

May 2018

UK Launch for composite roof tiles

A Canadian-made composite roofing slate is being launched in the UK market.

Fake slate Enviroshake claims that its Enviroslate composite roofing tiles offer ‘the look of natural slate at half of the installed cost’.

Enviroshake has been making composite roof tiles in Canada since 1998 and is now looking to spread from the North American market to



the UK and Ireland.

The Enviroslate is sold with a lifetime warranty for residential projects and a 50-year warranty for commercial projects.

Enviroshake will be exhibiting at the National Homebuilding & Renovating Show at the NEC, Birmingham, 22-25 March

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Brick-laying robot to be used in UK

A UK start-up company has secured exclusive

distribution rights to the US-made SAM 100 brick laying robot.



Grant van Wyk, a South African national living in Surrey, has set up Future Construct & Automation Ltd, to distribute US building automation equipment in the UK.

“We are at start-up phase and are very excited about the prospects of the products as they are the first of their kind commercially available worldwide,” he said.

The SAM 100 (Semi Automated Mason) is a bricklaying robot for onsite masonry construction, said to be capable of laying 250 to 300 bricks per hour. The machine is made New York-based Construction Robotics.

It does not eliminate the mason but assists with the repetitive and strenuous task of lifting. Case studies are claimed to show savings on time and reduce the effective cost per brick laid while also improving health and safety on the job.



Excavation Warning

A construction safety organisation has identified a spike in unsafe excavation work on UK construction sites.



The Building Safety Group (BSG) has reported a 16% rise in 'excavation work' breaches on construction sites in the fourth quarter of 2017. BSG's figure is based on approximately 11,000 independent inspections that it conducted for the construction industry over a six-month period, comparing Q4 with Q3 in 2017. Injuries resulting from excavation trench collapses can often be severe and sometimes fatal.

Paul Kimpton, managing director of the Building Safety Group, said: "These types of injuries can be prevented if companies implement safe methods of working and provide the necessary information and training for workers. Excavations must be properly planned, managed and monitored, with adequate controls in place to prevent a collapse."

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Sellafield chimney brought down by hand

A 61-metre high concrete chimney at Sellafield is being dismantled by hand at a rate of one metre a week. Demolition work started last month after four years of preparation, but it will

take until 2020 to remove the entire 650-tonne structure, which sits on top of Sellafield's oldest reprocessing plant. The chimney stack is on top of the first-generation reprocessing plant and provided ventilation to a fleet of reprocessing plants. The 60-year-old structure no longer meets modern construction standards and therefore must be removed. Its position on one of the most congested nuclear sites in the world has made this a complicated and lengthy process. 61 metres tall, on top of a 61-metre building, hazardous environment. Sellafield Ltd has worked with Nuvia and Delta International, who have brought specialist demolition expertise and innovative ideas to the project. A self-climbing platform has been designed, Using hand tools like drills, hydraulic breakers,



concrete crunching jaws and plasma steel cutting torches, workers will remove each piece of concrete and steel from the stack by hand to a waiting waste skip.

The demolition started in October, with workers accessing it from the circular platform, which is held in place by friction, and moves up and down the barrel of the stack.

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