

## **Accelerated learning for SIPs in schools**

### **Hemsec-SIPs on the threshold of government-driven surge in the education building sector**

Illustrative of HEMSEC-SIPs' expertise in the education sector of the UK construction industry is the company's recently-completed project at Castle Rock School in (Manchester?).

As Europe's most experienced manufacturer of Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs), HEMSEC-SIPs of Prescot, Merseyside is well placed – together with other companies which embrace Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) – to be at the forefront of massive changes that will flow from the government's initiative, 'Building Schools for the Future' (BSF).

Billed as the biggest investment in educational infrastructure for over 50 years, the building programme will include the rebuilding and refurbishment of thousands of primary and secondary schools across the country.

Castle Rock School is a X,000-student secondary school where SIPs panels have been employed to create quality campus buildings that were relatively quick and economical to erect.

Jim McXxx of McXxx Installations worked closely on the project with HEMSEC-SIPs:

“There’s no doubt that this was a demanding contract which would have been even more challenging without HEMSEC’s panels,” said Jim. “As everyone knows, off-site construction takes a lot of the time-consuming work out of the job as well as creating a superb end result.”

This approach echoes the sentiments of Sir John Egan’s report, ‘Rethinking Construction’, which recommended that new building techniques and materials should be a part of the revitalised future of the UK building industry.

Without a doubt, the increasing use of SIPs panels will have a massive impact on a building industry beset with demands for environmental sustainability in everything it does. The benefits of new-generation SIPs panels as they relate to structural strength, high insulation ‘U’ values as well as speed and efficiency of construction are well known.

“What is equally significant,” says HEMSEC-SIPs Sales Manager Brian Hxxxxxx, “is how MMC and SIPs will play a crucial role in the energy efficiency of buildings in the future – with Castle Rock School being a supreme example of this.

“Because buildings constructed from SIPs panels are much more air-tight than those where conventional materials are used, they require less heating which in turn leads to a reduction in the potential outflow of CO<sup>2</sup> gases.”

According to The Carbon Trust – a government-funded independent company which helps businesses and the public sector to cut carbon emissions – buildings are responsible for 45 per cent of carbon emissions in the UK, with 9 per cent of the total being produced by non-residential buildings.

As this figure includes schools, the scope for reducing CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by incorporating SIPs panels in all rebuilding and refurbishment projects over the next two decades is huge.

### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

- Timber OSB 3 (Orientated Strand Board) provides high structural strength.
- Panels are available in thicknesses from 75mm to 245mm, with optional finishes of OSB 15mm and cement particle board.
- Sandwich construction of panels produces similar characteristics to I-Beam.
- The polyurethane core contains a fire retardant to inhibit accidental ignition when tested to BS4735.
- U-values for insulation of 0.08 (245mm thick) to 0.28 (100mm).
- Excellent U-value to panel thickness ratio minimises wall thickness, thus maximising internal space.
- Multiple options for external finishes.
- Air-tight structure drastically reduces energy loss.

### **For further information contact:**

Brian Hxxxx, Sales Manager, Hemsec-SIPs Ltd.,  
Stoney Lane, Rainhill, Prescot, Merseyside L35 9LL.  
Tel 0151-XXX 7171. Fax 0151-XXX 1331.  
e-mail: ml@sips.com