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Steel construction industry target zero carbon buildings

Corus and the British Constructional Steelwork Association (BCSA) today announced the 'Target Zero' initiative aimed at making zero carbon buildings a reality.

An initial study on the design of school buildings, the first of several different building design projects, aims to provide design guidelines to eliminating the estimated 10 million tonnes of CO₂ produced by 21,500 schools in the UK each year - more than two gas power stations produce in the same period.

Target Zero's initial study will help the Government's 'Building Schools for the Future' programme and a full report on findings, expected in August this year, will help meet government targets of making all schools carbon free by 2016. All new buildings must be carbon free by 2019.

The £1M project will look at five major building types (school, warehouse, office, supermarket and mixed use) and will generate fully-costed solutions demonstrating how to achieve the three highest BREEAM ratings and meet the changes to Part L of the Building Regulations (building fuel and power conservation standards).

The project will focus on steel being the key building solution for zero carbon designs. Ninety-nine per cent of structural steel is either recycled or reused making steel more sustainable than concrete or wood.

BCSA President Richard Barrett said:

"The schools study has already identified potential annual energy savings of £165 million nationally, equivalent to £22 per pupil. The steel sector has a long history of providing the guidance designers need to make the best use of steel. The latest information they require relates to sustainability and the reduction of

carbon in buildings. Target Zero is a focussed practical study to deliver that information.”

Alan Todd, General Manager of Construction Services and Development, commented:

“There are many highly sustainable steel-framed buildings and many have achieved the highest ratings under BREEAM. Steel itself has many advantages and a steel-frame is a great enabler of sustainability in a wider sense. The Target Zero project will provide useful guidance for the increasing number of designers who have an interest in achieving best sustainable performance.”

Corus and the BCSA have commissioned sustainability specialists Faber Maunsell / AECOM to deliver the ‘Target Zero’ project assisted by cost consultant Cyril Sweett.

To find out more about the Target Zero project visit www.targetzero.info

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Notes to editors

BCSA

BCSA Limited is the national organization for the steel construction industry. Its member companies undertake the design, fabrication and erection of steelwork for all forms of construction in building and civil engineering. Associate Members are those principal companies involved in the supply to all or some Members of components, materials or products. Corporate Members are clients, professional offices, educational establishments etc which support the development of national specifications, quality, fabrication and erection techniques, overall industry efficiency and good practice.

The principal objectives of the Association are to promote the use of structural steelwork; to assist specifiers and clients; to ensure that the capabilities and activities of the industry are widely understood and to provide members with professional services in technical, commercial, contractual, quality assurance and health & safety matters.

Corus

Corus is Europe's second largest steel producer with annual revenues of more than £12 billion and crude steel production of about 20 million tonnes. With main steelmaking operations primarily in the UK and the Netherlands, Corus supplies steel and related services to the construction, automotive, packaging, mechanical engineering and other markets worldwide.

Corus is a subsidiary of Tata Steel, one of the world's top ten steel producers. Following the acquisition of Corus in 2007, the combined enterprise has an aggregate crude steel capacity of more than 28 million tonnes and approximately 82,700 employees across four continents.

BREEAM

BREEAM is the world's leading environmental assessment method for buildings with over 100,000 buildings certified and over half a million registered. It sets the standard for best practice in sustainable design and has become the de facto of a building's environmental performance.