

This news bulletin is brought to your desktop by the UK Concrete Repair Association (CRA). It provides brief and easy-to-digest updates supplied by the CRA and its Members on recent concrete repair developments, new advances and other initiatives occurring in the industry.

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## THE A TO Z OF CONCRETE REPAIR

The 2011 edition of the popular one-third A4 sized **CRA Members Directory** has been published. The booklet contains details of the CRA's specialist contractor, product manufacturer, distributor and Associate members. It is specifically designed to be of practical, every-day use to Clients, Specifiers, Consultants, Surveyors and Local Authorities seeking recognised specialists involved in the practice of concrete repair and allied activities.

To facilitate selection when compiling tender lists for concrete repair work, each contractor's entry includes details of contract values catered for, the company's largest contract to date, its total turnover, the value of its concrete repair related business and its geographical area of operation. Each page entry also lists the company's head and regional office locations and practical details, as well as a description of the company's specialist concrete repair capabilities. In addition, an easy to follow cross-reference grid highlighting each member company's third party accreditations, including BS EN ISO 9001, BS EN ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001.

The Directory also contains information regarding BS EN ISO 1504, the concrete repair standard and gives details of the Association's technical helpline; its NVQ/CSCS related training scheme and the Codes of Practice to which each member has committed. Copies can be requested free of charge.

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## SIX BBA CERTIFICATES FOR RONACRETE LTD

CRA member, **Ronacrete Ltd**, has recently had its six British Board of Agrément Certificates re-issued; 32 years after Ronacrete's first BBA approval.

The Certificates are for Ronafix Concrete Render Admixture, Ronafix Brick Slip Adhesive Mortar Admixture, Ronafix Admixure for Thin Screeds and Floorings, Ronacrete Concrete Repair Admixture, Ronabond Concrete Repair Mortar and Ronabond Bedding Mortar.

The BBA has been awarding Agrément Certificates to material manufacturers since 1966, providing construction professionals with detailed information on the performance of new construction products and materials and the peace of mind that the product will be 'fit for purpose'.

Ronacrete, who started in business just three years after the introduction of the Certificates, gained this gold standard assessing the quality and performance of its products just nine years later in 1978.

"Ronacrete is very pleased to have yet again retained the certification for six key product applications. Keeping BBA certification is an ongoing process with product manufacture being regularly monitored throughout the Certificate's life. Ronacrete look upon it as part of its overall quality of service upon which its customers rely and depend. It underwrites the quality and reliability of Ronacrete products in manufacture, durability and performance", commented Simeon Osen, Ronacrete's Managing Director.

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## POPPY FACTORY REFURBISHED BY CEMPLAS

The British Legion was formed in 1921 in the aftermath of the 1st World War. The following year the organisation acquired an old factory and five disabled men were employed to make poppies and wreaths. In 1925, the factory became known as 'The British Legion Poppy Factory Ltd' and later, in 1972, the prefix 'Royal' was added to the title.

By this time the number of men employed had grown to 150 and larger premises became necessary. A former brewery in Richmond, London, was purchased and converted. In just over ten years, the factory employed some 300 disabled ex-servicemen and to this day, continues to produce the now well-known remembrance insignia. The old building, however, was in need of attention.

CRA members **Cemplas Waterproofing and Concrete Repairs Ltd** was appointed as principle contractor to carry out extensive concrete repairs to the building's external columns and façade.

Following a survey and investigation the front external face of the columns were removed and the exposed steel beams cleaned to remove the extensive corrosion. Additional steel reinforcement was fixed before pull-off tests were undertaken to ensure the desired bond strength had been achieved.

A contract condition was that the repaired columns had to exactly match the columns removed. Shutters were therefore formed and Sika Armocrete poured in. Following removal of the shuttering, defects were bagged-in using Sika Monotop 620. After completion, a coat of Sikagard 552 W was applied to the new columns and a further two coats of Sikagard 550 W were applied to the entire elevation to provide a protective and decorative anti-carbonation finish.

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## VOLKERLASER TRIUMPHS AT BRITISH PARKING AWARDS

CRA member, **VolkerLaser**, beat off some tough competition to become joint winners (together with Brighton and Hove City Council) of the Safer Parking Scheme Best Refurbishment Award, presented at the recent British Parking Awards.

The awards, organised by Parking Review magazine, seek to identify and reward well designed and managed parking facilities. The experience and skilled VolkerLaser team completed a major refurbishment project to transform the 347-space 'Lanes Car Park', one of Brighton & Hove City Council's key parking facilities.

The underground, pay-on-foot car park, sits in the centre of the city visors to the Palace Pier, Brighton Town Hall, restaurants and theatres. For many visitors it is the city's 'front door' and shapes their first impression of Brighton & Hove.

