

PRESS RELEASE

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International Rosenheim Door Conference 2012 – conclusion

Sustainability and universal design are the key future challenges for the industry

More than 320 experts gathered in Rosenheim on 24-25 May to learn about new developments in the area of doors and industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates. Many of the presentations dealt with issues relevant to the Conference's central theme: "Universal design". Issues such as the Construction Products Regulation, energy efficiency, sustainability, marking, and safety in use are converging in such a way that they can no longer be viewed in isolation from one another. In his opening address, ift Rosenheim director Ulrich Sieberath therefore introduced the current developments and trends relevant to doors and industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates, and asserted that "the future belongs to products that integrate sustainability and universal design." He called for products to be made easier to handle and operate, and hence usable by as many people as possible.

The trends of sustainability, environment friendliness and future-proof construction place demands on the industry, whether in the form of legislation and standards, or in relation to fitness for use and product certification requirements. In addition to familiar performance characteristics such as dimensional stability, fire protection and sound insulation, the design characteristics of universal design (UD) mean that doors and industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates are also subject to socio-cultural criteria such as ease of handling and use. UD was



Fig. 1
ift division head Andreas Matschi opens the International Rosenheim Door Conference 2012

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conceived in response to demographic change and modern lifestyles, both of which make it essential for houses, rooms and components to be adaptable and easy to operate. According to the principles of UD, products should be developed in such a way as to be sustainable, and easy to handle for as many people as possible. Applying the principles of UD can therefore make a significant contribution to the economic and social sustainability of environments, products and services.

In his presentation, Stefan Rappold (Behnisch Architekten, Stuttgart) looked at a number of reference projects that shed light on the question of future-oriented living from an architect's perspective, and expressed a desire to see more emphasis on the bigger picture – in other words collaborative planning by building engineers, planners and architects in a way that achieves the pre-formulated objectives as closely as possible. This approach has become indispensable over the past few decades as a result of developments in building materials, technologies and processes. In particular, the wishes, demands and needs of building owners and users need to be taken into account in a qualitative way.

As pointed out by the well-known universal designer Prof. Fritz Frenkler (universal design e.V., Munich), "Products designed for all save natural resources and open up new markets." He explained that it is particularly important when developing a product to avoid discriminating against a specific user group, but rather to make the product usable by as many people as possible.

Dr. Bernhard Schneider of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS), Berlin, provided detailed information on the new EU Construction Products Regulation. He predicted that it would "....provide a firm basis in the long term for the further expansion of the Single European Market in construction products." It provides legal clarification on a number of previously ambiguous points, and marks the increased incorporation of issues of occupational health and safety and environmental and climate protection into

European construction products legislation.

The respected futurologist Dr. Eike Wenzel (Institute for Trend Research and Futurology [ITZ], Hamburg) summed up the situation in his closing presentation on future megatrends: "Those who are able to respond to these megatrends sufficiently quickly will be among the winners over the next 10 to 20 years." According to Dr. Wenzel, the aim of the "Smart Home 2.0" is not to fill homes with unnecessary luxuries, but rather to make them safer, more secure, more comfortable and more convenient.

The remaining presentations were divided up into six categories – or "sessions" – and dealt with a whole series of further relevant specialist topics. They sparked great interest among delegates, and were followed by lively discussions.

Session: Internal doors

Frédéric Wielezyski (CFBA, France) gave a detailed introduction to the forthcoming product standard for internal doors (prEN 14351-2), explaining that the current, previously unpublished, draft promises to be less complex than the previous version. He did not, however, expect that the standard would be published before 2013. Bernd Saß (**ift**) looked at the requirements and verifications applicable according to the latest rules and regulations on sound insulation in internal doors, while Dr. Rico Emmler (ihd Dresden) gave a very clear introduction to a research project involving the development of test methods for various internal door surfaces, for which no mandatory test methods or standards currently exist.

Session: External doors

Manuel Demel (**ift**) considered opportunities relating to energy efficiency in doors (characteristic values, current requirements, financing opportunities), and the required documentary evidence. Stefan Ude (**ift**) then spoke about possible ways of meeting construction legislation requirements for doors and industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates with the help of documentary evidence, while at the same time exploiting the available sales potential. Professor Christian Niemöller (SMNG Solicitors, Frankfurt) talked about new developments in consumer protection in Europe and the resulting new obligations faced by manufacturers, and looked at the new, tougher requirements governing the market surveillance of construction products. This topic was met with great interest and prompted a large number of questions from the audience, because windows and external doors as per EN 14351-1 are expected to be a focal area of the 2012 market surveillance programme.

