All in the EIFS industry know that exterior insulation and finish systems are not only appropriate for use in new construction, but they are very appropriate for use in retrofitting existing structures, particularly those that are uninsulated or need to upgrade their efficiency. However, there are many construction industry stakeholders that are skeptical about the advantages of retrofitting with EIFS. To persuade them otherwise, EIMA is now embarking on a study for retrofitting existing buildings through a partnership with the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to demonstrate the benefits of EIFS retrofit.

The origins of this new partnership came from an observation by EIMA’s Communications Committee that during this economic downturn, many building owners are retrofitting rather than investing in new construction. With that, the EIMA Board directed that EIMA should pursue securing a partnership with the federal government to do a study that demonstrates the advantages of EIFS retrofit. At the 2011 EIMA Annual Meeting, Andre Desjarlais of ORNL presented a proposal for a 3 year demonstration on one of two new research platforms that ORNL is now building for such work. An EIFS retrofit study was also pushed by the U.S. Congress. In a letter to DOE Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Mr. Henry Kelly, U.S. Representative Jim Moran (D-VA) urged the continued study of EIFS, particularly for existing structures.

Energy Efficient Home Credit Ends this Year

The $2,000 Energy Efficient Home Credit will expire on December 31, 2011. Pursuant to the credit, heating and cooling energy consumption must be at least 50% below the annual level of a comparable home according to Chapter 4 of the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code.

Also, 10% of the 50% energy savings must be due to the building envelope improvements. In order to receive the credit, the home must be located in the United States and construction must be substantially completed between August 8, 2005 and December 31, 2011.

Homes must be sold or leased during the tax year the credit is being claimed. This credit applies to free standing homes, townhouses and apartment buildings that are three stories or less above ground.
EIMA Reaches out to Realtors at NAR Midyear Legislative Meeting

EIMA exhibited at the 2011 National Association of Realtors Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo May 11-13 in Washington, DC.

Between 6,000 and 7,000 realtors attended this event which is designed to advance the real estate industry and its public policy.

EIMA staff was on-hand to answer a variety of questions about EIFS and to educate the real estate industry about this most energy saving exterior wall cladding.

Realtors and home builders specifically wanted to learn about advancements in EIFS application, where to find qualified EIFS inspectors, the availability of insurance, the energy efficiency of the system, and the array of home finishes.

EIMA staff found this trade show to be a successful venue to improve the image of EIFS and explain any questions those in the residential industry might have.

EIMA Compiling EIFS Insurance Directory

EIMA contacted over 1,600 individuals to determine who provides EIFS insurance throughout the country.

EIMA plans on creating a directory that features regional insurance providers for small businesses as well as listing the national EIFS insurance providers throughout the nation.

EIMA hopes to complete this project by the end of the year and will incorporate this insurance information into a special portal on its website, which is just in the beginning stages of redesign.

The redesigned website will not officially be completed until early 2012, so if any EIMA member needs insurance information before that time, contact David Johnston at djohnston@eima.com.

Also, if you know of regional EIFS insurance providers that would like to be added to EIMA’s directory, please contact the EIMA office.

Slide Show Approved for One USGBC Learning Unit Credit Hour

The EIFS—Properties and Benefits slide show created by EIMA is now approved for one AIA and USGBC learning unit credit hour. The course officially received USGBC credit status on April 26.

LEED APs or LEED Green Associates who have watched the presentation can self-report the course for one Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) credit.

Typically, LEED APs must complete 30 continuing education hours every two years, and LEED Green Associates need to report 15 CE hours each reporting period.

Hanley Wood is the official provider of the slide show. A link to the presentation is available at www.eima.com. Please remember that Hanley Wood is responsible for reporting AIA credits, but on a self-reporting basis.
EIMA Advocates for Funding of Energy Consumption Building Study

EIMA joined the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and a variety of other trade associations in a campaign to encourage funding in the fiscal year 2012 Appropriations Bill for the U.S. Energy Information Administration’s Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS). The CBECS collects information on commercial buildings, their energy-related building characteristics, and their energy consumption and expenditures. This is the only national source of statistical information on both the consumption of energy and energy-related characteristics of commercial buildings. The 2011 survey has been conducted, but the funding for the analysis has not been granted. The 2007 survey was found to be flawed and the data not usable, so the 2003 version provides the most recent data. If the funding is not provided, the government and construction industry will be relying on data that is nearly a decade old. EIMA sent letters to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Lamar Alexander, Senator Daniel Inouye, Senator Thad Cochran, Congressman Peter Visclosky, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Congressman Norman Dicks urging funding.

Volunteers Needed for Rebuilding Efforts in North Korea and China

The Sustainable Building Industry Council seeks individuals or businesses to participate in a home building movement with The Fuller Center for Housing. The goal is to build homes in North Korea and possibly in China where natural disasters, like Typhoon Ewiniar, destroyed 30,000 homes in 2006. The Fuller Center for Housing is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide. Those interested in volunteering for a Global Builder team to Korea should visit Global Builders at www.fullercenter.org and fill out the on-line registration form. EIMA will keep its members posted about other volunteer opportunities as they come in.

Military Stressing Importance of Energy Efficient Construction

Branches of the U.S. Military continue to stay on the cutting-edge of energy efficient building. On May 10, the Navy and Marine Corps officially adopted a policy requiring all new construction to achieve LEED Gold status. The policy will not apply to residential structures since most base housing falls under a public-private partnership. It’s reported that about 100 new Navy buildings open each year. The Army is taking strides to become Net Zero by 2020. The initiative will focus on energy as well as water and waste usage. The Army plans to reduce its energy consumption by using solar panels, repurposing used water and retrofitting buildings. The following installations will be trying to reduce energy consumption: Fort Detrick, MD; Fort Hunter Liggett, CA; Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, CA; Sierra Army Depot, CA; West Point, NY.
OREGON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR BOARD SAYS ICFs ARE NOT EIFS

The State of Oregon’s Construction Contractors Board has handed EIMA a victory in issuing a ‘declaratory ruling’ that states that exterior acrylic base coat, mesh, and finish coat over insulated concrete forms (ICFs) is not a barrier exterior insulation and finish system. The ruling was requested by EIMA as an erroneous determination, issued earlier by a local code official, would have required replacing existing work on a specific project and would have left in place for the future an incorrect view for Oregon code officials of what EIFS are.

EIMA’s Oregon-based consultants, John DiLorenzo of the law firm Davis Wright Tremaine based in Portland and former EIMA Executive Director Doug Mault, worked for almost a year to rectify the code official’s decision by attending many meetings and providing substantial explanations of EIFS and the differences between it and ICFs.

The essence of the declaratory ruling states that licensed contractors in Oregon may apply exterior acrylic finishes (EAF) to insulated concrete forms that contain concrete walls. The ruling bases this conclusion on the reasons that 1) EAF does not contain a foam insulation board inner layer and 2) EAF does not bond to the outside face of an exterior wall as EIFS does as defined by Oregon law. Instead, EAF bonds to the foam forms that lie between the exterior wall and the EAF. Finally, EAF is an application to a concrete wall, which is permitted by Oregon law.

The full text of the declaratory ruling can be found on the EIMA website: www.eima.com.

About EIMA

The EIFS Industry Members Association (EIMA) is a national non-profit technical trade association comprised of leading manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and applicators involved in the exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS) industry. EIMA is the recognized authoritative source for information about exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS) and provides industry representation for its members.

For information on joining EIMA, please contact Dave Johnston at (703) 538-1616,