minister when I see her we fully recognise that there is a great deal more to be done to help secure general recognition of the benefits of off site construction methods within the industry and significantly what clients and constructors need to lean in order to gain the project and business benefits. A step change in favour of off site methods is underway – a simple look at the growth in the off site supply side tells part of the story but, as other industries have discovered, it requires a commitment to maximise the benefits ...a commitment to rethink the design and construction process around the new solutions in order to strip out those processes that add cost but not client value...and a commitment on the part of the industry to develop the skills to operate less in the style of a hierarchial and still substantially craft orientated industry and more in the style of a modern manufacturing sector such as automotive. Dare I remind folk that industries such as automotive and aerospace have managed to achieve continuous improvement and so deliver levels of productivity and waste reduction which few if any construction projects can hope to match. They have also achieved this in the face of the pressures of global competition – a force that the UK construction industry has still to experience to any significant degree. Clearly there is a great deal to be done by the industry – for the industry – just to play catch up with where the rest of manufacturing has already got to. I suspect that within Buildoffsite we will not quickly be running short of ideas and opportunities to demonstrate to the Minister and to others that we can make a difference.

New Members



ConstructionSkills is the Sector Council for the construction industry and provides support to employers to assist in upskilling the whole of their workforce to meet both current and future business needs. This is carried out across all sectors of the industry and with employers of all sizes.

ConstructionSkills provides financial support to the Innovative Construction Skills Forum (ICSF) whose

role is to establish a structured approach for training to meet the challenges that Innovative methods of construction, renewable energies, intelligent buildings and sustainability will bring. The ICSF will play a key role in carrying out research, promoting career pathways and linking with partner organizations to develop occupational standards, qualifications and training courses for operatives, supervisors and designers. For further information contact alistair.collin@cskills.org



DANISH TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Danish Technological Institute occupies a crucial position at the point where research, business, and the community converge. The Institute's mission is to promote growth by improving interaction and encourage synergy between these areas.

The Institute was founded as an independent institution in 1906 and is one of the oldest of its type in the world. The Institute now has 850 employees, making it one of the world's largest private institutes to supply approved technological services such as consultancy, tests, certification and training for companies and public-sector organisations. Danish Technological Institute is an independent, not-for-profit institution approved by the Danish authorities to provide technological services to business and the community.

The Institute employs experts in hundreds of different fields at 34 centres organised under the auspices of the 5 organisational units that define the main parameters for their work:

- Building Technology
- Industry and Energy
- Business Development
- Materials
- Productivity and Logistics

Centre for New Industrialisation (off site and on site construction) is placed in the Building Technology unit and has a leading role in the work with the

industrial development of the building industry. The Centre offers courses and consultancy in project management, business strategy, best practice, system deliverable, modularization and configuration, digital product catalogue, building information modelling and robot technology.



John Morgan and Jack Lovell founded the company in 1977 as Morgan Lovell. Following the acquisition of William Sindall plc in 1994, the company was renamed Morgan Sindall and floated on the London Stock Exchange.

Since then the company has become a leading construction and regeneration group with subsidiary companies (including Morgan Ashurst, Morgan Est and mps) operating within seven businesses: affordable housing, construction, development, fit out, infrastructure services, investments and professional services.

The company has a national network of offices, employs over 8,000 people and has an annual turnover in excess of £2 billion. The Group's executive chairman is John Morgan and Paul Smith is Chief executive.

LEAF OSC Conference (Leaf London 2008)



LEAF Report

Buildoffsite teamed up with VIB Events to create a conference and exhibition to bring off-site construction solutions to the attention of leading UK architects. This unique event which took place between 22 – 24 January at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster brought together leading figures from the construction and architectural community

LEAF OSC Conference (Leaf London 2008)

LEAF London kicked off with an evening reception and rousing speech from Mark Brearley, urban design manager at Design for London, about the architectural renaissance shaping London's future.

The main Conference programme took place on Wednesday 23 January chaired by Richard Ogden.

The opening keynote, "Designing and Constructing for a Sustainable Future – a Global Perspective", led by Jonathan Fenton-Jones, Global Procurement & Sustainability Director, Gazeley Ltd, was a fascinating look at the new industry benchmarks this global provider of sustainable logistics



space is setting. Jonathan showcased impressive projects including Chatterley Valley, which is set to become one of the world's greenest business parks, aided by its very own bio-fuel micro power station.

