

GOOD TIMES FOR TIMBER

Established in 1996, Cygnum was originally an associate of Palfab, one of Ireland's leading processors and distributors of sawn softwoods, writes Kara Segegin.

With the growth of timber-frame construction throughout the UK, Cygnum has completed thousands of projects, and as more developers embrace timber frame, driven by initiatives such as the Code for Sustainable Homes as their principal construction method, the company continues to grow.

Director of UK sales Stuart Scott says, as a timber manufacturer,

Cygnum has always been a green business with a sustainable supply chain and has achieved both FSC and PEFC approval for its practices.

To make sure its business processes remain green, Mr Scott says the firms does internal audits and works with its suppliers to make sure it has a fully accountable supply chain all the way back to when a tree is felled.

Mr Scott says the company is always working on eco-innovation, so as well as offering conventional open panel timber-frame solutions, Cygnum introduced its Precision panel, developed as part of the EU



Eco Innovation programme.

A highly insulated and airtight panel, it is described as offering a cost-effective and sustainable building solution. As part of the manufacturing process, the company

produces its own cellulose insulation from locally sourced recycled newspaper and installs it under controlled factory conditions.

Mr Scott says there is a growing demand for sustainable products as major companies commit to carbon-neutral housing and development. "With the type of product we provide, we can say it is fully sustainable," he says.

With changes in regulations and government requirements on carbon emissions, Mr Scott says in the future timber will have a much bigger say in the market place.

lifecycle accounts for 86 per cent of the total carbon emissions from Caledonian's construction process, so the company is looking to improve carbon efficiency by cutting material wastage.

For example, after identifying

that 52 per cent of all the waste it generates is plasterboard, the firm made procurement and design decisions that help avoid offcuts.

Zero UK director Gareth Jones concludes: "We set up the business due to an increased demand

for low-carbon technologies with both the domestic and commercial markets. We have seen the greatest growth in demand in the solar PV market, but rainwater harvesting is also popular at the moment."

You can find out more about using recycled products at http://aggregain.wrap.org.uk/procurement/quick_wins/opportunities_1.html and more about energy-efficient products at sites such as www.greenspec.co.uk.



At Layher, we combine high quality **access equipment design** with effective, tailored **training** and comprehensive **back-up and support**. Which means that, whatever your requirement, you can be **safe** in the knowledge that you'll be working with the **best**.

-  EQUIPMENT
-  DESIGN
-  SUPPORT
-  EXPERIENCE
-  VERSATILITY
-  EXPERTISE

Layher Limited
Works Road
Letchworth
Herts SG6 1WL

Tel. 01462 475 100
Fax. 01462 475 101
info@layher.co.uk
www.layher.co.uk

Layher 

More Possibilities. The Scaffolding System.