

The Strand Board

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The Editor

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2004 OSB WORLD SYMPOSIUM II

Industry participants have been highly complimenting the Structural Board Association (SBA) for the successful completion of its 2004 OSB World Symposium & Exhibition II, held in world-renowned Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada from May 17 to 19, 2004. Over 100 delegates participated in the two-day proceedings, which were in part co-sponsored by the TECO Corporation, Associated Chemists, Borden Chemical, Huntsman Polyurethanes, and Canadian Willamette.

Over 20 quality speakers provided much appreciated and timely information about a wide array of topics starting with the state of the economy and the OSB industry in North America and Europe, and how possible opportunities and threats, and product substitution may have an impact on the future growth of the product and its penetration in residential and industrial markets. The need was demonstrated for a strong industry association

like the SBA to help the OSB industry properly address these issues.

Recent research in Europe and North America reported at the meeting could be the catalyst for the development of new structural applications or products with higher material properties. On the manufacturing side improved resin formulations and wax emulsion systems, use of highly sophisticated robotics and on-line measuring tools were some proposed solutions that could lead to improved plant productivity.

The need for more focused education programs in wood technology was also discussed as a solution to providing more qualified plant personnel. Finally, important information was shared on proper plant fire safety issues, and the regulatory environment in which plants will have to operate in the future.

Industry participants such as Brad Farquhar and Bob Rosebrugh of Grant Forest Products had the following respective comments: "This is the best meeting that I have attended in many years" and "The SBA's attention to details in organizing meetings to be a success for its participants is truly remarkable." Brian Newman of Borden Chemical said: "The presentations were of a consistently high caliber, very contemporary and useful to both the producers and associate members or suppliers to the industry. The outlook for the industry is very encouraging."

A number of very interesting exhibits were present at the Symposium. Exhibitors displayed featured new products, technical consulting services, print media, technical industry training programs and research posters. As an integral part of the educational process of the Symposium, these exhibits offered participants the perfect means for a free exchange of ideas.

Heri Baum, of Specialty Wood Journal had this to say: "I strongly believe that our involvement in the SBA pays higher dividends than in other similar

organizations. Their meetings are very informative, and I encourage OSB producers to support their activities.”

GRANT FOREST PRODUCTS WINS RON BAKER AWARD

The **Ron Baker Award for Excellence in OSB Manufacturing** was presented by the Structural Board Association (SBA) President and CEO, Mark Angelini to **Bob Rosebrugh and Brad Farquhar of the Grant Forest Products mill in Englehart, Ontario** at the Chairman’s Dinner of the 2004 OSB World Symposium & Exhibition II, held in world-renowned Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada on May 18, 2004. The **Runner Up Award** was accepted by **Mark Robinson on behalf of the Langboard OSB mill in Quitman, Georgia**. One hundred delegates attended the dinner.

Each year since 1994, SBA has recognized a Member Mill as achieving an outstanding record of excellence during the previous calendar year. Recognition includes a twelve-month lost time accident-free record, a high level of quality, a good production volume and an excellent level of productivity.

The winning mill receives the Ron Baker Award for Excellence in OSB Manufacturing, donated by Mr. Peter Grant Sr. in memory of Ron Baker who as a senior manager of Grant Forest Products Corp. and as Chairman of SBA, symbolized excellence in management style, people relationships and community endeavour. In 1997, Runner-up and Hono(u)rable Mention Awards were added both to heighten the interest and to reward other outstanding performance closely approaching that of the winner.

Previous winning mills to date have been:

- 1994 - Weyerhaeuser Edson
- 1995 - Panneaux Malette Timmins
- 1996 - Grant Forest Products Englehart
- 1997 - Northwood Panelboard Bemidji
- 1998 - Northwood Panelboard Bemidji
- 1999 - Slocan Forest Products Fort Nelson
- 2000 - Slocan Forest Products Fort Nelson
- 2001 - Grant Forest Products Englehart & Timmins
- 2002 - Martco Limited Partnership LeMoyen

CODES AND STANDARDS UPDATE

Staff continued participating in several technical standards committee and task group meetings during the first half of 2004.

The Task Group on CSA O325, Construction Sheathing met twice by conference call to further assess the option of referencing the new PS 2 as the base document, with some deviations required to suit the Canadian marketplace, more so for plywood than for OSB. Publication is not expected until 2007.

SBA staff also participated in the CSA Steering Committee on Forest Products. One of the key items on the agenda was the funding by our industry for continued standards development. A contract was signed between CSA and the Canadian Wood Council on behalf of the whole wood products industry. A separate five-year contract was signed between CWC and the SBA to address OSB standards. One of the concerns that needs attention is OSB industry representation by SBA, since the work by staff and the funding by SBA benefits the whole Canadian industry. Staff also regularly submits committee ballots to address the on-going improvements to US and Canadian codes and standards, such as the NDS, various relevant ASTM standards, and other engineering manuals published by CWC and AWC.

Finally, staff also remains involved with the Mold Task Group, which monitors activities and concerns relative to mold on wood products. A short study by APA, Forintek and AF&PA on mold growth on the resins used in panel products found no evidence of a higher rate of growth on the resins than on the wood itself. The task group also recently discussed a report on the health effects of mold published by the National Academy of Sciences. Details about these two items are available from the SBA.

