



OFFSITE MANUFACTURE > ONSITE CERTAINTY

Light gauge steel frame (LGSF) plays a fundamental part in the offsite systems portfolio - from structural panels to complete frames, plus a variety of roofing, volumetric modular options and infill walling applications. Steve Thompson, Managing Director of EOS Facades, specialists in steel framing solutions, discusses the changing construction landscape.



We are operating in exciting times for the built environment.

Modernisation is more than an option now – in my view, it should be seen as an obligation.

Historically construction has been compared unfavourably with the automotive and aeronautical industries and a change had to come. A revolution,

not quite on an industrial scale, is taking place and currently gathering momentum. There has never been a better time to capitalise on the raft of benefits which offsite factory manufactured systems deliver.

A common problem still rests in ‘migrating’ the efficiencies of offsite to the construction site itself. It has to be an end-to-end continuation - rather than a process of offsite methodology to the factory gate and then being subjected to a traditional approach on site.

Certainly ‘education’ is required at all levels of offsite manufacture – not just its commonly understood long-term benefits but throughout the supply chain and how each stage of the construction cycle is touched by offsite methods. Architects, clients, main and sub-contractors need to understand more about the offsite industry as a whole, including the philosophy behind its use as well as the disparate range of suppliers and products.

This is one of the main reasons why EOS Facades have opened our factory doors to construction professionals and welcome visits from main contractors, architects, designers and specifiers. We understand engagement and information transfer is the solution and after all ‘knowledge is power’ - the power to collectively take our industry forward and deliver better buildings in a more productive and efficient way.

Many of the advantages of steel construction are applicable to all building types and sectors. Building owners value the flexibility of steel buildings, and the value benefits they provide, such as the light, open, airy spaces that can be created, making it ideal for modernisation, reconfiguring, extending or adapting with minimal disruption, and without costly and sometimes harmful demolition and redevelopment.

Prefabrication of the individual steel elements takes place under controlled, highly regulated and safe factory conditions where the use of leading edge systems delivers precision-engineered components. With so much work carried out offsite, the onsite construction programme is reduced and the build programme is relatively unaffected by adverse weather conditions. Furthermore, steel components can be

pre-assembled or fabricated into modules either offsite or at low level onsite, which reduces the need for working at height.

It is clear that there is an imperative to improve industry performance, with increasing requirements to design and construct in a more detailed manner and at a rapid pace – these processes are reliant upon effective communication. Construction professionals must work together and knowledge transfer can be mutually beneficial to all those involved along the design, manufacture and construction journey.

Products and Services

EOS Facades run a series of CPD Factory Tours at their state of the art facility in County Durham - hosted by the EOS Technical Team together with the Siniat specification team, the tours are completely free to attend. For more information on EOS Facades’ products, services and factory tours visit the website.

www.eos-facades.co.uk

