

Industry News

RSI Magazine Ceases Publication

After more than 60 years of reporting on the state of the roofing industry, RSI magazine has ceased publication. In a prepared statement to advertisers, Questex Media Group announced in early June that, "RSI magazine will cease publication with the June 2008 issue." Questex Media Group, Inc., RSI's parent company, made this decision, "as a result of challenging roofing market conditions and rising publishing production costs. Despite many efforts to revitalize the publication, there is not sufficient advertising to sustain RSI in print."

Recycling Priority

With its European counterparts blazing the trail, the North American vinyl (PVC) roofing industry announced a new phase in its commitment to environmental sustainability through recycling. The Vinyl Roofing Division of the Chemical Fabrics & Film Association has initiated a feasibility study to evaluate strategies for making post-consumer recycling in North America viable on a broad scale.

Incorporating the lessons learned from several pilot projects in the U.S., the Division's member manufacturers intend to combine existing post-consumer recycling technologies with logistical expertise to limit vinyl's contribution to landfill waste. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, construction and demolition waste totals an estimated 136 million tons annually.

"Skyrocketing raw material costs, higher landfill tipping fees, legislation to restrict disposal of construction materials, and an architectural community that demands the lightest environmental footprint that can be achieved, all are leading toward the

mainstreaming of post-consumer recycling and a vision of the day when specifiers call for recycling of roofs at the end of their service life," said Jay Thomas, marketing chair of the Vinyl Roofing Division.

Post-consumer recycling of vinyl roof membranes in the U.S. began in 1999, and in 1994 in Europe. Today, state-of-the-art grinding equipment makes it possible to process roofing membrane that has reached the end of its service life and convert it to feedstock for new roofing membrane products.

In its pilot projects, the Division found that the savings in disposal fees and the value of the salvaged materials generally exceeded the cost of the additional labor, shipping, and grinding fees. Total net costs are dependent on total roofing square footage, the distance that the old roof must be shipped to be processed, and avoided landfill tipping fees.

Acquisition

Stellar Industries, Inc., an Iowa based, employee owned worldwide producer of hook hoists, truck cranes, and service truck accessories, is announcing the definitive agreement to acquire K-PAC Solid Waste Handling Equipment Division of Krause Corporation.

The sale will consist of the entire product offering under the K-PAC name, which includes tarpers, hook-lifts, cable roll-offs, container handlers, and compaction products.

Krause Corporation is a global producer of agriculture tillage products and solid waste handling equipment. Krause chose to divest the K-PAC Division due to a strategic decision to concentrate on global agricultural markets, which is the core business of the company. Stellar Industries' strategic plan is to focus on growing in the waste and scrap hauler industry as well as the entire

demountable container and body markets.

"Stellar has worked in the waste and scrap market since its inception. However, by marrying the K-PAC product offerings with our current lines will allow us to develop and grow these markets even further," says David Zrostlik, president of Stellar Industries, Inc. He continues, "Acquiring K-PAC presents positives all around. It expands our product offerings, our market opportunities, our employment opportunities, and our overall market presence."

Accreditation

The International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS) Accreditation Committee approved a new accreditation criteria for inspection programs for manufacturers of metal building systems, AC472. The criteria is strongly endorsed by the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA). This comprehensive accreditation program for the inspection of metal buildings is based on the requirements of Chapter 17 of the International Building Code® and provides code officials with a means to approve the inspection programs of manufacturers involved in the fabrication of metal building systems.

Wide spread support for the IAS program has been building since October 2007, when the MBMA approached IAS on behalf of the metal building industry to consider developing a criteria that would serve MBMA members while fulfilling the needs of code officials and other regulatory agencies. During recent public hearing, MBMA representatives W. Lee Shoemaker, P.E., PhD, director of research and engineering and Charles E. Praeger, assistant general manager, testified on behalf of the board of directors of the MBMA, praising the work of IAS staff that