



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Successful CITE 2014 welcomed by exhibitors and visitors

The recent Civil Infrastructure & Technology Exhibition – CITE 2014 at Earls Court in London attracted leading managers, engineers and decision-makers from all sectors of civil infrastructure. Visitors to the show included high-ranking representatives of highways authorities, utilities and communications networks, as well as major civil engineering companies and contractors serving this market.

Rail industry visitors were especially evident as the show took place alongside Infrarail 2014, the well established exhibition of rail infrastructure technology and services. Together, the two events represented the largest infrastructure exhibition held in the UK.

Supported by the Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE), UK Trade & Investment, CEEQUAL and other leading professional bodies, CITE 2014 drew very positive feedback from visitors, reflecting the valuable role played by the show in providing a showcase for the latest products and systems and an environment for developing new business contacts.

In all, over 6,600 professionals from various infrastructure sectors attended the combined event. Their presence was welcomed by companies taking part in the show. Feedback from exhibitors was very positive regarding visitor quality and this is confirmed by data showing that some 64% of visitors possessed purchasing authority.

Show attracts leading companies

Leading companies including Openreach, Imtech, Fosroc, Echo Barrier, MGF Trench and Fibrelite exhibited within CITE. With a strong focus on innovation, they presented a range of the specialised equipment, products and services needed for the safe and cost-effective construction, operation and maintenance of civil infrastructure networks.

Many exhibitors that are active in the rail market or seek better access to it benefited from being part of an event that also targeted this busy infrastructure sector.

Seminar insights

Accompanying the CITE 2014 exhibition was a programme of free seminars that ran throughout the show. Staged in partnership with CEEQUAL, the sustainability, assessment, rating and awards scheme for civil engineering projects, the seminars provided insights into a wide range of project developments and product innovations.

Duncan Symonds, Head of Infrastructure at WSP led a session titled “Integrating Infrastructure, Shaping our Future”. The session explored key challenges and opportunities and investigated the ways in which infrastructure will link people with jobs, training, and resources if the UK is to succeed.

Mungo Stacey, Associate at Parsons Brinckerhoff gave two sessions. One looked at BIM for rail infrastructure projects, whilst the other was titled “Introduction to the Structural Eurocodes” and examined the development of Eurocodes and how they can be implemented.

CITE visitors and participants also had access to the Infrarail 2014 supporting programme. Both shows were formally opened by Minister of State for Transport Baroness Kramer, who delivered a keynote speech in which she listed many UK rail programmes currently underway, pointing to the opportunities these create for suppliers.

Targeting exports

In her keynote speech the Minister also highlighted opportunities abroad for UK-based suppliers of both rail and civil infrastructure products and services. Supporting this was a successful series of export-focused events organised by UK Trade & Investment in partnership with the Railway Industry Association. The programme provided valuable opportunities for suppliers to learn more about markets in Europe and further afield.

Kevin Keegan hosts awards dinner

Taking place at a dinner on 21 May, the Infrarail & CITE Awards recognised significant achievements by exhibitors at both shows. The highly popular and entertaining host for the evening was footballing legend Kevin Keegan.

Exhibitors confirm the effectiveness of CITE

CITE 2014 proved a great success for many exhibitors. Echo Barrier's Technical Director Peter Wilson commented: "Our aims in coming to the exhibition were really to get the chance to speak face to face with existing and potential customers and to that end it has been very successful. I think possibly the most impressive thing has been the quality of the visitors – very, very good quality of visitors which has made the whole exercise very worthwhile. CITE is a very important part of our annual campaign because of the nature of the visitors and the professionalism of the show itself."

Imtech UK is a major provider of engineering and technical services across many infrastructure sectors. Its Unit Head of Rail John Meredith said: "So far our experience of CITE has been fantastic. It's been a very busy show for us, we've met a lot of new people that we haven't seen before and we've been able to start forging relationships with them. Importantly we've been able to find out better what it is the industry wants and also get across to the industry what we can offer to it. It's very important to understand all of these things and really just to get people's views on where things should be going." He added: "With CITE being alongside Infrarail this year it's been absolutely the perfect opportunity to do that and extend our exposure and extend our profile within that industry as well as the civil engineering industry."

Also underlining the benefits of the show alongside Infrarail was David Holmes, Technical Director at Fibrelite. He said: "CITE is critical in my opinion. It is where specifiers, consultants, engineers attend and find out what's on offer from new and innovative suppliers like ourselves. Our aims are to get a better understanding of CITE and infrastructure engineering along with Infrarail because we come from a completely different industry. We have had a great meeting with Network Rail."

Summing up the industry's response to the event, Exhibition Manager Heidi Cotsworth said: "We are very pleased that CITE has been such a great success and that companies taking part found the event so beneficial. I would like to thank them and everyone who contributed to and supported it, including our partner organisations and speakers at the seminars that took place during the show. We are already working on the next edition of CITE, the details of which will be available soon."

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Note to editors

CITE 2014

Focusing on infrastructure, civil engineering, energy, geotechnical, tunnelling, waste, water and utilities, CITE showcases the technology and services needed for building, equipping and maintaining these networks. The exhibition took place at Earls Court in London from 20 to 22 May alongside Infrarail 2014 covering the railway sector, making it part of the largest infrastructure exhibition held in the UK this year.

CITE and Infrarail are organised by Mack Brooks Exhibitions (www.mackbrooks.com), which also runs the successful Railtex series of railway technology events in the UK. Internationally, the company stages exhibitions in market sectors that include the metal industries, airport equipment and printing and converting technology, as well as rail.

www.cite-uk.com