FROM ASSOCIATIONS AND PARTNERS

THE CONCRETE INITIATIVE : ENERGY STORAGE IN BUILDINGS – THE POTENTIAL IN THE ENERGY PACKAGE

Increasing renewable energy uptake will bring the need for greater energy flexibility and storage in order to match supply with demand. What if buildings could play this role, by offering thermal storage capacity that is currently untapped? This will be the subject of the event “Energy storage in buildings – the potential in the Energy Package”, which will take place in Brussels on 25 September from 12.00 – 14.00. The event will be hosted by MEP Bernd Lange and the Representation of Lower Saxony, together with The Concrete Initiative. This event will make the link between the different elements of the Energy Package, from energy performance of buildings (EPBD) to electricity market design. READ MORE

THE EFCA MODEL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATIONS

In 2006 EFCA (European Federation of Concrete Admixtures Associations) published a generic EPD for a range of admixtures. In 2015, EFCA published six new Model EPD externally verified. In 2016 these were also confirmed and adopted by the ECO Platform. Following the EFCA Information Sheet and an overview of the EFCA verified Model Environmental Product Declarations. CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD the EPD model from www.efca.info

3.2 % INCREASE IN 2016 CEMENT CONSUMPTION IN GERMANY

Approx. 27.5 million tonnes of cement were used in Germany in 2016, roughly 3.2% more than in the previous year. The German Cement Association (VDZ) is expecting this positive trend to continue in 2017. "Housing, traffic infrastructure and non-residential construction – the momentum for the German cement market came from all the relevant sectors of the building industry," is how VDZ explains the development of cement consumption in 2016 in Germany, around a million tonnes more cement than in the previous year. "This growth can be primarily attributed to the high level of building activity. But the good weather conditions also had a positive effect on cement consumption". READ MORE

ERMCO CONGRESS 2018 — OSLO

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CONCRETE OR STEEL? AND THE ANSWER IS ...

"Concrete is good because it’s cheap, very enduring, it grows old well and, if it’s of good quality, is absolutely fire safe," said S. Kuznetsov, chief architect for Moscow, Europe’s second most-populous city. "Steel is good as it makes the building lighter in terms of loads on the foundation, and a steel frame is also easy to install. But steel has its drawbacks and the main one, perhaps, is its low fire resistance."

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AUSTRALIAN FIRM UNVEILS PLAN TO CONVERT CARBON EMISSIONS INTO 'GREEN' CONCRETE

An Australian pilot project capturing carbon emissions and storing them in building materials aims to have a full-scale production plant by 2020. MCI, Mineral Carbonation International, an Australian company developing carbon-utilisation technology will officially launch its technology and research program at the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources on September 2017. The launch will include a demonstration of the hour-long process bonding CO₂ - stored in large cylinders at one end of the warehouse - with crushed serpentine from the nearby Orica Kooragang Island operation, permanently converting it into solid carbonates.

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CONCRETE LIGHT

HIGHWAY OF THE SUN CHURCH, ITALY

S. Giovanni Battista on Autostrada del Sole motorway near Florence, Italy, is a church built between 1960 and 1963, based on plans by architect Giovanni Michelucci. The materials used are stone and concrete. Concrete pillars look like branches that support the roof, looking like the tent of a hut. A jewel of modern architecture thanks to an unconventional use of concrete.