

SCNZ STEEL CONSTRUCTION
NEW ZEALAND

STEEL FUTURES

BUILDING A COMPELLING CASE FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY

How can industry best meet the predicted construction demand in the coming years? This question was the focus of discussion during the last round of Regional Fabricator Forums (Christchurch, Napier and Auckland) which were facilitated by business consultant Brett Murray.

The construction sector is experiencing the biggest building boom in 40 years. As an industry, our challenge is to convince clients that we have the capacity to satisfy demand. If we fail to do so, we risk driving clients to source alternative supplies offshore.

The upshot of the Forum sessions was this: together, we need to develop a persuasive argument to buy local.

To help build our case, SCNZ plans to collect fact-based data and develop a capacity model founded on the labour resource supplied by our industry. In parallel, we will also seek intel on upcoming projects. Fortunately, MBIE has already collected a reasonable amount of data about public and private sector construction plans. We'll supplement these figures with data that we've sourced from engineers, builders and developers.

This combined market intelligence will feed a new project database; it will allow our industry to anticipate demand and make informed decisions about future investment in training, plant and equipment, recruitment and collaboration. What's more, it's this information that will convince the market – engineers, builders, developers and government officials – that we have the capacity to meet their demand.

The current appetite for prefabricated structural steel is similar to the 2007 peak. In the years since then, New Zealand structural steel fabricators have kept pace and invested substantially in high-tech fabrication technology: Grayson Engineering and D&H Steel in Auckland, Pegasus Engineering in Christchurch, Calder Stewart in Milton and Redsteel in Napier have all built new state-of-the-art workshops; and there is currently one new workshops under construction – John Jones in Christchurch

But even with this significant upscaling, collaboration with



Christchurch bus interchange under construction

Australian operators could make good business sense when looking to resource the sizeable Auckland projects expected to hit the market next year. Clients will benefit from our local knowledge and relationships; they'll have a local fabricator on the ground to oversee the project. And, because we can tap into additional capacity across the ditch, clients will be confident of the supply.

In summary, the equation to solve the demand problem is

this: investment plus collaboration equals assured local capacity.

As a first step to building a strong case for our clients to work with New Zealand fabricators, we need your input. Please look out for SCNZ's request for data in the near future and note, confidentiality will be respected for any commercially sensitive information supplied to SCNZ.

Working together, we can convince the market that local industry is the solution to successful projects.

Alistair Fussell
Manager

Steel Construction New Zealand Inc.

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OPEN FOR ENTRIES: 2015 EXCELLENCE IN STEEL AWARDS

Entries are now open for the biennial Excellence in Steel Awards which celebrate New Zealand's excellence in the field of steel construction. The Awards identify projects that demonstrate design merit and best practice, outstanding teamwork, application of sustainability principles, great safety management and innovation.

Do you have what it takes to be one of our 2015 winners? If you are a fabricator, architect, engineer or builder who has been part of a successful building project in the last two years that you feel deserves national recognition, then why not enter?

Entries close end of July and this year the winners will be announced at the Industry Awards Gala Dinner (alongside the winners of the 2015 Metals NZ Awards) to be held as part of Metals Week in the first week of September. This showcase event was the



highlight of the 2013 Metals New Zealand Industry Conference and organisers are expecting this year's event to be well attended by over 200 key industry representatives.

The judging criteria has been widened for 2015 to reflect the reality that a successful building project is a team effort comprising architects, engineers, builders and fabricators. The entry criteria now covers overall design merit, construction efficiency, sustainability, build ability and innovation. All entries will be reviewed by a panel of independent judges (appointed by the SCNZ Council) representing steel construction, building, structural engineering and architectural interests.

Entry forms and full details of the entry criteria are available at www.scnz.org

AGREEMENT REACHED ON NEW HIGH STRENGTH STRUCTURAL BOLTING STANDARD

At the end of February, Senior Engineer (Technical), Kevin Cowie, represented SCNZ at a Standards Australia ME-029 Fasteners Committee meeting in Sydney to present a discussion paper and propose the adoption of an alternative high strength steel bolt standard(s).

Many ageing AS and AS/NZS fastener standards are up for review, including the key Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS1252 'High-strength steel bolts with associated nuts and washers for structural engineering', which was last revised in 1996. In the intervening years, fastener technology has advanced and commercial and procurement environments have changed markedly.