Session: Industrial & automatic doors

"Accessibility – an important aspect of UD – is about more than just making life easier for wheelchair users," according to Knut Junge (**ift**), who explained in detail the legal and normative requirements currently applicable in this area. He also introduced programme 15 ("Senior housing conversion") of the German Credit Institute for Reconstruction (KfW). In his presentation on fitting industrial doors from the point of view of an expert, Olaf Vögele (Sachverständigenbüro Vögele, Bergisch Gladbach) explained that detailed knowledge of the relevant rules, regulations and obligations is absolutely essential in this area. In addition, personnel responsible for the installation/assembly, testing/inspection and maintenance of these products must also be thoroughly trained if risks and accidents are to be prevented. In the following presentation, Klaus Hein (**ift**) made it clear that detailed knowledge is just as crucial when it comes to retrofitting, because in future this may represent the placing on the market of a whole new machine, for which a risk assessment according to the Machinery Directive will be required. "In any case, economic viability and liability risks need to be taken into account," explained Klaus Hein.

Session: Hardware & safety/security

Pascal Geiger (**ift**) described the procedure for obtaining the EC Certificate of conformity for doors in escape and rescue routes, which forms the basis for CE marking, and gave participants ample opportunity to ask questions on all aspects of the conformity procedure. Jens Pickelmann (**ift**) gave a detailed introduction to the new EN 1627ff, and reported on initial experiences of its application. With the introduction of two new burglar resistance classes (RC 1 N and RC 2 N) – which also feature in the recommendations of the KPK (German Committee on Police Crime Prevention) – manufacturers of burglar resistant doors now have even greater opportunities available to them for marketing their products in Germany. Christian Kehrer (**ift**) showed how universal design is relevant to construction products and particularly to manufacturers of doors, industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates, windows, and building hardware, and how it will create useful opportunities for marketing these products in the future. To make it as easy as possible to supply the relevant documentary evidence, the relevant **ift** certification programmes should be extended to include optional annexes on UD. The **ift** is currently drawing up UD criteria for internal doors in cooperation with universal design e.V.

Session: Fire safety & smoke control

Volker Müller (**ift**) considered the possibilities available for the use of XXL fire resistant doors and shutters (FRDSs). Up until the introduction of the product standard EN 16034, FRDSs will be considered non-regulated construction products, hence requiring building supervisory verifications of applicability in Germany and other European countries. By taking advantage of the rules on the fields of direct and extended application, manufacturers of FRDSs can now extrapolate dimensions more easily than before, but they also bear a great deal more responsibility, because they are responsible for deciding – based on their knowledge of their

products' design and fire performance – whether the applicable normative rules are compatible with the actual performance of their products. Christine Schmaus (**ift**) described the current situation in the area of smoke control doorsets and shutters that will apply up until the introduction of the product standard in Germany, answered questions on changes in the procedure for the initial award/renewal of building supervisory verifications of applicability, and considered how the future will look following the introduction of the product standard EN 16034 and the field of extended application EN 15269-20. Dr. Gerhard Wackerbauer (**ift**) took a closer look at the possibilities for the interchange of hardware in fire resistant doors and shutters. In the modified approval process in Germany, interchange takes place on the basis of the list of tested hardware accessories. This list includes the main characteristic values of the hardware, which must be the same, or no more critical, in order for interchange to be permissible. In Austria, ONR 23850 applies.

Session: Environment & resources

Benno Bliemetsrieder (**ift**) was able to put delegates' minds at rest with regard to indoor VOC pollution from doors: in the R&D project "Indoor pollution due to VOC emissions from doors", he said, the VOC and formaldehyde emissions from doors were found to be largely non-critical according to the criteria of the German AgBB scheme and the French evaluation system. However, he recommended that manufacturers start taking action on this matter straight away, because in France, for example, construction products need to be accompanied by declarations to show that their emissions are within acceptable levels. In his presentation, Patrick Wortner (**ift**) explained that a new, seventh essential requirement has been added in the new Construction Products Regulation: "sustainable use of natural resources". Where one is available, an EPD (Environmental Product Declaration) should be obtained as evidence of conformity with this requirement. An EPD provides environmental information on construction products without actually evaluating them. Wortner looked at the specific challenges associated with the documents required for doors. Bernd Strufe (**ift**) explained the advantages of combined management systems, and showed that energy and environmental management systems have a great deal in common, and can thus yield numerous synergies. Since 2011 it has been necessary for organisations to introduce an energy management system (EnMS) in order to obtain energy tax relief; the transition period runs from 2011-2012, while from 2013 onwards, implementation of a fully-functional EnMS will be a mandatory requirement.

