

Foreword

Dr Klaus Berner



Senior Professor of the University of Mainz, second Head of the Institute of Sandwich Panel, active member of the Easie project.

The EASIE project emerged 3 years ago as a result of our long and efficient activity in the sandwich panel sector.

In fact, at The Institute for the Sandwich Panel in Mainz, we had several European research projects, which were presenting us with many different questions on sandwich panels to which we had as yet not found answers for.

When the Seventh Framework programme of research of the European Community was initiated, we were suddenly presented with the opportunity to work on the answers of those questions. Moreover the Sandwich Panel working group of the European Committee for Steel Construction was also questioning us on those same subjects. Dr Lars Pfeifer and I, decided to submit a project to the European Commission to address above all the needs of the sandwich panel industry across the European Community. We were also fortunate to secure the services of Daniel Spagni who had a wide experience of material research in Europe. We also had, all the contacts we needed in the industry and in particular amongst SMEs.

Now that the programme has been approved by the European Commission, I notice that it is different from other similar activities on at least one very important aspect: its emphasis on e-learning and the dissemination with a focus on the needs of SMEs. I do not know any other project with the same emphasis and indeed there are very few universities in Europe who have included sandwich panels in their curriculum.

Our work has now started in earnest and we are facing the challenging job of mapping a path amongst all the ongoing activities and discussions. But what pleases me and also surprises me is the deep interest and enthusiasm shown by all the EASIE participants. We are of course still in the initial stages of the work and the project as a whole will need to bed-in and the various research teams to settle down, but with such motivation and commitment we should reach our goals.

In this first e-newsletter, we are focusing on structural aspects and in particular on the management and communication teams for the project, and on the way they are organised.

For my part, may I take the opportunity at this time of the year to wish you all a good year 2009 and to wish the EASIE project team a very good start and success in their undertaking.

Klaus Berner



WP₁

Improvement of thermal and structural behaviour in openings and joints

WP₂

End user focused design strategies

WP₃

Use of sandwich technology to optimise the global resistance of buildings

WP₄

Retrofitting, durability and maintenance

WP₅

Holistic, elearning based education on sandwich construction

WP₆

Training, skill development and dissemination

WP₇

Management and Governance

Interview

Prof. Dr Naujoks
the Coordinator
and his team :
Christian Berg ,
Stefan Weissenmayer &
Beate Hoernel-Metger



Bernd Naujoks, can you introduce yourself please?

My name is Bernd Naujoks. I am Professor for Steel and Composite Construction at the Fachhochschule Mainz. Together with Prof. Berner I jointly manage iS-mainz, the Institute of Sandwich Technology. I am also in charge of the Official Material Testing Laboratory at the University of Applied Sciences Mainz. This institution is an accredited laboratory for German Zulassung and soon for the European EPAQ Quality Label, too. Many of the tests within EASIE will be performed both at this facility and in the testing laboratory of structural framework at FH Mainz.

Can you explain your tasks as coordinator?

The coordinator's tasks are described in detail in our contract with the EU Commission. Eventually I am the one to represent the results of our joint research to the Commission. I am fully aware of the importance to support each WP leader in every technical and organisational respect in order to avoid any misunderstandings that may occur in a consortium of so many partners. It is also important to me that our research does not end with the produc-

tion of a learned report but rather is of practical benefit to all participating partners from the sandwich industry.

Can you introduce your team?

In addition to Professor Berner and myself as our team also includes Mr Daniel Spagni who as Project Manager will support me as Project Coordinator and Mrs Hörnel-Metzger, who as Secretary General of the Institute will be head the EASIE Secretariat. Other research assistants at iS-mainz are Mr Weissenmayer, Mr Rippel and starting January 1st, 2009 Mr Berg who will primarily engage in WP2 "Design by Testing vs. Design by Calculation".

How do you feel about the project at this very beginning of the year?

First of all I was very pleased that all the Partners were positive during our launch meeting. Now it is important for me to support the individual WP leaders and to make sure that the work which needs to be done over the next three months is understood by each of the group.

What are your worries or surprises about the different teams and their way of organising themselves?

My initial worries were that I don't have

enough time for EASIE during the ongoing semester. I have to admit that the development and organisation of the individual teams started somewhat slowly. But I think this is normal in a project of this kind and magnitude considering the numerous tasks that have to be put in place. My thanks go to all the Work Package leaders who have ensured a smooth start to our work.

The most pleasant surprise was the delicious lunch which was provided by SNPPA during our recent workshop in Paris. Even an airport as chaotic and of difficult access as Aéroport Charles de Gaulle can be forgiven after that.

What are your expectations the coming months?

From my point of view the most important thing is the organisation and scheduling of the experimental programme with a large number of tests having to be performed in Karlsruhe, Darmstadt, Helsinki and Mainz. These will need a lot of careful planning and especially next summer some target dates might overlap.

WP7

Focus



Daniel A Spagni
Managing Director
of the Advanced Research
Partnership (ARP) in the UK

Daniel A Spagni was until 2007 the Managing Director of the Advanced Research Partnership (ARP) in the UK. This was a six universities research and consultancy consortium which he had created in 1992 and which was based at the UMIST in Manchester.

A graduate of Aix-en-Provence Law School in France where he specialised in International and European law and of the University of Manchester in the UK where he further trained in science and technology policy, Daniel Spagni has been involved over the past 25 years in the development, funding and management of large international research programmes.

He has managed and coordinated a large number of European research projects in the past four Frameworks in particular in the fields of new energies, materials technologies and environment sciences.

He has also worked as a consultant and advisor for the UK and French governments and for a number of international organisations including the United Nations, the OECD, the World Bank and the European Commission.

Daniel Spagni is the Executive Secretary of the National UK Flood Risk Management Programme, a member of the Association for Project Management, a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Civil Engineering of the University of Bristol and a Senior Advisor to the Health and Safety Executive in the UK.

He was closely involved in the preparation and in the development of the EASIE project and is now its Project Secretary providing support for the administrative, legal, scientific and technical co-ordination and leadership of the project and assisting in the communication between the participants and between the project and the European Commission.

WP₇

The Easie Communication team wishes you a Happy new Year 2009

What are the missions of WP6 Training, Skill Development and Dissemination? The main objective is to disseminate the EASIE research results, making sure that they reach not only to the EASIE participants, but also to the European sandwich industry as a whole, in all 27 European countries.

The information of the EASIE project will be disseminated by online newsletters, by workshops in venues across Europe but with a bias towards the new member states and the candidate countries and by internet via the www.easie.eu website.

At the end of the Project the intention is for the website to remain active and operational for future activities in the field of sandwich panels.

Although this part of the activities of the Project will involve all of the participants, the key actors will be the industrial and professional associations. Including in particular Panama International – which federates the European Panel Manufacturers – and EPAQ – the European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles – SNPPA (the French Trade association for steel profiles and sand-

wich panels) and APIP'ÑA (the Spanish association of sandwich panel manufacturers). Thanks of those associations the information will reach the majority of European manufacturers.

A further objective of EASIE is to act as a catalyst for all sandwich panels related activities in Europe and as a single entry point for manufacturers, engineers, architects, teachers, students and the public at large when in search of information on about sandwich panels.

WP₆

Schedule

February 4th

WP₆

Meeting in Paris

March 11th

WP₂

Meeting in Mainz

April 2nd and 3rd

WP₇

Sixth monthly review meeting in Paris

For more information : www.easie.eu