At the meeting a decision was made by the Committee to put forward a proposal to revise AS/NZS1252 to align the standard with the EN 14399 suite. The proposal will include a notification in the preface about the intent to move towards the EN suite (the publication will be withdrawn after two years and replaced by the EN 14399 suite). A sunset clause will also be inserted as well as a new clause to address the normative assembly tests. In addition, to ensure

suitable EN 14399 bolts are nominated as 'deemed to satisfy', the Committee will confirm which EN 14399 bolt system to adopt when the revision project starts.

This decision is in keeping with SCNZ's proposal and the outcome of our consultation with industry (bolt importers and steelwork erectors) and engineers. The two year timeframe will allow industry time to adapt to the changes. If the EN 14399 suite is adopted in its entirety, the New Zealand Steel Structures Standard NZS3404 will need revising.

A list of other aged fastener standards which are up for review is available from the Standards Australia website (www.standards.org.au) or by contacting Kevin Cowie (kevin.cowie@scnz.org). The Committee will review each aged standard and make a recommendation on whether it should be considered for review, reconfirmation without changes, withdrawal or obsolescence.

Please contact Kevin directly if you have any feedback on aged standards.

NEW MEMBERS

SCNZ welcomed six new members during the first quarter ending March 2015.

Professional (Engineer)

Babbage Consultants Ltd, Auckland
HFC Civil & Structural (North) Ltd, Auckland
Buchanan & Fletcher Ltd, Christchurch

Full (Steel Producer)

Steel & Tube Stainless, Auckland

A&A Consulting Partners Ltd, Auckland
Fable Design, Tauranga

Would you like to become a SCNZ member? For an annual subscription of only \$100 + GST you can enjoy the benefits of belonging to an association dedicated to the advancement of steel construction.

Please visit <http://www.scnz.org/members/application>, fill in the application form and forward back to info@scnz.org.

2015 STEEL INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE - SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Steel Innovations, hosted by SCNZ at the Aotea Event Centre Auckland, will provide a stimulating forum for structural engineers and researchers to present their latest research findings, ideas, developments and applications in all aspects of structural steel construction.

The conference will showcase both proven and emerging technologies in the design and construction of steel buildings and infrastructure projects. Over the course of the two days, over 200 New Zealand and overseas structural engineers, academics and steel industry representatives will descend on Auckland to learn from top local and international experts, gain valuable professional development hours, and network with fellow professionals.

The conference will feature keynote addresses by eminent

international and local engineers. Professor Jeffrey Packer of the University of Toronto, Dr Roberto T. Leon of Virginia Tech, Walterio López of Rutherford + Chekene and Assistant Professor Lydell Wiebe of McMaster University in Canada have already been confirmed as keynote speakers. Key

topics include seismic engineering, composite steel construction, fire engineering, durability, sustainability and steel bridges.

This event offers an opportunity to show case your company to an influential engineering audience. A range of sponsorship packages are available.



For full details of the sponsorship packages visit the Steel Innovations website sponsorship page [here](#).

For more details about Steel Innovations 2015, please click [here](#).

SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR SERIES ON QUALITY MANAGEMENT OF STRUCTURAL WELDING FABRICATION

In March, more than 80 professionals attended the Quality Seminars jointly organised and delivered by the New Zealand Welding Centre (part of HERA) and SCNZ across New Zealand (Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown).

Weld quality is at the centre of the SFC scheme, and the welding quality management standard AS/NZS ISO 3834 and underlying fabrication standards AS/NZS 1554 and NZS 3404.1:2009 are the key certification planks. The seminars provided a comprehensive insight into normative requirements of these standard frameworks and included an overview of the Steel Fabricator Certification (SFC) scheme.

The SFC scheme ensures participating fabricators not only manufacture to the specified quality, but that they also have appropriate personnel and quality management systems in place to meet national and international best practice standards. Due to the safety critical nature of structural steel components, international best practice dictates independent assessment of steel fabricator manufacturing control systems, an approach which has been adopted for the SFC Scheme.

Senior Structural Engineer, Chris Burns, who co-delivered the seminars on behalf of SCNZ, comments: "The

seminars proved very popular and gave attendees a new impetus to sign up to the SFC scheme, which we are delighted about. SCNZ is fully committed to successfully growing the scheme in terms of the number of certified fabricators and encouraging the specification of certified fabricators for local projects. Watch this space for future announcements of new certifications."

