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ES-SO launches Europe-Wide Data Resource for Solar-Shading Products

Dynamic Shading is an important component in the design of energy saving buildings. Shading is included in the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), and is now a requirement in National Building Codes. For effective implementation, achieving fully the benefits of shading, it's essential that architects and engineers have ongoing access to reliable, robust data when preparing specifications and performance-calculations.

To support this need ES-SO, the European Solar-Shading Organisation, has taken the initiative to create a new European Solar Shading Products Properties Database, ES-SDA. Its aim is to provide a reference list of independently verified and validated solar shading materials, to ensure correct specification and application in all types of buildings.

To be included in the new database suppliers need to have their materials and fabrics tested against the relevant European Standards, in an accredited laboratory. These results are then checked and peer reviewed by industry experts before inclusion.

The database will include performance data for basic fabrics and blind materials, and also complete products. It will also cover a wide range of applications. As a result comparisons between blind types and materials will be simple and robust, and fully validated.

The database package will be supported by comprehensive documentation, together with education and training, available at EU and national levels.

The process for collection of the data, and its presentation, parallels that used by the glazing industry. Users will therefore be able to evaluate the performance of shading fabrics and materials in combination with typical glazing. A wide range of output information, such as heat retention and rejection (U-values, G_{tot}) and Visible Light Transmittance (T_{vis}), can be generated.

The database is easily searchable, and will be accessible throughout Europe. As a future development, ES-SO are also collaborating with the US team at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory who are working on a similar solution for North America.

The database can also be seen as part of a wider data validation process, providing a method for confirming that manufacturers' proposals are accurate. This follows the guiding principles of the European Qualicheck project for buildings - "Towards better Quality and Compliance" - and the ES-SDA database will be presented as a best-practice example at the Qualicheck conference in Athens in March.

The ES-SDA database project was launched in Brussels by Peter Winters, ES-SO President, on 25 February 2016. Sixteen leading fabric and material suppliers attended the launch.

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| NOTES FOR EDITORS | <ol style="list-style-type: none">ES-SO is the umbrella organization of the professional solar shading associations in the various Member States of the EU. Its headquarters are in Zaventem, close to Brussels, Belgium. Further information about ES-SO is available on their website: www.es-so.com.Photographs and other information supporting this press release are available: https://files.gramma.be/_rB5JCDP-r6rzER. |