

## Gypsemna commissions new plasterboard plant in UAE

**UAE:** Gypsemna Company, one of the new and ambitious projects launched by UAE's Jamal Al Ghurair Group, has successfully commissioned its world-scale plasterboard plant in the Industrial City of Abu Dhabi. With an annual production capacity of 50Mm<sup>2</sup> of various types of plasterboard, it is the largest plasterboard plant to be operational in the entire Middle East region and is expected to meet the growing demand of plasterboard in the region for large-scale commercial and residential projects.

Most of the plasterboard products consumed in the region have otherwise been imported. With the commissioning of this world-scale facility, Gypsemna expects to meet the regional demand for various types of plasterboard with very short lead times.

A company statement indicates that Gypsemna's plant has the capacity to produce plasterboard to dimensions between

8-25mm thick, 600-1350mm wide and 1800-4500mm in length. The statement further indicates that Gypsemna can meet custom specifications and can manufacture to special lengths that are otherwise difficult to import.

Besides regular boards, the plant is also capable of producing moisture- and fire-resistant boards as per the requirements of the local and regional construction industry. Alongside plasterboard, Gypsemna has made calcined gypsum powder (Stucco) available to industrial bulk consumers in the UAE and has received good feedback from these markets.

According to the press release, Gypsemna plans to add other gypsum-based products, such as specialised plasters and blocks into its product range, making it a unique gypsum-based complex in the country.

## Eurogypsum announces waste demolition project

**US:** On 14 May 2009, the Eurogypsum Board of Directors made the necessary steps to apply for an EU funded project on the recycling of gypsum demolition waste. An outline of the project indicates that the proposal is to:

- Examine the impact of a variety of construction techniques;
- The ability to de-construct and recycle the gypsum components. This will include a range of systems ranging from framed constructions (relatively easy) to plastered concrete (relatively difficult);
- Examine different building types, including commercial and domestic construction;
- Cover a spectrum of European construction methods, most probably in Spain, France, Nordics, Germany and UK;

Among others, the deliverables would be to:

- Identify the key issues with the buildings investigated and quantify the ability to recover and recycle the gypsum components;

- Identify the building techniques giving the most significant problem areas with the ability to recover and recycle;
- Identify the building techniques offering the easiest recovery and recycling of the gypsum components;
- Identify and evaluate the materials used to finish gypsum products and their potential impact on the ability to recycle the gypsum;
- Suggest potential options for the gypsum industry to progress towards improving gypsum demolition waste recovery and recycling;
- Prepare a Eurogypsum position paper on gypsum demolition waste, based on facts, to pre-empt any less informed proposals.

The Secretariat is studying the feasibility of an EU funded project with Interfaceurope specialised in this field. Upon exchanges with the agency, the project will be amended and will take its final form.

## US continues to lead the way in global gypsum production

**US:** Figures obtained by UK-based Merchant Research and Consulting indicate that in the first half of 2009, the United States remained the largest producer of crude gypsum, followed by Spain. Spain, where it is estimated that gypsum deposits underlay 12% of the country's surface area, is the largest European producer of crude gypsum. Iran was third in gypsum production, followed by Canada, Thailand, and Mexico. North American production accounted for almost 32% of total crude gypsum production.

The report shows that although the use of gypsum wallboard has increased worldwide, only industrialised nations, such as the US, used gypsum mostly for wallboard products. In developing countries most gypsum is used in the manufacturing of cement or as a plaster product.

## Roskill to publish 10th anniversary edition of its 'Economics of Gypsum'

**UK:** London-based information service consultancy Roskill has announced that its annual report on the global gypsum industry, 'The Economics of Gypsum,' will be published by mid-November 2009. According to Roskill, the report aims to provide the latest:

- Analysis of gypsum consumption worldwide;
- Analysis of demand in each end-use market;
- Country-by-country reports on reserves, resources, output and capacity;
- Intelligence on the activities of producing companies;
- Tables and figures with information at a glance.