TRADE SHOWS UPDATE

During the first half of 2004, the SBA participated again directly or through allied organizations in several industry trade shows, starting with the International

Builders Show in Las Vegas, the ever popular Wood Solutions Fairs in Seattle, WA and Vancouver BC, and the AIA Convention and Exposition in Chicago, IL. Over 3,000 pieces of OSB literature were distributed by SBA at these shows. Two popular manuals, the Canadian OSB in Wood Frame Construction and the OSB Design Manual will require revision for upcoming trade shows in the Fall.

VIRGINIA TECH SHORT COURSE

The Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management at Virginia Tech will be conducting their 3rd annual short course on Advanced Sales Training in the Forest Products Industry, on September 23 and 24, 2004. This course will focus on the attributes of a good salesperson, how to effectively communicate, relationship building, sales negotiation strategies, effective time management and how to stay positive during difficult times. The course is intended for all sales people who want to improve their sales skills.

Instructor is Dr. Bob Smith from the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products. For a brochure about this course, please contact Bob Smith at rsmith4@vt.edu, or visit their web site at www.cfpmm@vt.edu

UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG TRAINING SESSIONS

The International Wood Academy - a joint company of the Department of Wood Science of the University of Hamburg and Applikatio, a provider of consultancy services for the international forest industry - is offering unique training programs on timber technology and business know-how for professionals of the forest products industry.

A total of 5 different intensive training programs with a duration of 3-4 weeks each will be offered in English language.

The first training program "Wood-based panel production (particle boards/ fibre boards/ OSB and others) - processes, properties, uses" will take place from August 30 to September 24 of 2004.

For further information please visit their web site at www.woodacademy.com

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE

SBA staff participated in the Forest Products Society's Eastern Section and Annual General meetings, the European Panel Federation Annual General meeting, a meeting of the Heads of Forest Products Associations and the Canadian Wood Council Annual General meeting. At the latter meeting, collaborative efforts to boost membership jointly in the SBA, the CWC and the AWC were discussed. The SBA is the only association that collects and pays dues to the Canadian Wood Council and the American Wood Council on behalf of Canadian OSB manufacturers. Through this arrangement, Canadian OSB manufacturer members of the SBA benefit from a 50% reduction in dues to CWC/AWC that non-members would have to pay.

The SBA also recently joined the North American Coalition on Green Building, a consortium of over 30 associations and companies with a material interest in the green building movement. Please contact either Mark or Dominique at the SBA if you have any questions regarding any of these items.

RESEARCH UPDATE

The Concordia University project on Moisture and Mold in Wood-Based Building Envelope Systems, of which the SBA is a partner, is now in its second year. During a recent conference call, the protocol on moisture loading of the specimens was discussed, as well as the specifications for the various wall materials being analyzed. SBA staff together with APA provided input to the research team regarding proper material selection for the OSB sheathing. Plywood and wood fibreboard are the other types of sheathing being studied, used with glass fibre insulation, gypsum wallboard and with or without polyethylene vapour barriers.

Staff also participated in the Spring Forintek advisory committee meetings on building systems and composite wood products. Notable projects on OSB are: modelling of warping of OSB panels, improved adhesive systems using a combination powder/ liquid PF resin, study of rotary screener types on strand quality, imaging system to measure green-end fines in OSB, OSB as flooring material by studying surface coatings, furnish manipulations or different binder systems.

In the building systems meeting, a recently completed literature research on fire performance in OSB raised some questions about OSB's equivalence with plywood in certain situations, and the SBA will make sure proper science is used in the presentation of results and if follow up research is needed.

Results of projects on conditions conducive to mold growth and decay on solid wood and panel products were also discussed and worth mentioning here. Durability is a subject of on-going concern by the wood products industries and Forintek is actively involved in this research field.

Final reports and research findings are available to Forintek members only.

AF&PA MACT WORKSHOPS UPDATE

SBA staff participated in the Wood and Boiler MACT workshops organized by AF&PA in New Orleans from July 12 to 14, 2004 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Over 300 delegates were in attendance, as well as two dozen exhibitors representing engineering services, environmental consultants and pollution control equipment suppliers. The overriding message from the two workshops was that these two new national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants are complex, but provide sufficient flexibility to the producers, including a risk-based alternative. Another key message to the producers was to start the compliance process as soon as possible, even though the two rules are not yet published in the Federal Register, thereby delaying the actual compliance dates by a few months.

A second, similar workshop is scheduled for September in Portland, and registration space is still available. Please visit the SBA web site under Events Calendar for additional details. Two CD's containing the presentation

materials as well as a full copy of the two rules will be made available by AF&PA after the conclusion of the second workshop, at a discounted price to members of the SBA.

BENEFITS OF SBA MEMBERSHIP

As a member company some of the benefits you receive are:

- **Expanding and protecting market share for OSB through codes and standards representation**
- **Focus on OSB world wide, recognized as the major proponent and defender of the OSB industry**
- **Promotion program, with sales generated by trade shows, press releases, design competitions, and osbguide.com web site**
- **Strategic partnerships used to leverage membership dues**
- **OSB technical literature available in nine languages**
- **Access to on-line database on worldwide OSB research activities**
- **Continued education and networking opportunities at SBA meetings**
- **A technical program with emphasis on environmental concerns and product improvement to generate savings**