

mtech insight

The Monthly Newsletter from the Offsite Specialists

IN BRIEF...

Consultant's Charity Day

As part of a May bank holiday charity weekend for Sandwell Hospital Breast Cancer Unit, one of Mtech's consultant's, Andrew Richardson helped to raise money for breast cancer by organising the event and also completing a 10 mile run from Compton Hospice in Wolverhampton to the Port & Ale pub in Tipton.

The Bank Holiday Monday concluded the weekend with many other fundraising activities such as golf, a grand raffle, slave auction and 6 of the pubs patrons giving their own version of the Full Monty.

Over 50 regional and national companies donated gifts and money to help the total reach almost £10,000 for the Breast Cancer Unit. A very well done to all involved.



Mtech Personnel file:

This month -

Rhonda Farr, Sales & Marketing Co-ordinator

Hobbies/Interests:

My hobbies include keep-fit, travel, concerts/gigs, cinema and socialising

Favourite film?

Green Mile, Shawshank Redemption, Sliding doors, anything funny or thought provoking. I also like films based on true stories.

Favourite music?

I'm listening to Kings of Leon at the moment but also like the Foo fighters, Coldplay, Killers, Keane, James etc. I did buy the best of Prince the other day so actually like a bit of everything.

What is your Dream holiday destination?

I would like to travel Italy and the West coast of America. It is my dream to see the Grand Canyon

What would you say is your best memory?

Swimming with Dolphins in Hawaii or Snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef!

If you were stranded on a desert Island and you had no means of communication, what 3 items couldn't you live without?

I would say my i-pod (but how would I charge it?!) Or a tonne of good books (as one probably wouldn't last too long), the third item I would choose is photos of family & friends to inspire me to figure a way of getting back home.

If you weren't working at Mtech what would you like to be doing?

Probably a writer for National Geographic so I can travel the world and get paid for it!

Best Quote you've ever heard?

Don't take life too seriously, it's only temporary!

Less Energy ...

... More Offsite

Pressure on the construction industry to improve the energy performance of the new built environment is immense and growing; government measures now being implemented will only increase the need for reduced energy consumptions and lower environmental impact. Managing Director of Mtech Consult, Martin Goss, assesses the role of Offsite in the delivery of an energy-efficient building programme.

Whilst the housing sector is still coming to terms with the Code for Sustainable Homes, the wider construction community is bracing itself for the forthcoming consultation on new Part L of the Building Regulations and the Code for Sustainable Buildings. At the same time, more clients, both public and private, are demanding buildings that use less energy. New Part L is likely to impose a further 25% reduction in energy consumption compared with current regulations and the criteria for air tightness may also be increased. For a sector that historically finds it difficult to respond to rapid change of the type we're now experiencing, it's hardly surprising that there's a lack of certainty about how we should adapt our traditional building methods to meet these new requirements.

This is exactly where factory produced building elements can really make a difference. Change within the factory environment is intrinsically easier to implement and control, where the whole process invariably takes place under the one roof. For instance, we recently worked on a building element that needed to exhibit reduced air infiltration; it was much easier to reinforce this message across the entire delivery process with the short, in-house communication channels and the immediate ability to inspect and assess progress. In a factory environment, where in-process procedures are established to ensure that production is right first time, every time, it's possible to eliminate post completion testing and costly remedial works on finished buildings that fail to meet the requirements of the codes...because good quality control will ensure they won't!

Sounds too good to be true? Well, you do have to get Offsite right, but in our experience, once you do, it delivers genuine benefits for both manufacturers and constructors. Better performing components and systems are increasingly in demand; their ability to improve the environmental performance of finished buildings is proven fact.



Offsite really can achieve 100% compliance. Mtech recently supported a client through its first ever volumetric module project, achieving zero defects at handover and zero call backs throughout the 12 month defect liability period – a total first for that particular client. We've helped clients develop well-detailed, factory-produced building envelope systems, ranging from volumetric modular through closed panel systems such as SIPs to advanced timber frame solutions, that can readily achieve air tightness of 1.0m3/m2/hr @ 50 pascals.

But possibly the most exciting prospect that factory manufacture of large elements of the final building presents, is the opportunity to consider the building as a whole. Optimising the complete building as a holistic design offers a far greater chance of achieving required energy consumptions at the lowest cost.

Martin Goss