

On the beam

UK ups efforts to cut carbon. The British Constructional Steelwork Association and Corus announced a research project worth around A\$2 million into how designers can better meet emission reduction targets for zero carbon by 2019. Target Zero is a focused practical study to deliver intelligence on sustainability and how to reduce carbon in buildings. The projects will look at five major building types - school, warehouse, office, supermarket and mixed use and will generate fully-priced solutions showing how to achieve the three highest BREEAM ratings. The first reports will focus on the education sector. President of BCSA, **Richard Barrett** said that the schools study had already identified potential annual energy savings of around A\$330 million nationally.

Aussie steel win for warships. BlueScope Steel has been selected as a major supplier to Australia's Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) Program, winning a contract to provide 3000 tonnes of steel for each ship. The supply contract will be worth up to \$20 million over six years. The A\$8 billion AWD Program will deliver three Australian-built Hobart Class air warfare destroyers to be operated by the Royal Australian Navy. Speaking at BlueScope's Port Kembla steelworks, Australian Prime Minister **Kevin Rudd** said: "I'm confident there's going to be maximum delivery of Australian project content." NSW company FORGACS and Queensland-based ASI member, NQEA have won contracts to build the modules for the hulls of the destroyers.

Trade training support in SA. A recent bid supported by the ASI for Trinity College Senior in South Australia to create a dedicated Trade Training Centre in Gawler has been successful with A\$1.5 million of funding awarded. The joint initiative with the Australian Technical Employment Centre (ATEC) will focus on training in the metal trades, especially welding, fitting, tool making, machining and sheet metalwork. College principal, **Kym Reynolds** said their proposal succeeded because "it was underpinned by strong partnership arrangements with local industries and organisations." The ASI believes that the creation of the Centre will ensure the local industry stays at the forefront in metals processing whilst helping to stem the skills shortages in traditional metal engineering trades, raise the profile of metal trades as a career choice and support local employers by deepening the skills base in SA's north.

Steelmaker attains hi standing. BlueScope Steel has made a top 10 list of Australian companies that have the best corporate reputations. The steelmaker was ranked Eighth on a list of Australian companies with the best reputations determined by an annual study conducted by AMR Interactive using BRW Magazine consumer rankings. BlueScope Australian and New Zealand Steel Manufacturing Businesses chief executive, **Noel Cornish** said the company deserved

to be encouraged by the news because they were the ones who had helped build and maintain that corporate reputation. "The way all BlueScope Steel employees interact with our customers, shareholders, communities and with each other is influenced by our bond," he said. "Our bond is a set of guiding principles that was developed democratically when we were first listed as an independent company in 2002."

Fabricator tools up to fast track. Page Steel has invested in new CNC technology, logistics and estimating systems which have doubled the company's throughput. The company has developed its own barcoding system to provide full traceability, driven by their own *Steeltrack* software. Each steel member is assigned a barcode attached to it, with the system recording all aspects of production, including delivery. Additionally, the system produces reports in real time to ensure steel is produced in the required stages and delivery to site matches. In the past two years, Page Steel has also purchased and installed a high definition plasma/oxy machine, enabling the processing of plate 3000mm wide and 12,000mm long. CNC capabilities include beam cutting and drilling, coping, flat and angle punch and shear and beam cambering. Page Steel Director, **Chris Piacentini** said the installation of the new technology means the company can offer a greater design and concept approach to customers, making inroads into multi-level steel projects. "This makes us much more competitive and allows us to continue using high-quality, Australian-made steel which is very important to us," he said. "Over seven months, we fabricated 5000 tonnes of steel at a rate of 200 tonnes a week."