Aside from the presentations, delegates also had the opportunity to take part in an interesting additional activity: an obstacle course in an "old age simulation suit", allowing them to experience at first hand the issues of accessibility, unsteadiness of movement, and associated problems. The **ift** Meeting Point provided the speakers with plenty of opportunities for discussion among themselves, while the varied evening of festivities in

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contemporary Bavarian style gave delegates, speakers and business associates ample scope for sharing ideas and experiences in an informal setting.

By purchasing the conference documentation folder containing the texts of the presentations in hard copy and the slides on CD, industry experts who were not able to attend can still benefit from the up-to-date information presented at the conference. It is available from the Literature Sales section of the **ift** website

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About the ift Rosenheim

The ift Rosenheim is a European notified testing, surveillance and certification body that is internationally accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025. Its focus is on the practice-oriented, holistic and rapid testing of all characteristics of windows, facades, doors, gates, glass and building materials. It aims to bring about sustained improvements in product quality, design and technology, and in standardisation and research. Certification by the ift Rosenheim ensures acceptance throughout Europe. The ift also sees the dissemination of knowledge as an obligatory part of its work. As an independent institute, the ift enjoys a special status among the media, and its publications document the current state of the art.

Pictures (available to download from the picture library at http://www.ift-rosenheim.com/en_presse_bildarchiv.php)

No.	Caption of picture and file name	Image
1	<p>ift division head Andreas Matschi opens the International Rosenheim Door Conference 2012</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI120774_Fig_1_Opening_Matschi.jpg (1579 kB)</p> <p>Source: ift Rosenheim</p>	
2	<p>More than 320 visitors from 11 countries listened attentively to the presentations at the Rosenheim Cultural and Conference Centre</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI120774_Fig_2_View_presentation.jpg (1392 kB)</p> <p>Source: ift Rosenheim</p>	
3	<p>Flags outside the venue left visitors in no doubt as to the theme of the International Rosenheim Door Conference 2012: "universal design"</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI120774_Fig_3_Theme_Universal_Design_flags.jpg (2056 kB)</p> <p>Source: ift Rosenheim</p>	

No.	Caption of picture and file name	Image
4	<p>Delegates enjoyed lively, informal discussions between presentations</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI120774_Fig_4_Discussions_Foyer.jpg (1541 kB)</p> <p>Source: ift Rosenheim</p>	 A photograph showing a group of people in a well-lit foyer or exhibition area. They are engaged in conversations, some standing around tables with white tablecloths. The background shows a modern interior with large windows and a high ceiling.
5	<p>Many delegates took the opportunity to learn about the latest developments and test facilities on a laboratory tour of the ift</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI120774_Fig_5_Laboratory_tour.jpg (1382 kB)</p> <p>Source: ift Rosenheim</p>	 A photograph of a laboratory or test facility. Several people are gathered around a piece of equipment, possibly a bicycle or a specialized vehicle, which is being demonstrated. The room has large windows and industrial-style lighting.
6	<p>The "old age simulation suit" allowed delegates to experience limited mobility at first hand</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI120774_Fig_6_Old_age_simulation_suit.jpg (884 kB)</p> <p>Source: ift Rosenheim</p>	 A photograph showing a man sitting in a chair, wearing a black and white "old age simulation suit" that includes a neck brace, gloves, and shoes. Another man is standing behind him, adjusting the equipment. A poster in the background is titled "Alterssimulation" and "GUT schaut das...".
7	<p>A relaxed finale to the contemporary Bavarian evening of festivities at Gut Immling</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI120774_Fig_7_Bavarian_evening.jpg (1451 kB)</p> <p>Source: ift Rosenheim</p>	 A photograph of a large indoor event, likely a dinner or evening event. The room is filled with people seated at tables, and there are large blue and white flags or banners hanging from the ceiling. The atmosphere appears to be festive and relaxed.