

Nanocem Open Meeting

April 28th 2009, The Village Hotel, Headingley, Leeds

Cements for the Future

Cement is, far and away, the World's most popular construction material, with global production being approximately 2.5 billion tonnes per annum. Nanocem, a pan-European network with almost 40 academic and industrial partners, is devoted to fundamental research on cement and concrete. This one day meeting will feature speakers from within the Nanocem network plus high-level guest speakers from both the cement and construction industries.

Cement and concrete, contrary to popular opinion, is an extremely complex material, and its precise behaviour is not fully understood. The pooled expertise within the network recognises that a deeper understanding of the material's fundamental behaviour will benefit us all, with the development of new materials, new applications and new insights.

Many alternatives to Portland cement have been touted, and the network is heavily involved in developing and validating a number of these alternative systems. Dr Leon Black from the University of Leeds says "Nanocem recognises that these new systems may have a role to play in the development of a low carbon society. However, many of these alternatives face practical limitations, so we recognise that Portland cement has a role to play in constructing a durable, efficient infrastructure".

The conference will give experts' perspectives on developments in cement and concrete production and use in the future. There will also be presentations showcasing the work of Nanocem's UK partners; covering novel cements, novel applications for cements and novel approaches to obtain a deeper understanding of cement behaviour.

For more information please visit <http://www.nanocem.org/leeds2009>.

Information for editors

- *20 Billion tonnes of concrete are made annually every year (100 Million in the UK). About 2.5 billion tonnes of cement are used to make this concrete.*
- *Nanocem is a consortium of European academic and industrial partners, all interested in fundamental research in the nanoscale science of cement and concrete.*
- *Nanocem was founded in 2004, and has grown to a network of 24 academic partners and 15 industry partners from all over Europe. UK partners are the University of Leeds, University of Surrey, University of Aberdeen and Imperial College London.*