

Thursday 3 March 2016

## Build UK Celebrates Success at Iconic ‘Cheesegrater’

Build UK held its first major event on Wednesday 2 March at the Leadenhall Building in London to celebrate what can be achieved now and in the future, following the coming together of the contracting supply chain in construction.

The Champagne Reception, which was attended by over 200 industry guests including contractors, clients and key stakeholders, provided the perfect platform to showcase how bringing together Main and Specialist Contractors within one organisation is enabling us to make progress on long-standing industry issues and present collective solutions to clients.

Working in partnership with CECA, Build UK has developed a proposal for a more efficient and cost effective pre-qualification process which has support from members, the Cabinet Office who will include it within their procurement documents, and private sector clients. Build UK has also confirmed its support for the principles of the Construction Supply Chain Payment Charter, which include payment terms of 30 days by 2018 and no cash retention by 2025, ahead of the re-launch of the Payment Charter later this month.

**Build UK Chairman Kevin Louch**, who addressed guests at the event, said:

*“George Osborne said that ‘the future favours the bold’ and Build UK enables us to be bold. It enables us to have the honest conversations we need to have if we really want a different industry...In just six months, we are already showing that by bringing together the right people and setting clear objectives we can make a difference.”*

One area where Build UK is already making a difference is skills. It is essential for the industry to recruit, train and retain a workforce to deliver now and in the future and we need to present a consistent and exciting message to young people and those looking for a change of career.

Build UK is supporting Go Construct as the industry’s ‘one stop shop’ for careers information and will be running a revitalised Open Doors initiative in June 2016, providing an exclusive opportunity for people to take a look behind the scenes of a range of fantastic ‘live’ construction sites. We have also developed a brand new film, ‘Get into Construction’,

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to promote the wide range of opportunities available within construction and inspire people to consider a career in the industry.

**Build UK Chairman James Wates**, who was delighted to launch the new Build UK film at the event, said:

*“Build UK was challenged by Nick Boles to show leadership on the issue of skills and it is our responsibility to show the next generation of construction workers that they can have a vibrant and exciting career for life if they join us. The war for talent is one I want to win and we stand a better chance of doing that by working together as Build UK.”*

The event was generously supported by Build UK partners, SIG, B&CE, Go Construct, CSCS, the Little Britain Challenge Cup (LBCC), Plantworx and Wedlake Bell.

~ Ends ~

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## Notes to Editors

1. Build UK provides a strong collective voice for the contracting supply chain in construction. We bring together the industry's largest Main Contractors and leading Trade Associations representing over 11,500 Specialist Contractors - [www.BuildUK.org](http://www.BuildUK.org).
2. To find out more about the key industry issues that Build UK is leading on, see the [Build UK Action Plan](#).
3. Open Doors 2016 will run from Monday 13 - Saturday 18 June and see Build UK members open up construction sites across the country to show people what it is like to work in the industry - [www.opendoors.construction](http://www.opendoors.construction).
4. To view the new Build UK film, 'Get into Construction', visit the [Build UK website](#).
5. The Build UK film was supported by Balfour Beatty, CITB, Crossrail, Mace, Skanska, Stanford Industrial Concrete Flooring Ltd and Willmott Dixon.