

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000
www.breedonaggregates.com

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833
www.cemex.co.uk

Cornish Lime Company 01208 79779
www.cornishlime.co.uk

CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090
www.euromix.com

Hugh King & Co 01294 557515
www.hughking.co.uk

John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067
(Liverpool)

Marshall Watts Mix 01262 675383
www.wattsmix.com

Premier Mortars 0345 3013030
www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars

RTU 02890 851441
www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast)

Tarmac 03701 116 116
www.tarmac.com

Brighter news on the housing front

Nearly 38,000 new homes were registered in the UK during the third quarter of this year according to NHBC's latest new home registration statistics. The figures are the highest third quarter result since the recession some ten years ago.

In the months July to September, 37,936 new homes were registered, representing a 6% increase on the 35,946 registered in the same period last year. The private sector saw a 9% increase for the quarter (2017: 29,083 registrations against 2016: 26,611), with 8,853 new homes registered in the affordable sector, a 5% decrease on Q3 2016 (9,335).

Seven out of the 12 UK regions experienced growth in registrations, when compared to the same period last year. Scotland (3,056 +50%), East Midlands (3,575 +42%) and the North East (2,078 +34%) were among the regions with most notable growth.

Commenting on these latest statistics, NHBC chief executive, Steve Wood, said:

“ We have seen encouraging growth in terms of the number of new homes being registered over the last three months, across many parts of the country. With demand for high quality new homes as strong as ever, this is positive news for the industry and prospective homebuyers, particularly in light of the current political and economic uncertainties. ”

Updated Data Sheet

MIA's data sheet 1, Factory-produced lime:sand mortar for masonry, has been updated.

It can be downloaded at <http://mortar.org.uk/documents/miadata01.pdf> and is available both in colour and black and white.



It is just one of the 23 data sheets freely available from the MIA.



CEMEX aids redevelopment of London estate



Packington Estate, Islington, London

Dry silo mortar from CEMEX has provided an efficient answer for the redevelopment of Packington Estate in the London Borough of Islington.

Structural flaws in the estate's buildings needed to be repaired and customer, Rydon Construction, was looking for a single supplier across the life of the refurbishment contract expected to cover some five to seven years. Product consistency and quality were paramount and CEMEX was awarded the contract to supply dry silo mortar as bulk and bagged product.

Throughout the contract CEMEX worked closely with the customer over technical matters, service improvements and safety. Central to this was the decision to provide bulk silos for the work, which would supply 90% of the mortar needs. Additionally, CEMEX Readyspread was used in the initial and final phases, when mains water, electricity and silo concrete pads were not in place or when small volumes of non-standard mixes were required.

In general, M4 Silo, an extended retarded mortar, was recommended as it allowed mortar to be batched both in the morning and afternoon, before being used the following day. This meant less noise in the early morning, hence reducing impact on the local community. Three 32-tonne mortar silos were installed on site and CEMEX produced three bespoke coloured mortars for the contract, both in bulk and bagged form. Colours were specified to match existing brickwork and to produce the correct architectural contrast to areas where specialist bricks were being used. In total 5,000 tonnes of mortar were supplied.

Rydon Construction senior buyer, David Calvey, said: 'We have been delighted with the way CEMEX has responded to the challenge.'

Contract client was the Hyde Group and architects, Pollard Thomas Edwards.

MIA sponsors Guild of Bricklayers competition for fourth year



Tyler Pearce of Brooklands College receives the MIA cup for winning the senior section of the Guild of Bricklayers national 2017 competition from guild president, Phil Vine Roberts (left) and MIA producer member Iain Betts

MIA has agreed to sponsor the 2018 Guild of Bricklayers annual skills competition for industry trainees. This will be the fourth year MIA has supported the guild. It will do so by supplying mortar through its producer members for all competition stages.

The guild runs nine regional competitions for brick laying trainees studying at accredited colleges. Students compete in junior and senior categories and are given up to six hours to construct a brickwork model from drawings supplied. The work is marked by industry judges and winning competitors from each heat go forward to compete in the national finals to be held on 27 June 2018 at Brooklands College, Weybridge, Surrey.

The Guild's Dennis Westwood says that the body has acted in an official capacity at all major brickwork competitions since 1953. Craft competitions started in 1955 and the regional series have been in operation since 1980. The Guild decided to run its own skills competition in 2007 and since then has seen some 2,000 candidates enter.

In supporting the renewed sponsorship, MIA manager, Mick Russell, said:

'We are determined to support youngsters learning their trade to become the skilled bricklayers of the future. We need them to enable us achieve the volume of new home building we so badly need in the UK. More power to the Guild of Bricklayers in its efforts to maintain the highest standards.'

MIA appoints new manager



Mick Russell has been appointed MIA manager.

Mick has wide experience of the construction industry, starting working life as a bricklayer before joining materials supplier ARC (now Hanson) as a lorry driver. He then joined the company's technical department working on the development and testing of mortar before moving into sales and subsequently taking on overall responsibility for wet and dry mortar production and sales.

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MIA is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries.