



For immediate release

Brussels, 12 February 2009

Metro Station Carmes in Toulouse wins Best Innovation Award of European Polycarbonate Sheet Extruders (EPSE)

European Polycarbonate Sheet Extruders (EPSE) organised for a second time an internal European award competition in two categories (Best Project Award and Best Innovation Award) among its members to raise awareness of the benefits of polycarbonate in different areas of applications. The EPSE Award is not a design competition; it recognises the benefits, innovativeness and the creative applications of polycarbonate sheets.

Polycarbonate is a high quality, transparent, thermoplastic synthetic material with exceptional properties. Therefore in this competition EPSE wants to emphasize the uniqueness, creative and innovative character of polycarbonate. This award is an opportunity for the industry world-wide to recognize innovation and quality business practices.

The 'European Polycarbonate Sheet Extruders' (EPSE) was created in 2003 by five prominent polycarbonate sheet manufacturers as a sector group of European Plastics Converters (EUPC), the European organisation for plastics converters. Over the years EPSE welcomed other important market players. Today, EPSE is composed of 9 polycarbonate sheet manufacturers and 2 of their suppliers.

The Award Jury was composed of renowned professionals representing various players: Mr. Vincente Leoz Argüelles, European Commission, head of unit, DG Enterprise (construction unit), Mr. Jean-Michel Jaspers, a prominent Belgian architect, from M. & J-M. Jaspers – J. Eyers & Partners, Jonas Bensch, a junior architect from Quinze & Milan Designers, Mia de Vits, a member of the European Parliament, and Sarah Gillis, Innovation Advisor, Federplast.

The Award in the **Best Innovation** category went to '**Metro Station Carmes**' in Toulouse, France. The metro station features a 500 m² ExellD roofing with decorative solid sheet in polycarbonate. By choosing polycarbonate sheets designers and architects can achieve the clarity of glass while overcoming its drawbacks of heavy weight, design restrictions and fragility. ExellD sheet is a transparent, light weight polycarbonate with proprietary UV protection, offering safe installation properties. Its excellent impact strength makes it ideally suited for a variety of building and constructions applications. Exell D meets the requirements of fire performance. It has B (s1, d0) classification, which demonstrates that ExellD exhibits outstanding fire safety features (very limited contribution to a fire, and no flash-over). Compared to glass, polycarbonate sheet is significantly lighter in weight and has a far cheaper price.

The line B of the metro in Toulouse was inaugurated on 30 June 2007. The line B is an automatic line equipped with Val system of the Siemens Transport System, consisting of 16 km long tunnel with 20 stations. This project was one of the most prominent urban construction sites of France and of Europe in the past years (1.4 billion euro).

One of the features of the metro network in Toulouse is the integration of a contemporary art work in each metro station. Each station is the result of a common idea of an architect and an artist. The metro is not a cold and empty shell anymore, it becomes a cultural heritage to visit and to live

EPSE

in; a live museum in the heart of the city. Together they have built a cultural world, which makes Toulouse one of the rarest examples of art works available for the public.

Société du metro de l'agglomération Toulousaine (SMAT) selected the metro station Carmes project of the architecture agency Almudever Fabrique d'Architecture. The architecture agency proposed a vault of 500m² in fastened glass supporting 'The Milky way' artwork made by JP Marcheschi. The artwork showing black and red letters, made with translucent wax and soot, would have been reproduced on a translucent film, guaranteed for 10 years by the company Glace Contrôle.

To guaranty the safety of the structure in case of an accident, the security commission imposed a fire resistance of 1 hour. The 3D model of the fire in 2 metro trains at the platform level showed that the temperature at the vault could reach a maximum of 550°C.

'We didn't have any guaranty of the results from the glass manufacturer, the estimated budget was exceeded and the deadlines weren't met. That's the reason why we contacted different polycarbonate sheet producers to find an easier solution and to end the constraints caused by glass. Lexan ExellD, which has passed the EU requirements of fire performance, came out as the best choice for the project. The compatibility between polycarbonate and the film of the art work was tested. Furthermore, SMAT requested fire safety tests by the Laboratoire National d'Essai' said Bruno Rivault, SMAT Technical Project Manager.

The fire performance classification and the use of polycarbonate reduced considerably the fire and construction constraints, the risk of falling sheets, and vandalism, the cost were scaled down by 2 and the deadlines were met. The whole project was finished in 5 months by Construction Métallique Richard and by project manager SYSTRA. The lighting concept was made by the agency of Philippe Hutinet.

Polycarbonate sheet being flexible, they could be shaped like waves similar to the sheets of papers used by the artist.

'We dedicate this award to all who believed in this project' said Pascal Godon, SMAT Director.

For more information on this topic, please contact:

Bianka Nagy

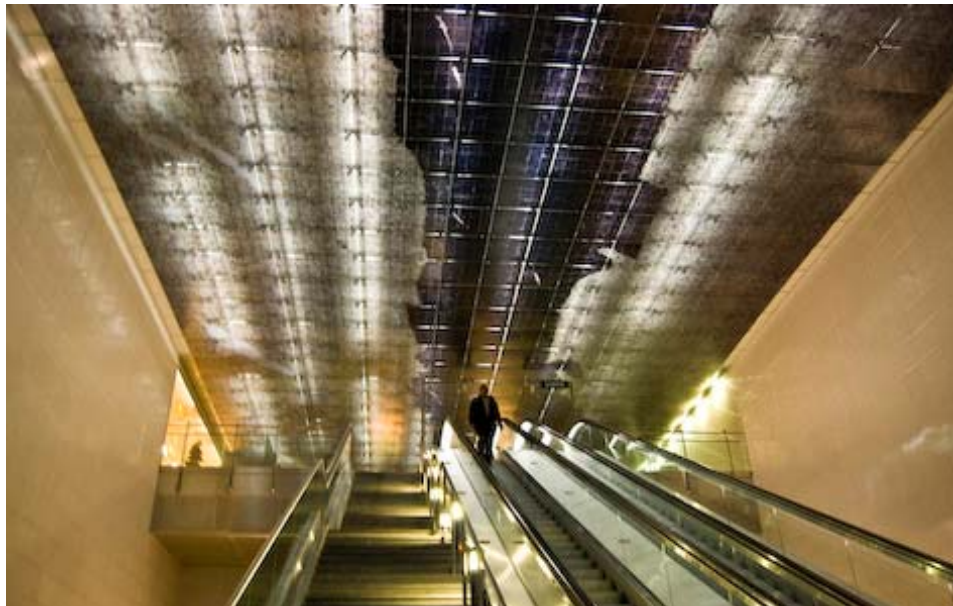


European Plastics Converters
Avenue de Cortenbergh 66, 1000 Bruxelles
T. +32 (0)2 739 63 86 - F. +32 (0)2 732 42 18
E-mail: bianka.nagy@eupc.org
Website: www.plasticsconverters.eu

EPSE



(From left to right) : Ingrid Verschueren, EPSE sector group manager and Pascal Godon, Director of SMAT at the award ceremony



EPSE



COPYRIGHT Saada / Schneider



COPYRIGHT Saada / Schneider