Following discussion with designers on issues around

specifying quality requirements for the structural steelwork, it has been recognised that the SFC Scheme offers the most elegant way of specifying quality requirements. Designers need to only designate the applicable Construction Category(s) for the job using the risk-based assessment approach of the SFC. A fabricator certified to this construction category will complete

the job in accordance with quality requirements application for this construction category. A feature of the scheme is an independent certification audit for fabricators to ensure everyone plays by the same rules.

To find out more about the SFC Scheme, please contact Chris Burns (email: chris.burns@scnz.org or phone: 09 262 6684). For more information on upcoming events, please visit www.scnz.org



Michail Karpenko, HERA Certification Manager, presenting at the Auckland seminar

A REJUVENATED HERA HOUSE

Following a \$2 million refurbishment over six months, HERA House, home of the New Zealand Heavy Engineering Research Association (HERA) and SCNZ was officially re-opened on Friday 20 March.

After 30 years of service, the building has undergone an extensive refurbishment, allowing the building's owners, HERA's Heavy Engineering Research and Educational Foundation, to create a meeting place for the metals industry which uses space more efficiently and boasts a contemporary look in line with the industry's future focus.

SCNZ celebrated the occasion with HERA, fellow tenants NASH(National Association for Steel-framed Housing) and Metals NZ, guests from industry, government and the research fraternity, as well as those who completed the refurbishment and members who sponsored it.

The Minister of Science and Innovation, Hon. Steven Joyce, gave us the honour of re-opening the new look building and giving the keynote address. Congratulating HERA on the impressive face-lift of the facility, he acknowledged that whilst there are very good Crown Research Institutes and university entities, it is organisations such as HERA and its sister associations - SCNZ, NASH and Metals New Zealand - that play an important role in growing the industries and sectors they represent.

HERA Executive Chairman, John Frear, introduced HERA's mission "to have an internationally competitive New Zealand Metals Engineering Industry" and for HERA to be the catalyst to achieve this through ongoing innovation. John also



The new look HERA House

UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF STEEL

Many thanks to all our fabricator members who helped out with our exciting new initiative to support PQS's and our own members estimate structural steel projects accurately and efficiently, by filling in the survey sent out by Senior Structural Engineer, Chris Burns, at the end of February.

If you filled in the survey, you will also have been sent one of two projects and asked to price the scheme and provide an assessment of man hours. This information will be used to inform the development of best practice steelwork pricing and charge out rate methodologies. Where

introduced HERA's New Zealand Welding Centre, which focuses on the key technology of metals based fabrication, and commented on the Steel

Fabricator Certification (SFC) scheme introduced by the Welding Centre in co-operation with SCNZ.

John said: "I have followed with interest over the last couple of years the implementation of the SFC scheme. It is a major achievement that we now have industry leaders driving a scheme which puts New Zealand fabricators on a par with any international workshop certified to ISO 3834.

"It gives us confidence that if we are supported by the Government with a level playing field, our industry will be competitive against imports and we will successfully export."

Alistair Fussell, SCNZ Manager, introduced SCNZ and highlighted the important role that SCNZ is playing in raising the bar of New Zealand's structural steel industry to ensure the quality and compliance of local materials and fabrication. Whilst acknowledging the Government's new procurement rules, which were welcomed by industry last year, Alistair invited the Government to put in place appropriate measures to ensure the compliance of imported fabricated product, which is of particular importance in our seismically active country.

Looking back on a well-attended function HERA Director, Dr Wolfgang Scholz said: "It is fantastic to see such great industry member, stakeholder and ministerial interest in what HERA and its associated organizations are doing in HERA House.

"Celebrating the last 30 years of HERA House, and looking ahead to the next few decades in a brilliantly refurbished environment, will keep the spirits of those working and meeting with us in top gear. And that is exactly what the industry needs to be successful and sustainable."



Minister of Science and Innovation, Hon. Steven Joyce, unveils the dedication and sponsors plaques at the official re-opening of HERA House.

appropriate, tools will be also developed to implement these methodologies and following this, a series of articles will be placed in relevant publications and workshops presented around the country to Quantity Surveyors.

Previously known as Educating Clients on Steelwork Pricing, the project's working group has changed the title of the initiative to Understanding the Value of Steel, but the aim of ensuring that in the face of increased demand on our companies, all parties can price steelwork reliably, remains the same.