

press release

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SAINT-GOBAIN SUPPORTS YOUNG CONSTRUCTION TALENT AT TEAMBUILD 2011

In a move reflecting its commitment to improving skills and industry training, international construction materials company Saint-Gobain is sponsoring 'Teambuild 2011' – an annual competition which will see sixty of the UK construction industry's most talented under 30 year olds complete a series of real-life construction challenges.

Taking place in Oxfordshire between 18 and 20 November, the competition will see nine cross-discipline teams compete in five timed heats which require them to deal with the hypothetical challenges that could be faced on a current construction site – the North West Bicester Eco Town.

The five competition heats cover a range of skills and techniques, from master planning and outline design through to procurement strategy, detailed design and construction. Teams must demonstrate their ability to innovate, propose, adapt, respond to others and work together

They will also be required to incorporate key Saint-Gobain products into the solutions they develop including Vario, Saint-Gobain Isover's advanced air tightness and moisture management system; Glulam from engineered timber specialist Pasquill; SGG Planitherm One thermally efficient glazing from Saint-Gobain Glass and Thistle Durafinish, a hardwearing plaster from British Gypsum. Saint-Gobain is also sponsoring a prize for the most innovative use of these products.

Competitors from a number of major companies across the industry will be represented in the prestigious contest, including Skanska, Kier, Taylor Woodrow, Wates and Mott MacDonald.

Judged by representatives from sponsoring companies and industry bodies, including Saint-Gobain, RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) and IMechE (Institute of Mechanical Engineers), the contest culminates in a 'final of finals' on 20 November, with teams competing to win £4,600 in prizes.

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Teambuild chairman Richard Rooley comments: “Teambuild offers young construction industry professionals the chance to showcase their talent. The competition is now in its 20th year and provides a unique training experience for entrants who will gain a valuable insight into the running of large-scale development projects.”

Lindsey Walker, strategic marketing leader for Saint-Gobain UK & Ireland, adds: “At Saint-Gobain, we are committed to ensuring the industry is equipped with the products and skills required to deliver a low carbon built environment. Teambuild 2011 enables us to support the development of emerging talent within the construction industry, equipping tomorrow’s aspiring construction leaders with practical expertise and knowledge that will help them further their careers within the sector.”

Saint-Gobain’s sponsorship of Teambuild 2011 is the latest in a series of company initiatives designed to promote industry training and skills development in the UK. Earlier this year it launched the first of a national network of Technical Academies designed to provide customers with convenient access to knowledge and expertise. Located in Leicestershire and Bristol, the facilities showcase the company’s capabilities to provide cross-brand solutions focusing on a range of construction types and needs.

The launch of the Technical Academies builds upon Saint-Gobain’s existing training offer. This includes a number of company-specific training facilities across the UK, a purpose-built Technical Academy in Ireland covering the Gyproc, Isover, Weber, Saint-Gobain PAM and Ecophon brands and a Greenworks Training Academy in Birmingham dedicated to showcasing the sustainable product solutions and renewable technologies available from Jewson and its sister brands Graham, Minster and Pasquill.

For further details regarding Teambuild 2011 please visit www.teambuilduk.com. For more information on Saint-Gobain and its UK companies please visit www.saint-gobain.co.uk.

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Note to Editors

Saint-Gobain

As the world leader in designing, manufacturing and distributing construction materials, Saint-Gobain's global strategy is focused around meeting some of the fundamental challenges faced by the world today: reducing energy consumption, limiting our impact on the environment, and creating a new generation of buildings which are safe, comfortable and energy efficient.

With EUR 40.1 billion of sales in 2010, Saint-Gobain is present in 64 countries and employs over 190,000 people, including 15,500 in the UK & Ireland. It was founded in 1665 to deliver a world first – the production of glass on an industrial scale - and has continued to grow its business via the ongoing development of new services, products and ways of working with customers. The company invests over £350-million globally in R&D and registered over 380 patents in 2010 alone.

Saint-Gobain solutions span from self-cleaning windows and photovoltaic glass to smart insulation systems, water supply systems, solar solutions and building materials distribution. Our strategic R&D programmes aim to provide Saint-Gobain with a range of products and solutions for emerging markets in key areas including: solar power, the development of new lighting technologies such as organic electroluminescent diodes (OLEDs) which will reduce energy consumption; intelligent glass and high-performance insulation systems.

In the UK and Ireland, some of the best known and respected companies in the construction sector are part of the Group, including British Gypsum, Isover, Solaglas, Weber, Saint-Gobain Glass, Saint-Gobain PAM, Pasquill and Ecophon. Together they offer a range of high performance energy-saving products and solutions to help create a more sustainable built environment.

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