Gazeley's sustainability approach was followed by a panel discussion supported by RIBA president Sunand Prasad, Ken Shuttleworth, a founding partner of Make Architects, and Gordon Carey, president of the British Council for Offices, all of whom debated with Jonathan what opportunities offsite presented businesses, the environment and the economy as a whole.



The main focus was on how practices can establish their own "eco-template" and what Sunand described as a "clear connection between offsite and sustainability". Chairman of Carey Jones Architects and president of the British Council for Offices, Gordon Carey, highlighted the misconceptions architects and even clients have about offsite construction and how this needs to be addressed. Ken Shuttleworth brought his experience working on high-profile projects such as the HSBC headquarters in Hong Kong and London's Swiss Re tower to champion offsite's "meccano-style" advantages. Ken also tantalisingly predicted a future where buildings will not be demolished at the end of their lives but become "kits and bits that can be used over and over again".

Schools and Healthcare

The morning also saw presentations: the first on schools, led by Alan Jones from the Department

for Children, Schools and Families, followed by a presentation by Paul Jackson, strategic business director at NG Bailey illustrating the impressive efficiencies being delivered in the design and construction of the St Helens and Whiston Hospitals through the extensive use of off-site walling, bathroom pods, modular wiring and M&E which have been utilized to achieve a substantial reduction in the need for site based labour and a significant simplification in trade interfaces. The full story of this exemplar project will be captured in a future Buildoffsite Case Study.

Bernard Williams and Alistair Gibb, professor of construction engineering management, Department of Civil Engineering, Loughborough University, followed this with an examination of the offsite market. Williams presented sobering research that identified the UK and Ireland as two of Europe's least efficient construction markets when compared to Belgium and Norway, where off-site formed a significantly larger share of the market. Williams also highlighted offsite's potential to provide more highly skilled personnel to produce better end products in a healthier, efficient market

Case study

After lunch, there was a case study looking at building a GlaxoSmithKline facility model by Nigel Barnes, VP global project management, and supported by Frank McLeod of Bryden Wood McLeod Integrated Design and Engineering. The discussion centred on why clients are demanding this form of architecture and the advantages of adopting OSC/MMC methods and the long-term implications this will have on business.

Stephen Taylor, principal specialist inspector from the construction division technology unit at the Health and Safety Executive, gave a sobering presentation on 'Reducing the Risk Factor'. Taylor examined what CDM implications and new legislation means for architects, health and safety within OSC and how MMC mitigates risk.

Heathrow Terminal 5

In anticipation of the visit to Heathrow Terminal 5 which had been arranged as part of the LEAF Programme taking place on 24 January, Anna Winstanley, director of strategic design, Laing O'Rourke, gave a fascinating presentation on

'Design for Manufacturing and Assembly for airport buildings'. Points of interest included looking at designing for predictability of time and cost.

21st Century Solutions

The final session ended with a lively panel discussion on "21st Century Solutions for the Home of the Future" led by Darren Burford, vice president, KNX, sponsored by Siemens. The discussion looked particularly at the need for innovation and technical solutions to create zero-carbon homes.

Richard Ogden wrapped up the day, with a convincing overview of how offsite offers innovative and long lasting construction solutions which had been demonstrated throughout the day's presentations and panel debates.

The OSC Magazine Offsite Construction Awards 2008 in association with Interbuild



After a superb inaugural event last year, the 2008 awards are shaping up to be even bigger and better.

Celebrating quality, innovation and outstanding achievement across one of the most dynamic sectors in the construction industry, a wider range



of categories have been added, including awards for Sustainability and Best Product.

The level of attendance exceeded all expectations last year and the organisers are expecting up to 600 guests in 2008. This is your chance to prove what offsite construction and prefabrication of all types can deliver. Don't miss out on what will be a showcase evening for the world of offsite.

Sponsors have been quick to offer support for the Awards once again. These include ARV Solutions, Combilift, Corus Living Solutions, Henley Building Solutions, Lloyd's Register EMEA, Ruukki and Van Elle, alongside our regional hosts Advantage Off-site. At the time of going to press a limited number of sponsorship packages were still available.

