



Press Release

20 September 2009

Stewart Milne Wins Achievement in Sustainability Award

Stewart Milne Timber Systems, the UK's leading timber systems solutions provider, has won a prestigious award for its flagship Sigma® II Build System. The Award comes following two years of research by the company in developing low energy low carbon homes, beginning with their prototype, the Sigma Home, and demonstrates how the company is leading the market in this sector.

The Sigma research project, which is shaping the future of the sustainable housing market, was carried out as an in-depth research programme in conjunction with Oxford Brookes University. Focusing on understanding more about the key elements required for low energy carbon homes, the resulting Sigma® II Build System uses the learnings to create a 'fit and forget' fabric solution that negates the need for costly micro renewable technology and incorporates Swedish space stud technology, a first in the UK. Recognition of this project by peers within the industry is an accolade which further underlines Stewart Milne Timber Systems' sustainability credentials.

Gary Yeoman from Stewart Milne Timber Systems commented:

"The Sigma project was the first time a low energy low carbon home had been the subject of such in-depth research. The results of the research have been vital in developing our new build system and in ensuring our business can meet market demand for more sustainable homes and businesses. To have our new product development and credentials further confirmed by this award is just the icing on the cake."

Judged by an independent industry panel, the *TTJ Award for Achievement in Sustainability* recognises exceptional achievement in environmental performance in the

timber and associated industries. The Award is for companies which have accomplished something special in environmental improvement. Entries can range from special achievement in environmental certification, to the development of products, processes or services with particular environmental benefit for the timber industry.

Stewart Milne Timber Systems' innovative trials were an industry first and not only identified the blockers to development of low carbon homes, but also informed the industry as whole and allowed the business to develop a build system which delivers on sustainability and low energy objectives. The findings provide hard evidence to support and influence the direction of low energy low carbon buildings and have already proved influential and beneficial in enriching the housing sector's knowledge and highlighting the emerging changes to the definition of zero carbon homes, thereby providing more customer focused, reliable and sustainable options.

ENDS

For more information contact
Joanne Bell/Duncan Fisher
CM Porter Novelli
0131 470 3400
Joanne.bell@porternovelli.co.uk

Notes to editors:

- The research was conducted over the last year at Stewart Milne Group's Sigma® prototype home at the Building Research Establishment (BRE) in Watford with four periods of evaluation when the home was occupied by a real-life family. It focused on a number of performance areas: energy performance, including energy consumption, water consumption and acoustic performance; micro renewable technology, including solar thermal, micro wind and photovoltaics; thermal comfort and health, including air temperature, air quality and relative humidity; home user induction and interfaces; and build complexity, particularly with regard to multiple technologies and suppliers/subcontractors.