



For immediate release

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## EPSE Award Winners Announced

For the third year running, the European Polycarbonate Sheet Extruders (EPSE, [www.epse.org](http://www.epse.org)) organised an award competition among its members so as to raise awareness of the benefits of polycarbonate in different application areas. There were three winners: Lansdowne Road Stadium in the Best Project and Innovation Award category; Centro Comercial Santafe in the Best Project category; and Bremer Weser Stadium in the Best Innovation category.

**EPSE** was created in 2003 by five prominent polycarbonate sheet manufacturers as a sector group of 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.

Instead of being a design competition, the EPSE awards recognise the benefits, innovativeness and creative applications of **polycarbonate**, which is a high-quality, transparent, thermoplastic, synthetic material with exceptional properties. Therefore, with this competition EPSE wishes to emphasise the uniqueness of polycarbonate, as well as its creative and innovative character. These awards are also an opportunity for the industry to be acquainted with innovation and high-quality business practices.

The new all-transparent **Lansdowne Road stadium (Dublin, Ireland)** won the **Best Project and Innovation Award** because it is the first truly site-responsive stadium of its kind anywhere in the world. This is mainly because its form, mass, materials and aspect are defined by the location and its surroundings. All walls are covered with cold-line bended Lexan sheet to create movable and transparent 'shingles', which rise both in the east and west and fall in the north so as to minimise the impact of the building on the adjoining neighbourhoods. A transparent roof is lowered to the southern sky to maximise the sunlight and the high performance sports turf thus ensuring that the best possible playing surface is produced. Reflecting the colours of the sky and the light conditions, the façade of the buildings will be ever changing. The overall undulating transparent form will be an ephemeral addition too the skyline of Dublin. It will embrace the very best of stadium technology and stadium hospitality providing a total experience for everyone.



Lansdowne Road Stadium-Dublin-Ireland  
Architect office: HOK-London-UK  
Engineering office: Buro Happold-London-UK  
Installation: Williaam Cox-Dublin-Ireland

# EPSE

The award in the **Best Project** category went to the **Centro Comercial Santafe in Medellin, Colombia** because of the consistency of use of the polycarbonate throughout the entire project and this on a large scale. The walls and roof of the Centro Comercial comprise lightweight and translucent polycarbonate sheets (8mm Standard Opal and 8mm Spring) that can easily be bent. However, a major challenge for translucent material in hot climates is transferring a high percentage of visible light without transferring heat. A specially developed product was therefore used to filter out unnecessary heat, i.e. 'near infrared light', but still transfer a high percentage of visible light. Moreover, the filtering material was inserted into a special layer of the external wall of the polycarbonate sheet, thus increasing the filtration effect.



Centro Comercial Santafe-Medellin-Colombia  
Architect: Victor Rincon  
Promotor: Pedro Gomez YCIA  
Constructor: Inverciones Bocacolina  
Sky-light sub constructor: Arcos Sistemas Arquitectonicos

The award for **Best Innovation** went to the **Bremer Weser Stadium in Germany** because of the innovative combination of transparent polycarbonate sheets and solar cells which enables a roof design that is both visually appealing and environmentally sound. The sheets allow natural sunlight through and utilize solar power to generate energy (e.g. the modules generate 100 Watt of energy per square meter). For this purpose, floating silicon cells are embedded between two plastic sheets made of Makrolon®. Compared to traditional solar modules made of glass Makrolon® sheets are breakproof, can be bended within certain limits and weigh up to two-third less. As the individual sheets can be cut to size, these high-quality modules can be designed to match the style and functionality of the end product perfectly, thus providing architects with new and previously unknown options for harnessing solar energy.



Roof of Bremer Weser Stadium

# EPSE

The **jury panel** was composed of several professionals representing different sectors: Mr Jean-Michel Jaspers, renowned Architect for Arch. Jaspers-Eyers & Partners; Ms Inés Ayala Sender, MEP; Ms Evelien Broeckx, Architect for Studio Arne Quinze; Mr Charles Cordemans, Editor-In-Chief for Journal de l'Architecte/Architectenkrant; Mr Joy Donné, Head of Real Estate Policy for the Cabinet Office of the Belgian Minister for Finance and Real Estate Policy; Mr Vincente Leoz-Argüelles, Head of Unit of DG-ENTR.1.5, European Commission; and Mr Kevin Matthews, Editor-In-Chief for ArchitectureWeek.



From right to left: Inés Ayala Sender (MEP), Maria Kalousi (EuPC Communications Officer), Charles Cordemans (Editor-In-Chief for Journal de l'Architecte/Architectenkrant), Jean-Michel Jaspers (Architect for Arch. Jaspers-Eyers & Partners), Evelien Broeckx (Architect for Studio Arne Quinze), Ingrid Verschueren (EuPC Legal Director), Joy Donné (Head of Real Estate Policy) and Kevin Matthews (Editor-In-Chief for ArchitectureWeek).

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