An independent panel of industry experts including British Precast, Buildoffsite, Construction Products Association, Mtech, SCI and the UKTFA, all support the Awards and form part of the judging panel.

The OSC Magazine Offsite Construction Awards 2008 in association with Interbuild takes place on Tuesday 28th October at the National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham.

For more information on the 2008 Awards and the official Call for Entries visit: www.oscmagazine.com

NEWS RELEASE

Offsite Construction Awards Winners announced

The inaugural Offsite Construction Awards¹ dinner, hosted by OSC Magazine², took place on Tuesday 30 October 2007 at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham. Some 400 plus guests representing the cream of the offsite sector gathered to hear the winners announced from the 44 shortlisted entries.

Offsite Construction Awards 2007 Winners (followed by Judges³ comments)

Best Use of Concrete

(Sponsored by British Precast)

Winner: **Bison** - Sport City Manchester

"...pushing the boundaries of offsite construction with its impressive circular design..."

Best Use of Steel

(Sponsored by Henley Building Solutions)

Winner: **Caledonian** - The Paragon Project

"... shows all the classic ingredients of a steel-frame building with a wide applicability across many different sectors..."

Best Use of Timber

(Sponsored by Combilift)

Winner: **Satellite Architects** - Percy Street

"...the magnificent Larch glulam timber frame works perfectly with the steel chassis..."

Best Offsite Housing Project

(Sponsored by Vent-Axia, Schneider Electric & Thorn Lighting)

Winner: **Henley Building Solutions** - IQFive, Birmingham

"...an extremely neat and well-executed scheme from start to finish delivering a functional and attractive living space..."

Best Offsite Health Project

(Sponsored by Ruukki)

Winner: **Taylor Woodrow, NG Bailey & Panaloc**

- St Helens & Knowsley PFI Hospitals Project

"...this showed some marvellous collaborative working across all three parties with a real commitment to producing patient-focused design..."

Best Offsite Education Project

(Sponsored by Kingspan Off-Site)

Winner: **Framework CDM** - Dulverton SureStart Centre

"...a bright, lively use of space that provides a beautiful environment...it is also a fantastic advert for the 'business' of offsite construction..."

Special Award for Innovation

(Sponsored by Van Elle)

Winner: **Henley Building Solutions** - IQFive

"...felt to possess enough overall qualities to win in a very strong and varied field...extremely high levels of precision manufacturing, including the production of a new 'figure 3' roll formed element..."

Gold Award for Overall Offsite Excellence

(Sponsored by Lloyd's Register)

Winner: **Caledonian** - The Paragon Project

"...this project really reflects many of the successful aspects of offsite and in particular modular construction...it shows all the hallmarks of competitive cost, quicker delivery and better quality throughout..."

For further information about the Offsite Construction Awards and the winning projects, please contact: **Sarah Payling** or **Gary Ramsay** on **0161 950 4500** or email: **s.payling@oscmagazine.com** or **g.ramsay@oscmagazine.com**

Notes

¹ The 2007 Offsite Construction Awards were supported by: Buildoffsite, British Precast, Building Research Establishment, Futurebuild, Interbuild Off-Site, Mtech Group, Steel Construction Institute and UK Timber Frame Association.

² OSC Magazine is the UK's leading publication dedicated to covering the developing world of offsite construction, its methods, products and systems. From concrete, steel and timber systems, architectural innovation and design, volumetric and modular building, to SIPs, bathroom and kitchen pods, the magazine aims to inform, entertain and spread best practice.

Full coverage of the OSC Awards dinner will be featured in the next issue of OSC Magazine, available January 2008.

³ The Judges for the 2007 Awards were: Kemper Booher (Laing O'Rourke), Norman Brown (British Precast), Brian Chamberlain (BBA), Graham Couchman (SCI), Chris Gaze (BRE), Terry Hyland (TRADA), Richard Ogden (Buildoffsite), James Pickard (Cartwright Pickard), Darren Richards (Mtech).

⁴ Next year's Offsite Construction Awards dinner will take place on 28 October 2008. To request an entry form for next year's Awards, contact Gary Ramsay on **0161 950 4500**, or email: **awards@oscmagazine.com**

For further information on sponsorship packages and table bookings, please contact Sarah Payling on **0161 830 5572**.

