

Composites

MatUK Construction WG

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Commercial Needs – General

- Low initial cost, but increasing attention being given to low through life cost
- Low risk (not least durability)
- Awareness of what is possible and sensible
- Readily available & understood standards
- Well established supply chain
- Critical mass in the supply chain to justify investment
- Availability of trained and accredited workforce

Commercial Needs – Composites

- Greater awareness of the occasions when the strengths of composites provide a competitive edge
- Greater confidence and information on issues such as durability, life cycle costs and environmental footprint
- Easy to use standards for design, QA, Codes of Practice etc
- Reliable and easy to manufacture joints and connections: composites as part of hybrid solutions
- Availability of a trained, competent workforce
- A less fragmented supply chain

R&D Themes and Gaps

- Cleaner, cheaper manufacture
- Durability and life cycle issues
- Environmental impacts
- Standards for QA and design
- Joints and connections
- Achieving optimum solutions by using composites as part of a hybrid solution
- Also supply chain and training/accreditation issues