

12 January 2006

Change of Chairman at the BCA

The British Cement Association (BCA) has announced that it is to change its chairman.

Michael Lodge will be relinquishing his role as Chairman of BCA at the end of February 2006 following the BCA Council's decision to appoint future Chairmen from among its own number.

Michael Lodge has been chairman since he retired as Managing Director of Castle Cement in early 2003. His successor will be Jean-Francois (Jeff) Sautin, Managing Director of Lafarge Cement UK.

Commenting upon the change, Mike Gilbert, Chief Executive of the BCA said:

“I should like to put on record my own personal thanks to Michael for his outstanding services to the UK cement industry, firstly as Chief Executive of Castle Cement and latterly as Chairman of BCA. From 1993 until 2002, he also represented the UK at CEMBUREAU, the cement industry's European trade association of which he was President between 2002 and 2004.

“The cement industry has made some significant advances during his tenure as Chairman. His experience has proved especially valuable during a time of change over the previous few years in the industry with new companies coming into the British cement industry and becoming members of the BCA.

“I know that all who have worked with Michael during his time with the cement industry will want to wish him a long and happy retirement.”

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For further information:

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Notes to editors:

1. Michael Lodge attended his final BCA Council meeting as Managing Director of Castle cement in January 2003 and took over as Chairman of the BCA on 1st July the same year.
2. The British Cement Association (BCA) is the trade and research organisation that represents the interests of the United Kingdom's cement industry in its relations with Her Majesty's Government, the European Union and relevant organisations in the United Kingdom. The members of the BCA (Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, Lafarge Cement UK and Rugby Cement) are the major domestic manufacturers of Portland cement producing over 90% of the cement sold in the UK.

The cement industry has an annual turnover of £750 million and is a major supplier to the construction industry. It employs around 3,500 people directly with a further 15,000 jobs depending upon its operations.