

Construction Products Europe is pleased to welcome both IBM and Cobuilder as our first affiliate members from the Information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

Our President, Cédric de Meeûs, stated “Our project Smart CE marking is the perfect proof of the successful collaboration with these leading digital construction players. By welcoming them as affiliate members, we look forward to stepping up our game and to leading the debate on such topics as Data Templates and digital tools at the EU-level.”

Lars Christian Fredenlund, Cobuilder CEO, explained “The digital transformation we are facing will affect all parties in the industry, technologies, platforms and tools. In the last five years, Cobuilder has been actively contributing to the standardisation of product data for the construction industry. We have been involved in the Data Templates development in CEN/TC 442 and the development of the Smart CE marking XML format.

I am looking forward to working with Construction Products Europe. Standardised data structures and formats are paramount for digital information exchange across the supply chain. Working together with the manufacturing community will ensure that all stakeholders can take advantage of transparent, reliable information based on credible sources.”

Paul Surin, Global Lead Built Environment at IBM, added “The construction industry is forecast to change almost beyond recognition over the coming decades. The world’s urban population is forecast to grow by more than 2.5 billion between now and 2050. Productivity in the construction industry is lower than in most other industries and there needs to be a step-change to meet global demand. We need to deliver more with less which means we need to improve resource efficiency and re-use and provide a more energy efficient built environment. These trends combined with significant skills shortages, means we need to deliver more, quicker, and smarter with less. To begin to address these global challenges, the construction industry and built environment is digitalising, and this provides both opportunities and threats. Manufacturers need to get their data out in a format which is readable by all project stakeholders who will then start to realise how the data can work and help them. This is going to bring new business models, opportunities and drives improvement to the bottom line. Manufacturers play a vital role in the digitalisation of the built environment.”

Founded in 1988, Construction Products Europe is a Brussels-based international non-profit making association. The association is made up of national and European associations that represent Small and Medium-size Enterprises and world-leading companies. Construction Products Europe aims to promote the European construction industry, to share information on EU legislation and standardisation and to provide input in all European construction-related initiatives.