



The ICM – *keeping you informed*

www.the-icm.com



January 2019

Eric Richards

We are sorry to commence the New Year with some very sad news, as we report the loss of Eric Richards on December 14th. Eric as many of you will remember was the leading figure in the Southern Region for many years before taking a well-earned retirement once reaching his eighties. He has held almost every committee position at local level at some point through his career leading the group on several occasions and was of course National President of the Institute of Construction Management in 1990. Who can forget the attention to detail Eric would apply to the enjoyable Dinner Dances he proudly sustained for 30years.

Eric's working life began as a bricklayer in Portsmouth before climbing the ranks to foreman/site manager and latterly Contracts Manager. Whilst working for Portsmouth company Warings, he was involved with several prestigious projects including creating the D-Day Museum and Re-furbishment of and extending Portsmouth Cathedral where he had one of his proudest days meeting Princess Diana at the opening ceremony. Eric was proud of and worked tirelessly for "his beloved Institute" and promoted the organisation on every occasion. Eric loved his sport always wanting Pompey to do well and regularly tried

to take control of the remote control from wife Jan.

After a lifetime in construction the industry has lost a dedicated and loyal servant who will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go to Jan, Debbie, Gavin and the rest of the family ---

The funeral is to be held at The Oaks Crematorium, Bartons Road, Havant, Hants, PO9 5NA at 2-30pm Jan 7th, 2019 followed at the Brookfield Hotel Havant Road, Emsworth

Portsmouth

Volker Fitzpatrick has been awarded a £20m contract to construct a new National Maritime Systems Centre in Portsdown Technology Park for the weapons research company QinetiQ.



The planned National Maritime Systems Centre in Portsmouth

The design and build project will see Volker Fitzpatrick demolish an existing structure before constructing a part two-storey, part four-storey building in its place. The new facility will have office space, laboratories and



ancillary accommodation. the team will also construct a feature atrium, with a double height reception area and a 100-seat lecture auditorium.

The works are due to begin early this year and continue for 18 months, completing in summer 2020.

The building will have approximately 6,320 m² of office space and consist of a concrete frame, with curtain walling and a rainscreen façade. Photovoltaic panels and air source heat pumps are expected to reduce its lifecycle carbon footprint and help the facility meet the BREEAM 'Excellent' standard. Once completed, the National Maritime Systems Centre will increase the capacity of Portsdown Technology Park, transforming it into a UK Centre of Excellence for Maritime Mission Systems.

Steve Fitz-Gerald, managing director for maritime, land and weapons at QinetiQ, said: "Providing our science, technology and engineering teams with state-of-the-art facilities enhances our ability to support the Royal Navy for decades to come."

Grenfell Tower Cladding



Report on cladding fumes take 30 minutes to kill New research on the smoke toxicity of building cladding has been presented to government for it to consider the role that toxicity should play in product approvals before making its final decision on the acceptability of combustible building materials. Grenfell Tower's cladding proved to be not just highly flammable but also highly toxic The Fire Protection Association (FPA) has today published a report detailing initial

research that is designed to help the government in its deliberations on the acceptability of combustible building materials. A decision on the future use of combustible materials in the construction of buildings is expected from the Ministry of Housing imminently.

The FPA report investigated the effects of toxic fumes generated by certain cladding combinations in designs that are still permitted by building regulations – and the effect this has on the people occupying buildings when fire breaks out.

FPA technical director Jim Glockling explained: "Measuring smoke toxicity in building products is currently not a legal requirement. The results of our study show that current regulations may not adequately protect occupants from the potentially toxic fire gases from materials burning on the outside of buildings. Some current common cladding material combinations were shown to present less of a threat than others. There is certainly a need for further study."

A key feature of rain-screen cladding (the type used on Grenfell Tower) is a space formed between the insulation material and the back of the cladding panel that may also contain other materials such as vapour membranes (a sheet of material to keep out moisture). There are clear rules governing how the internal walls of a building must contain fire to assist with safe evacuation, but few requirements stipulating how external walls should prevent the spread of flame and heat from outside. Devices and features such as bathroom or kitchen vents have the potential to transmit fire and smoke from the cladding system into the occupied space. The FPA report confirms a potential for serious harm to any human exposed to these toxic products in the event of a fire. The results looked at a typical living room in a building covered in a rain-screen type cladding. The findings suggest that for some compliant material combinations, once the fire breaks into the cladding section containing a vent connected to their apartment, occupants will lose consciousness within 10 minutes and, unless rescued, will die within 30 minutes.

Peter Webb. FICConstM. 02392 586358

peterandritawebb@aol.com