Green Light for LSFB

Innovative Building Technologies (IBT), including Light Steel Frame Building (LSFB), have been accepted by government for use in the construction of government-owned structures.

According to CSIR’s research, IBTs offer faster construction, lower costs, improved energy efficiencies, better quality control, provide decent jobs, and have a smaller impact on resources and the environment.

“Accordingly it is no wonder that the PICC (Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission) has decided to promote the use of IBTs, specifically for schools, clinics and student accommodation,” says SASFA director, John Barnard.

“Within 3 years, some 60% of new buildings in these categories will be supplied using IBTs, which is excellent news for the light steel framing industry.”

Growing exponentially

Using Agrement SA’s standards, there are currently about 40 IBTs active in South Africa and in terms of efficiency, using the CSIR rating system, the ‘standard’ brick house rated 32nd out of 40. “Because of the significant savings in energy and of the life-time costs of ownership, LSFB and other

In 2013 SASFA membership grew by 12% and LSFB by 21% compared with the previous year. Here, Pieter Reyneke from Dalmar Construction, receives a SASFA membership certificate from John Barnard and Paolo Trinchero, CEO of the Institute of Steel Construction

IBT-built houses and other structures are growing exponentially worldwide and South Africa is no exception,” says Llewellyn van Wyk of the CSIR.

SASFA current chairman, ArcelorMittal’s Hannes Basson, points out that the LSFB industry has made great strides since 2007 and that SASFA has played a major role in this progress. “While this building method has been strong in many other countries including Australia, the US and Europe, it was regarded with some skepticism locally.

“But through SASFA’s education and promotional initiatives LSFB has become an accepted IBT in this country. For example, in 2007 it was impossible to get a bond for a LSFB building and now most of the major banks have bought into the technology.”