The objectives of the refurbishment project were successfully delivered. They were to transform the car park's 'look and feel', to develop a distinctive 'brand', to create a safe and secure environment, to improve access links, to 'de-clutter' the car park, to save energy via a more efficient lighting and ventilation systems and to deliver excellent value for money.

Mike Weaver, VolkerLaser's Managing Director, was delighted with the award. "The company always strives for excellence in car park refurbishment and this award is recognition of the hard work and effort of our partnering team which, through collaborative working, has radically transformed this city centre car park from a dark, gloomy and intimidating environment, into a high quality, bright and secure parking area"

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## NATIONAL THEATRE PREDICTION PROVES TRUE

Denys Lasdun's National Theatre, located at Kings Reach on the South Bank of the River Thames, is a grade 2 listed structure. Completed in the 1970s, the style is 'brutalism', leaving the concrete roughly finished after pouring and left exposed, both externally and internally. The imprint of the timber formwork remains present on the final surface.

In 1976, when asked what the building would be like in 20 years time, Denys Lasdun replied, "It's going to weather. It's going to streak and the streaks are going to have white patches, which they are already getting and which I think will be beautiful - don't forget that stone streaks. I want the concrete to weather, so that in the end lichen will grow on it and it will become part of the riverscape"

As predicted the structure has weathered, but it has also suffered damage due to the environment and internal and external modifications. As part of a major overhaul of the building, sympathetic repairs are now required.

To this end, CRA member, **Structural Renovations Ltd**, was commissioned to carry out colour and texture matched concrete samples, in a number of locations throughout the complex, using a range of mix designs from a variety of sands and cements. The company has also surveyed the concrete by abseiling the Olivier and Lyttleton Theatres and by foot to the walkways and roof structures, in order to fully understand and assess the building's current condition, before preparing and executing a full repair plan.

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## HISTORIC BRIDGE AWARD FOR CRL

CRA contractor member, **Concrete Repairs Ltd (CRL)**, has won the Institution of Civil Engineers Historic Bridge Award for the work carried out to repair Bideford Bridge for Devon County Council.

The 24 span Grade One Listed medieval bridge over the tidal River Torridge was widened in 1925 with concrete cantilever footways. The concrete, however, had since deteriorated due to corrosion of the steel reinforcement in the marine environment.

CRL repaired the concrete and installed one of the largest impressed current cathodic protection systems in the country. The £1.8m contract was valued on time and with minimal interference to the traffic on the bridge.

CRL secured a record 32 orders (value £13.3m) in March 2011, ranging in value from £2000 to £6.3m. Orders included a £3.8m contract from Edinburgh CC for the refurbishment of two tower blocks, a £1.2m contract from Highland Council for a major bridge repair and a £6.3m contract to repair four multi-storey car parks in Peterborough.

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## USL SECURES ISO14001 CERTIFICATION

New CRA member, **Universal Sealants (UK) Ltd**, (trading as BridgeCare, StructureCare, Nufins and Visu) has added BS EN ISO 14001 certification to the company's growing list of accreditations, which also includes the BS EN ISO 9001 Quality Management Standard.

USL's overriding objective is to promote environmental protection and to avoid environmental impact in harmony with economic, social and political requirements. The Standards' implementation within USL is not a one off, nor a static process, but calls for constant adaptations and changes in the interest of a continual improvement process.

To achieve certification the company set up a dedicated environmental team, created and established an environmental management system, implemented its environmental policy, manual, procedures, reporting forms and audit plan. It also trained its staff on new procedures and how they could make a difference to the environmental impact of the company's activities.

Assessment was carried out by BM Trada, who audited the implementation of the environmental management system, environmental performance, waste management, environmental compliance and incident reporting at a number of Universal Sealants' locations, to ensure the company's environmental policies and procedures were in place and that staff were environmentally aware.

Colin Laing, USL Environmental Manager said, "I am delighted we have achieved this standard. It shows we have the right processes in place to be a responsible organisation and community partner"

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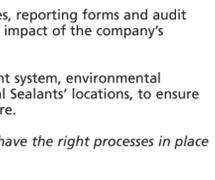
## ASBESTOS RISKS IN CONCRETE RENOVATION

The incidence of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM's) in residential and commercial buildings is well documented, but its presence in highway structures and other assets less so. Yet, much of the UK's infrastructure was constructed pre 2000 and therefore may contain ACMs. ACMs are known to exist within bridges, tunnels, retaining structures and associated buildings, as well as plant.

Materials such as fire protection, insulation, lagging and asbestos cement pipes and cladding are acknowledged risks. Other materials, however, such as decorative coatings to concrete, joint fillers, mastics, pads, adhesives and permanent formwork are less well recorded, as are the risks associated with dust deposits from vehicle break liners or formants of ACM's removed prior to current control measures.