Next Member to Member Event

The previous Member to Member event which took place at the London Offices of Lloyds Register on 7 November 2007 was very well received by those Members who attended both as a networking event and also as an opportunity to catch up with some of the initiatives being progressed by Buildoffsite. In planning the next event we now want to develop our "model" including in particular opening up the event to Member's Guests and taking advantage of the prominent Regional location to connect with a number of other organisations that share our ambitions.



The meeting will commence at 4.00pm with registration from 3.30pm. A draft Programme is attached. The "one to one" networking sessions will be managed once again by the team from Building on Business.

I am absolutely delighted that the event is being supported by East Midlands (Regional) Development Agency (EMDA) and by the East Midlands Centre for the Built Environment (EMCBE) – the recognised change organisation for the construction and built environment industries within the East Midlands. A number of prominent figures from EMDA and EMCBE will be attending the event as guests of Buildoffsite.

As before the primary aim of the event is to provide an opportunity for our Members to meet with each other and to get to know a bit more about each others business activities, requirements for knowledge and to identify opportunities for co-operation or collaboration. We will also include an introductory session so that we can hear more about relevant initiatives being progressed within the East Midlands Region.

BEX 2008



■ The 4th annual Building Exchange- BEX will be held in Valencia from 22-25 June 2008

- BEX is an action oriented forum which brings together leaders in the international construction and property industry from right across the supply chain and is a unique opportunity to network with the most senior people in the industry
- Construction Efficiency is high on the agenda for 2008. The Programme will take an in-depth look at how different organisations in different countries approach the challenge of efficient use of construction resources, with the offsite industry playing a focal role
- The BEX conference programme runs concurrently with the meeting programme and focuses on international approaches to innovation, collaboration, productivity and sustainability. A key session will be led by Richard Ogden from Buildoffsite
- At BEX, manufacturers hand pick their own intensive programme of private meetings with potential clients and partners drawn from the exclusive list of BEX delegates
- BEX is an opportunity to exchange information and benchmark best practise with some of the foremost international thinkers and practitioners
- Attendance at BEX is restricted to qualified senior level personnel only
- BEX is organised by Building on Business Limited supported by organisations including the Union of International Architects, The World Green Building Council, RIC'S, CPA and Buildoffsite
- For more information about BEX 2008 please visit www.b-e-x.com, email info@buildingonbusiness.com or call the BEX team on **+44 (0) 207 403 2773**

Made in Japan

– **A visit to see the best of Japanese off-site housing solutions, 6 – 10 April 2008**

Buildoffsite has teamed up with ViB events to arrange an escorted study visit to Japan to experience two of the most respected names in off-site housing. The visit will take in Sekisui Heim which is the oldest established manufacturer and also Toyota Homes. Sekisui Heim was established



in 1972 and currently produces 56,000 homes a year. Toyota Homes was established in 1976 and currently produces around 5000 homes a year. Both companies produce mainly open steel frame modules which are customised to meet the requirements of individual purchasers using the latest in CAD/CAM technology and in the case of Toyota Homes the extensive use of robotics.

There are still a few places available and anyone who is interested in joining the visit and would like more information should contact Anna Whiting at Buildoffsite as soon as possible. Anna's contact details are:

Email anna.whiting@buildoffsite.com
Phone **0207 549 3306**

Breakfast with Buildoffsite launched

Buildoffsite Breakfast Briefings on Lean Project Management

Buildoffsite believes that the increased application of innovative project management techniques will provide a stimulus for action to achieve a step change in process efficiency which in turn will serve to encourage the use of off-site construction methods.

The most innovative technique is Lean Project Management which is based on the principles of Lean Production pioneered by Toyota to deliver a step change in levels of productivity, quality and value and to support continuous improvement. The Lean approach applied to manufacturing processes is now common practice within the automotive sector and has stimulated an expectation in terms of productivity and effective project management that would be unimaginable for much for much of the construction industry.

Buildoffsite has recently teamed up with Lean Thinking Ltd to deliver the first in a series of two

hour Breakfast Briefings to provide an introduction to Lean Project Management as a technique to improve project performance, to protect the project end date and to monitor & control project cost. The approach is based on creating “flow” within the project process and involves the identification and elimination of “waste” and removal of barriers to “flow”.

