

Cement Industry Suppliers' Forum CISF Annual Conference 2011

Members' Report

Fifty five representatives of companies active in the British and Irish cement industries met on the 18/19th May for the annual conference of the Cement Industry Suppliers' Forum, held, as usual, at Bosworth Hall in Leicestershire. The cement industry majors – Lafarge, Hanson, Cemex, Tarmac and CRH were each represented, as were other materials companies such as Cenin, Ecocem, Kerneos, Lhoist, Novacem, Southern Cement and SSE Mineral Solutions. Suppliers of equipment included instrumentation firms, testing equipment manufacturers, additive companies, and materials handling, processing and storage specialists. Industry bodies included the Institute of Quarrying; Mineral Products Association; The Concrete Society and UK Quality Ash Association, and the event was attended by *Global Cement Magazine* and *International Cement Review*.

On arrival delegates were served a hot buffet lunch in the Wolston Lounge and mingled at the exhibition of trade stands in the nearby Crompton Suite.



Delegates arriving at the exhibition

Proceedings opened at 1.30 with a welcome and introduction to the conference themes. Edwin Trout, Secretary to the CISF, reviewed developments in the British and Irish cement industries over the past year, highlighting economic and regulatory changes that would be treated in more detail by subsequent speakers. David Merlin-Jones, Research Fellow in Economics and Energy at Civitas, and author of the *Rock Solid* report, considered the possible effects of climate change policy on energy intensive industry, raising the spectre of business emigration. Navin Beckmann, Sales Director at Toni Technik, led the exhibitors' introductions with a short presentation of his company's range, and was followed by a brief outline of Vega Controls by Doug Anderson. Other exhibitors, B&W, Fairport Engineering, the Institute

of Quarrying and the UKQAA, each said a few words, and the delegates introduced themselves by name before breaking for refreshment and networking in the adjoining exhibition.



Navin Beckmann of Toni Technik

Peter Harvey, Sales Manager at Thermoteknix Systems Ltd, described the development of a new kiln shell scanner, a much-enhanced replacement for his company's existing offering to the market. He illustrated his talk with the example of the scanner installed at Hanson's Ketton works. Safety Manager at MPA Cement, Ian Gibson, then reviewed the impact of the 'Safer by Design' campaign on the design of equipment to enhance the safety of operatives. He invited participation in the MPA's 2011 Health & Safety Awards.



Peter Harvey of Thermoteknix Systems

Returning from the tea break, Shawn Pullman, Product Manager at Siemens, in a thoughtful and considered presentation, addressed the twin themes of emissions control and carbon capture by post-combustion technology. The final presentation of the

afternoon was delivered by Neville Roberts, Technical Manager of Cemex, nobly stepping in at short notice to cover the unavoidable absence of the scheduled speakers. He gave a very positive, up-beat assessment of his company's progress and prospects in the use of alternative materials at Rugby and South Ferriby, and stressing the beneficial relationship with partner company, WRG. He ended by pulling the convenor's leg with a topical image.

Latest From the White House Again !



A joke at the convenor's expense!

After a break to change, and enjoy the hotel's grounds and facilities, delegates reconvened for the CISF Annual Dinner in the magnificent Harcourt Room. Chicken liver pate with orange and redcurrant sauce and melba toast, was followed by breast of chicken in shitake mushroom, chervil and white wine sauce. The dessert was a maple and pecan nut cheesecake with butterscotch sauce. After dinner, Glen McBirnie, a retired lorry driver with the former Rugby Portland Cement, and author of a book on RPC Transport, spoke entertainingly and nostalgically about his experiences driving for the company in the late 1960s and '70s. The talk was accompanied by a selection of scratch-built models of road tankers in the colours of Rugby, Ketton, Ribble and Tunnel Cement. Conversation continued in the bar long into the night.



The CISF Annual Dinner

Robert McCaffrey of *Global Cement Magazine* chaired the opening session of Day 2, which addressed the development of novel and blended cements. The first presentation, *Low carbon cements*

from Pal Chana, Executive Director of MPA, was delivered with aplomb by Bill Price, Lafarge's National Commercial Technical Director. It set out the imperitives for seeking lower emissions of carbon in cements manufacture, identified international initiatives, measured progress against various 'levers of reduction, and introduced several alternative cements. One of these was Novacem, a potentially carbon-negative cement currently being developed by Novacem Ltd, at Imperial College, progress in which was described by the new company's marketing manager, John Prendergast. Bill Price returned to the platform to address his own theme of blended – or 'factory-produced composite cements' – as manufactured by Lafarge. He described the various cements and the technologies used in their production, along with the criteria influencing their appropriate use in concrete. The session was concluded by a punchy presentation from Conor O'Riain, Business Development Manager at Ecocem France, on the merits of ggbs and its marketing as a low carbon cement. He ended by announcing a new deal to supply Lafarge in France.



'Low Carbon Cements': delegates, Conor O'Riain & Bill Price

After coffee, Andrew Spencer, Sustainability Director for Cemex UK, offered a fluent and concise summary of British sustainability policy and his company's response to the pressure to monitor and measure its carbon footprint. He included an update on the Sustainable Concrete Forum. The proceedings concluded with a statement on the global economic position by Yassine Touahri, an analyst at Exane BNP Paribas, who offered a forecast of production and pricing trends for the rest of the year.

The conference broke up after lunch and delegates departed with expressions of appreciation. Feedback included comments such as: "it was a very enjoyable conference", "an enjoyable and informative conference", "a very interesting and enjoyable conference and I would be delighted to attend again next year".

Edwin A.R. Trout
Secretary, Cement Industry Suppliers' Forum
May 2011