



Press release

9th March 2009

British Precast welcomes the formation of the Mineral Products Association

British Precast, the voice of the £2.3bn UK concrete products industry, has welcomed the formation of the Mineral Products Association (MPA), which brings together the British Cement Association, The Concrete Centre and the Quarry Products Association [and its product groups].

Chief Executive Martin Clarke said: "The MPA has our full support. By bringing together our two main materials supply groups - cement and aggregates – we, as a major customer group, will be able to work closely with the new association on major strategic issues. Most notably, these are aimed at ensuring a robust long-term supply of planned aggregate reserves and a strong national cement industry.

"We have a common interest with the MPA in ensuring that a strong viable UK concrete product manufacturing base is in place for the upturn when the country will need local products in sufficient quantities to build 250,000 homes each year with supporting infrastructure.

"We look forward to a constructive dialogue with MPA Chair, Lynda Chase-Gardener, and Acting Chief Executive, Nigel Jackson, on how we can align the organisations. We need to work collaboratively in such areas as health and safety, environmental management and training."

He added: "We plan also to talk to them soon about forging a closer organisational link with the MPA looking at possible shared services and a portfolio of joint activities such as public affairs and research. Driving value and effectiveness through British Precast and our 12 product groups is our priority throughout this recession and beyond – duplication and waste cannot be tolerated.

"We also need to work in partnership with other downstream concrete organisations, such as Britpave and Construct. We must strengthen the UK concrete platform so that, when needed, a common voice can approach Government in London, Belfast, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Brussels. The Concrete Industry Sustainable Construction Forum is a great example of effective collaboration, with the first progress report to be launched on 19th March. We need to build on that strong foundation."

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Notes to Editors

1. British Precast Concrete Federation is the trade body for the UK concrete products industry. It manages 12 product associations and operates cross-sector programmes in health and safety, sustainability and environmental management, innovation, standards and research, and public affairs.
2. The precast industry operates around 750 factories, employing around 20,000 people directly. It uses 4m tonnes of cementitious products and produces 35m tonnes of product with an annual turnover exceeding £2bn.
3. Established 80 years ago, British Precast is located in Leicester conveniently for the majority of its membership. Its National conference, Awards Lunch and AGM will be held in Leicester on 12th May 2009.
4. Further information is available from www.britishprecast.org.
5. The MPA statement is at <http://www.mineralproducts.org/documents/MPA01-09-MPA%20is%20established.pdf>