The first in this series of Breakfast Briefings took place on 29 January and was attended by around 25 senior industry figures from a range of construction industry clients and construction organisations including both housing and non-housing. The lively introductory Briefing was based on learning points from a range of clients’ projects that have applied this methodology. The session was very well received and all attendees seemed to enjoy the interactive style and readily contributed their own experiences. Feedback has been very positive and a number of delegates have reserved places at later events for their colleagues

Additional Breakfast Briefings on Lean Project Management have been arranged for:

- 8.30 – 10.30am - 19 Feb 2008
- 8.30 – 10.30am - 11 March 2008

These two hour events will take place at CIRIA’S offices at Classic House, 174-180 Old Street, London EC1V 9BP. There are a few places remaining and those interested in attending should contact Anna Whiting on anna.whiting@buildoffsite.com

Delegate places are free to Buildoffsite Members with a nominal charge of £50 + VAT for non-Members.

In response to demand we are also looking to deliver a number of additional Briefings at venues outside of London. The details will be publicised on the Buildoffsite Website as soon as possible.

Based on the learning points from the Briefings Buildoffsite will be considering how it can best structure additional learning and knowledge sharing opportunities so that the benefits of Lean Project Management techniques and the implications for the effective use of off-site solutions can best be promoted to a wider audience.

Commissioning Modular SCI Tolerances

Dimensional accuracy for critical interfaces

The growth in the use of off-site manufactured components, structural sub-assemblies and building modules is placing new and sometimes more onerous requirements on those involved in the design, planning and execution of the construction works. One area where this is especially true is the dimensional accuracy of prefabricated elements and that of the structure into which these elements have to be installed. With this in mind, The Steel Construction Institute (SCI) is working with Build Offsite to investigate the issues leading to interface problems between offsite and site-assembled building elements and to publish guidance to construction professionals.



Installation of pod into structural framework

Unlike existing documents on construction tolerances, the new guidance will focus as much on the design and construction process as on the numerical tolerance values, and will promote solutions that lead to improvements in economy for all parties. In this respect, it will urge designers to consider an appropriate tolerances strategy, which takes account of the key interfaces and critical tolerances, rather than simply specifying tighter tolerances throughout the structure or expensive engineered solutions to accommodate poorly fitting components. Where tighter tolerances are deemed to be necessary, the guidance will consider how these might be achieved in practice in order to yield the required levels of reliability in a cost-effective manner.

In recognition of the specific issues relating to different materials and the need for specialist guidance for each, the guidance document will be

divided into separate sections. The initial section will address those issues that are non-material specific, including those relating to the procurement process, concept design decisions, tolerances strategy, managing interfaces and surveying techniques. This will be followed by a section relating specifically to structural steel and the common interfaces between off-site building elements and on-site structural steelwork. Both of these sections will be written by SCI. Subsequent sections will cover in-situ and precast concrete, light gauge steel and timber, with the work in each case being undertaken by the appropriate specialists with input from leading industry players. Further information may be obtained from Dr Martin Heywood at the SCI
email: m.heywood@steel-sci.com

futurebuild



Buildoffsite at futurebuild

Buildoffsite will be relocating itself to the Earl's Court Conference Centre from 26 to 28 February to support the *futurebuild* Exhibition and Conference Programme which is once again being presented by International Business Exhibitions. Buildoffsite will also be supporting an important off-hall workshop sessions to promote increased awareness of the benefits of off-site solutions to the primary health sector.

Buildoffsite will be located on Stand F81

This is the third time that Buildoffsite has participated at *futurebuild*. As an exhibition Futurebuild this year is expected to be approximately twice the size of last year's event both in terms of the number of exhibitors and also in terms of the expected number of delegates. Our previous experiences have been positive with

participation delivering benefits in terms of the opportunity to promote Buildoffsite, our work-programme and the benefits of Membership as well as:

- making connections with exhibitors who share our ambitions for the expansion of the market for off-site solutions;
- connecting with delegates from a wide range of client and supplier organisations who are attending because they want to learn more about off-site solutions and to have an opportunity to meet with potential business partners; and finally
- creating an opportunity for Buildoffsite Members to spend some quality time together and to get to know each other a little better and be able to share thinking on business issues and on opportunities for collaboration.