Regulation 4 of The Control of Asbestos Regulations (CAR) 2006 places a specific legal duty on every person to identify materials containing asbestos, in any premises or structure they own, or for which they have a responsibility. UKAS accredited CRA member, **Birmingham City Laboratories (BCL)**, is able to provide a peace of mind for building/structure owners and contractors. BCL services include surveying for asbestos in accordance with Health & Safety Guidance (HSG) 264, sampling of bulk materials for asbestos fibre identification, sampling asbestos fibres in the air and fibre counting to HSG 248.

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## VITAL SERVICE DUCTS REPAIRED IN DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT

Miles of below ground reinforced concrete service ducts, carrying essential steam and communication lifelines to all campus buildings around the Birmingham University Campus, were in need of serious refurbishment and repair.

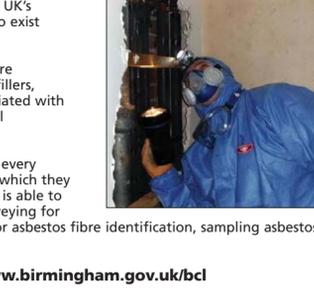
Through the action of carbonation, the concrete had degraded and the consequent corrosion of the encased reinforcing steel was causing spalling of the cover concrete to both the walls and soffits areas.

The repair and protection project, intended to extend the life of this vital facility, presented many challenges to CRA specialist repair contractor member, **Makers Construction Ltd**. Not least, was the need to work in confined and congested surroundings, where traditional methods of repair were very difficult to manage.

Given the environment, the use of water jetting for surface preparation was deemed unacceptable. Surface preparation was therefore carried out traditionally by hand, before a pellet form of corrosion inhibitor was installed to tackle issues associated with on-going corrosion and to limit the need for exposing all of the corroding reinforcing that was in sound concrete.

The inhibitor, which is released slowly over time to give on-going protection to the steel reinforcement, was placed into a grid of pre-drilled holes. The concrete walls and soffit were finally coated with a Sika anti-carbonation coating in order to provide continued protection.

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## BANDRA WORLI SEA LINK PROJECT

The Rajiv Gandhi (Bandra-Worli) Sea Link Project has emerged as one of the world's most unique bridge designs and is a land mark structure in Mumbai, India's commercial and entertainment capital. Since the structure is of national repute and is first of its kind in India, the need to protect this massive structure for years to come was fundamental.

With more than 250,000 square metres of concrete needing protection, the project is currently the largest of its kind in the world.

CRA member, **Remmers**, was one of many manufacturers appointed the task of undertaking the initial assessment and testing works, in order to ascertain the most suitable protective coating for India's first sea link project.

During the process, the Remmers India team was faced with many challenges, such as identifying the best cleaning methodology and on site testing, as well as meeting the strict specification detailed by the consulting engineers. The company eventually came out on top of all the manufacturers trialed.

The consulting engineers specified a 2-coat application of Remmers Concrete Acrylic, an anti-carbonation coating with a dry film thickness (DFT) of 300 µm. The coating is being applied by airless spray, which is helping to achieve a uniform application and thickness throughout the surface.

Due to a delay in starting the work the bridge was opened to public and traffic, resulting in it being impossible to erect conventional scaffolding on the top deck. Hence, an innovative scaffolding arrangement, supported by the sides of the bridge, has been designed by the specialist painting contractor so as not to disturb the traffic. The scaffolding involves steel ropes and special nylon mesh with a load capacity of 1600kgs. To treat the lower and side deck, the coating applicators work inside the mesh structure with the help of rope ladders. Coating of the 60m high tower head is being undertaken via the employment of an on-site crane.

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## RESAPOL CONTINUES TO GROW

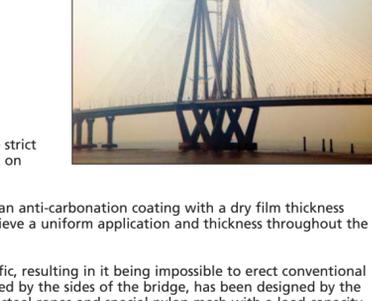
CRA member, **Resapol Ltd**, the independent distributor of construction chemicals (acting as Resapol for most of the CRA product manufacturer members) has continued its phased expansion programme by acquiring Leeds based Pick Quick Service Ltd, incorporating Leeds Oil & Grease Co.

Pick Quick Service Ltd, established in 1972, supplies the construction industry with product ranges very similar to Resapol's existing depots, but also incorporates a production facility for the formulation and blending of a wide range of construction chemicals, including mould oils and release agents.

Both companies will continue to trade as 'Pick Quick Service' and 'LOGCO', but become trading divisions of Resapol Ltd.

The new facility increases the number of Resapol distribution centres/depots, strategically located throughout the UK, to six. The acquisition represents another stage in the development of national coverage for Resapol, whilst further increasing the product ranges that are available to its growing customer base.

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