

(General building – smaller builders))

## **Opportunity knocks for building sector jobs!**

### **Siptec-Hemsec open new doors for construction industry growth**

Allaying fears that SIPs technology (Structural Insulated panels) poses a major threat to construction industry jobs, Siptec-Hemsec – Europe's most experienced SIPs manufacturer – point to the new opportunities which the increasingly popular SIPs building systems are creating.

With well-documented skills shortages in certain key areas, this re-skilling of the traditional construction industry – representing 10 per cent of the UK economy by value – provides an additional opportunity to re-align the workforce with anticipated growth in demand for buildings of all types over the next decade.

Following on the heels of the government-inspired Egan Report, 'Rethinking Construction' - which advocated an across-the-board reappraisal of the quality of materials and techniques used in the UK construction industry – SIPs technology provides a unique opportunity to create a new generation of timber-based construction.

For builders – and for so many reasons – SIPs means cheaper, quicker construction that combines high performance materials with increased profitability. The panels can be used for walls, roofs or floors and are suitable for buildings of all types up to four storeys high.

As builders will know, SIPs is not a new means of construction, but recent technological advances have dramatically improved performance characteristics. Made from timber OSB 3 facings with a core material of fire-retardant polyurethane foam, Siptec-Hemsec SIPs are strong enough to form an integral part of the structure of a building without the need for expensive steelwork.

Off-site manufactured (OSM) SIPs modules ensure product consistency and speed of construction. This obviously means a better use of financial resources and labour as erection time is about a half of what it would be using traditional methods; remedial work is cut to a minimum; and follow-on trades can begin as soon as the building 'envelope' is constructed.

SIPs also provide opportunities to make more profitable use of space whilst also meeting PPG 3 guidelines. SIPs walls are thinner and therefore create more internal space, whilst roof spaces require no trusses thereby allowing builders to create extra living space in the roof area with all the profit implications this has.

When it comes to insulation properties and all-round energy efficiency, Siptec-Hemsec SIPs perform well in excess of Building Regulations' standards. OSM also means minimal on-site waste and a reduction in the costs associated with its clearance.

## **PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

- 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:**

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