During the three days of *futurebuild 20* senior executives from Member organisations will be spending time on our stand.

In addition to Buildoffsite's promotional material, published outputs and information on the Buildoffsite/Lloyds Registration Scheme we will also be launching the *Buildoffsite Yearbook* which describes our current work-programme and our emerging priorities for 2008.

We will also be promoting the Guidance Documents being produced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families which support a more standardised approach to the delivery of key components of the new school building programme and which in turn support the case for a significant increase in the use made of off-site solutions. Copies of the Guidance published to date will be available on the Buildoffsite stand. Senior officials from DCSF will also be spending time on the stand to provide information on the Guidance material.

Primary Health Event – 26 Feb

Offsite Benefits for the Health Sector – A special event at Earl's Court

Buildoffsite is collaborating with the Community Health Partnerships organisation to deliver another in the series of events to promote improved understanding of the benefits of offsite construction solutions for the primary health care sector. The event takes place at Earl's Court on 26 February alongside the Futurebuild Exhibition. In particular delegates have been invited from Primary Care Trusts, Local Improvement Finance Trusts and their funders and design and construction

suppliers, Local Authorities etc

Modelled on a smaller but very well received demonstration event which took place at Salford University last autumn we will be fielding the same speaker line up. The event will be chaired by Nick Whitehouse and will also feature David Jupp of Britspace, Peter Warner of Yorkon, Paul O'Neill of Bryden Wood and Dave Turnbull of Caledonian.



Nick Whitehouse



Peter Warner



Paul O'Neill



Dave Turnbull



David Jupp

Buildoffsite is also organising guided tours of the offsite elements of the Futurebuild exhibition for those delegates that have requested them.

The health sector is an important market for the off-site industry with substantial investment still coming through to deliver new acute hospitals, community hospitals, health centres and other facilities for health trusts. In addition the development of health centres is increasingly being developed as part of more substantial projects encompassing social and key-worker housing, community facilities, office space, and retail and leisure developments. The increase in the number of these hybrid schemes may provide additional opportunities for the off-site sector.

One of the challenges to some off-site solutions



within the health sector has been the tendency for health trusts and their design advisors to arrive at customised solutions for room types to meet the perceived needs of clinicians and other users. Inevitably lack of a more standardised approach to the interpretation of user requirements tends to get in the way of efforts to deliver construction solutions including those offered by off-site suppliers that work best where a production run can be established. Under a trial programme funded by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and being implemented by Community Health Partnerships efforts are underway to promote more cost effective arrangements for the specification of room types for new primary care facilities. We'll report on developments in a future edition of this Newsletter.

EZine

Buildoffsite members: your news via the e-zine

Buildoffsite's offsite industry e-zine features news and views from the UK and around the world, informs and updates readers of the latest projects, manufacturing investment, MMC, new developments, examples of good design, events, industry awards and exhibitions. Subscription to the e-zine includes a monthly e-newsletter and access to the online news archive.

Recent additions to the e-zine includes: a section featuring news from Buildoffsite members and space for sponsor's logos and announcements.

To subscribe to the e-zine, visit www.buildoffsite.com/news.htm

If you are interested in submitting relevant news, information and announcements, or would like to find out more about e-zine sponsorship options, email the editor: press@buildoffsite.com

Buildoffsite Yearbook available at futurebuild



Buildoffsite will be launching its Yearbook at the Futurebuild Exhibition, Earls Court on 26-28 February 2008

The Yearbook contains: achievements and activities from the past year and sets priorities for the year ahead; case studies; details of Buildoffsite's products and services; and includes a full directory of Buildoffsite members.

Visit Buildoffsite on stand F81 to pick up a copy or visit www.buildoffsite.com to download online.

Scottish Construction Centre



Scottish Construction Centre

Buildoffsite forms alliance with new Scottish Construction Centre

Buildoffsite has formed an alliance with the recently-opened Scottish Construction Centre (SCC) to help promote greater uptake of offsite methods in Scottish construction sector.

The SCC has identified 'offsite' as a key theme area for Scotland and is planning an initial series of industry workshops to explore the strength of interest in a programme of work to help companies understand how they may gain from increased adoption of offsite construction techniques.

