



INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

A decision to invest in something should always be taken with knowledge and wisdom, or in some cases, the hope that the investment provides a worthwhile return. An investment in property is generally considered to be a long term venture and therefore an investment with confidence involving a professional design team, quality construction techniques incorporating tried and tested products and systems that minimise issues will ensure success.

It is imperative that specifiers have confidence in the capabilities of their chosen suppliers and it therefore makes sense to specify an MCRMA charter-compliant member. MCRMA membership is only open to those companies who comply with the requirements of the Membership Charter; a Charter which reflects and underpins the philosophy and principles of the leading manufacturers, component suppliers and independent industry inspectors whose products, systems and services are associated with the construction of the building envelope.

When you use an MCRMA charter-compliant company, you have the reassurance of knowing that all member companies are carefully vetted to ensure that they have a good trading record; adequate levels of the relevant liability insurances; comply with health and safety legislation and meet their responsibilities with regard to environmental issues. It also ensures that the member company has the knowledge and technical expertise to deliver a robust and workable solution.

Using an MCRMA member company means that you benefit from the regular research programmes that MCRMA undertakes to ensure that its members have access to cutting edge technology, for example in structural testing, thermal modelling and acoustics. MCRMA is currently involved in the development of product data templates with the BIM for Manufacturers and Manufacturing Group (BIM4M2).

CE marking is still an issue

Two years since its introduction, CE marking is still an issue in the industry and there are numerous examples in the marketplace of imported products with fake CE marking or, indeed, no CE marking at all. It is reassuring to know that when you invest in MCRMA members' products you have the added confidence of knowing that their products are CE marked where required and fully comply with the latest standards and legislation.

Likewise, member companies who manufacture composite panels, rooflights, fasteners, spacer systems, safety lines and insulation products all comply with the Construction Products Regulations (CPR) and the appropriate hEN or CUAP.



Deeside Leisure Centre, Cheshire. Image courtesy of Tata Steel

The need to reduce our carbon footprint has set new challenges for the metal building envelope industry and MCRMA members are at the forefront of developing innovative solutions in the areas of green technology and sustainability.

All members are required to sign up to the sustainable and environmental ethos in the MCRMA charter which encourages the take-up of a cradle to cradle approach to sustainability; this means careful consideration of the sourcing of materials and the manufacture of products, through to the implications of their performance when installed and the end of life recycling and disposal.

Sustainable solutions from MCRMA members include green roofing systems that can improve the thermal performance of a building by providing protection against heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. Other examples include the integration of solar PV systems with existing and new roof assemblies, enabling buildings to generate their own electricity; and the development of perforated Transpired Solar Collectors (TSCs) to deliver naturally warmed fresh air into the building.

‘Value engineering’

Metal cladding systems provide efficient, aesthetically pleasing and sustainable solutions for a wide variety of external building envelopes. However, the success of these systems can be compromised when specifications are changed under the guise of “value engineering” by someone who is looking to achieve the cheapest price or maximise profit and source materials and associated components from non-MCRMA companies who may not operate to the highest standards.

Problems can also arise when components and materials are sourced from various different manufacturers, assemble them and then pass them off as a complete cladding system. This is commonly known as pick-n-mix and is a conglomerate of incompatible products, brought together to form an assembly, but not a system. This can have serious consequences for the main contractor, cladding contractor, building owner and those involved with subsequent operation and maintenance.

These assemblies are put together without any consideration for design constraints, compatibility, long term performance and sustainability or health and safety issues. This has implications for those who attempt to assemble the parts and those who ratify or condone their use as subsequent failures will without doubt result in claims and may result in criminal proceedings if negligence is a factor.

All these problems can easily be avoided by specifying a fully designed and manufactured system from MCRMA members who understand the needs of the project and who can design a fully engineered system for a specific application. Of course, this is what you should expect as standard from any supplier but with an MCRMA member it is all part of the package – guaranteed.

Detailed information on all MCRMA member companies can be found on the MCRMA web site at www.mcrma.co.uk.

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