Funded by Scottish Enterprise and developed by a CIRIA-led consortium, The SCC has been created to promote innovation and excellence in Scotland's construction industry.

To find out more, visit www.scocon.org

EcoCanopy

The 'EcoCanopy' is a modular building system based on a series of standard components - roof, wall panels and windows, internal and external cladding - all of which are produced within a factory environment, ensuring a high level of quality, efficiency and reliability. The first EcoCanopies are already being erected as Children's Centres on a number of primary school sites in Hertfordshire, providing training, office and daycare space. Other applications include facilities for the

healthcare sector and dance and fitness studios.

Timber forms all the main structural elements of the Eco Canopy, including the distinctive roof module which incorporates a north-facing skylight and is made of a combination of timber glu-lam beams and steel components that allow the structure to be split into several parts for transport and easy reassembly on site. The roof cassette contains all services (power, aircon, light, cctv) and arrives on site completely prefabricated. The system can form both permanent and temporary buildings, both of which feature a concrete floor slab.

Clients can choose from a range of options for both the internal and external cladding, depending upon the way in which the module is to be used. The programme (for a typical 6 canopy building) is 4 weeks on site with a 12 week lead-in time; the whole building can be readily relocated, reused or adapted.

Contact Paul O'Neill of BWA on **020 7253 4772** if you would like to find out more.



R&D Tax credits – Important Notice – Reminder on retrospective claims – new rules – action required before 31 March 2008

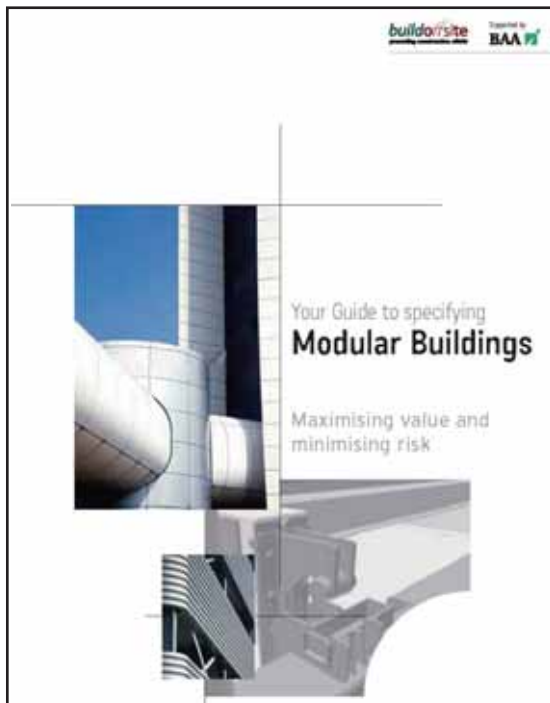
Some but not all will be aware that there was a change in the rules (announced last year) on the period for retrospective claims for R&D Tax credits. The current rule for both SMEs and large companies is that you can claim back to 6 years, ie to year 2002, for qualifying R&D activities. This 6 year rule expires 31st March 2008. From 1st April 2008 the retrospective rule changes to 2 years, again for both SMEs and large companies.

The HMRC have a number of 'special-unit' advice offices. These can be found on www.hmrc.gov.uk/randd/special-units.ht.

If you have any doubts as to whether your previous R&D activities qualify or not then speak to one of these advice offices and also to your company financial director or company tax advisor. In any event if you believe you have undertaken qualifying R&D activities in the 2002 to 2006 tax periods then you **MUST** file a claim before the closing date of 31st March 2008. The claim does not have to be in full detail, but you must supply sufficient detail for the claim to be acknowledged and registered by the HMRC.

Your guide to specifying modular buildings

Maximising value and minimising risk



Buildoffsite and BAA recognise that there is a need for guidance to help clients and specifiers get best value from modular building suppliers. Tender packages may include over restrictive design information and may emerge too late in the design process. This inhibits the modular suppliers from exploiting their skills and expertise to offer clients the most effective built solutions.

This guidance, which will be available on request from Buildoffsite with effect from 26 February 2008, addresses this problem by indicating the point in the design process it is most effective to involve modular manufacturers. It also indicates the level of design to which projects should be taken before tenders or request for information are used.

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