

A lot left to be desired

The Chancellor's Spring Statement was a missed opportunity to boost construction activity at a time when house building is falling and more builders are leaving the industry, according to the Federation of Master Builders (FMB).

Brian Berry, chief executive says: "Today's Spring Statement was a missed opportunity to deliver the decisive action the construction industry urgently needs. While the Chancellor focused on reiterating previous announcements, small builders were left waiting for the practical measures that would unlock growth, boost housebuilding, and drive progress on retrofitting the UK's homes. The Chancellor's recognition that more needs to be done to get young people into apprenticeships and employment was welcome but the industry has heard similar promises before. Without clear policy detail, commitment to funding, and a long-term plan to support SMEs, warm words do not translate into real jobs or skills.

"This Spring Statement could have set out concrete steps to support small and medium-sized builders to deliver the homes the country desperately needs, accelerate energy-efficient retrofitting, and introduce a robust licensing system to raise standards across the industry. Instead, it was another chance for real progress that has been allowed to pass by. If the government is serious about economic growth, improved productivity, and meeting its housing and climate ambitions, it must move quickly from rhetoric to action and put small builders at the heart of its plans." □

www.fmb.org.uk



Brian Berry

Reynaers Aluminium has announced that, after undergoing extensive testing, its MasterPatio bi-parting door configuration is now PAS 24 certified ensuring it can meet enhanced security requirements.

The robust testing behind this certification ensures that it is approved for use in new build projects, demonstrating that the doors can resist a level of attack from opportunist burglars. Now with enhanced security certification, Reynaers says that the MasterPatio Bi-Part also offers high performance and design flexibility.

John McComb, technical director at Reynaers Aluminium UK, says: "We understand that modern architecture demands more than a premium appearance – designing for safety, security and sustainability is crucial.

"Through responsible engineering and innovative design, the MasterPatio Bi-Part door system offers slim sightlines and long-term peace of mind thanks to its high-performance security properties and sustainable and efficient production methods." □

www.reynaers.com



Fabricator: VAMA, Photographer: Marc Sourbron
Image shows a bi-part monorail system by Reynaers Aluminium

Ideal to capitalise on

Heritage Trade Frames is reporting sustained growth for its Stellar Slimline bifold door. It claims sales have increased by more than 55% over a three-year period.

Lee Darcy, sales and marketing manager at Heritage Trade Frames, says: “Sales of the Stellar slimline bifold door continued to grow throughout 2025. This sustained growth reflects the increasing interest in aluminium products, combined with the clear advantages of the door itself.

“Aluminium continues to attract growing homeowner interest and the Stellar slimline bifold door is ideally positioned to capitalise on this trend in 2026.

“The door delivers elegant contemporary aesthetics, with slim 117mm meeting stiles that create clean, sightlines.

“It also meets the latest Part L requirements for thermal efficiency, with 28mm double glazing and achieving U values as low as 1.0 W/m²K when triple glazed.

“The Stellar slimline bifold door combines standout aesthetics with impressive performance, without compromise.”



Stellar claims that the door can be installed up to 20 minutes per pane faster, helping installers complete jobs more efficiently. Patented pre-gasketed knock-in beads make glazing quicker and easier, while also delivering a neat, consistent gasket line that enhances the finished appearance. □

www.heritagetradeframes.co.uk

Better data, better turnover

Euroglaze has made more investments in its Eurostock monitoring tool, which, it says, so far this year, has helped to deliver a 100% OTIF on its three-day lead time for white PVC-U frames.

The Barnsley-based Rehau fabricator claims it routinely delivers the kind of service that most other trade fabricators can only aim for – and that’s partly because Eurostock gives both its customer service and its production teams 100% round the clock visibility of actual stock levels.

Euroglaze customers are informed at the point of order – whether online or via the customer service team – if any component on their order is unavailable. This means that they can be offered an alternative, and no order can ever enter the factory unless it can be completed in full. The result is that Euroglaze customers don’t ever have to worry about orders turning up late or incomplete and they can plan their own work schedules with absolute certainty.



Martin Nettleton, Euroglaze’s managing director, says: “Any reporting tool like Eurostock is only ever as good as the data behind it, so adding rolling stocktakes and digital inputting means we now have even better data than before – and that is obviously being reflected in our 100% OTIF score.

“Of course, Eurostock is only one part of the wider Euroglaze efficiency story. Our three-day turnaround on white PVC-U frames is achieved because we have a highly advanced, lean manufacturing environment, which maximises output per operator and a quality circles philosophy, which ensures we have close to zero QC rejections in the factory.” □

www.euroglaze.co.uk

For the family business

Assetz Capital, a SME property development finance provider, has completed a £6.25m development facility to support Marie Thomas Homes, family housebuilder, with a new 22-unit residential scheme in Lancaster.

The development will deliver eight different types of accommodation, ranging from two and five-bedroom houses to two one-bedroom apartments. Thirty per cent of the site is also dedicated to providing affordable housing for the local community.

The facility was structured at 71% LTGDV and includes the recycling of £200,000 of sales proceeds. Assetz Capital's funding will also enable Marie Thomas Homes to defer part of the equity contribution towards the construction phase, supporting cash flow in the early stages of the build.

Mark Whelan, managing director at Marie Thomas Homes, says: "In what has been an incredibly challenging market, we approached Assetz Capital to provide a stretch senior facility after our proposed mezzanine lender was not showing signs of delivering.

"As is always the case in a tougher market, credit teams are more thorough in their assessment, but Assetz worked with us pragmatically to reach a workable solution. We've spent three years securing planning in this desirable area and we're looking forward to delivering an attractive development that reflects our family business' focus on building quality homes that people genuinely aspire to live in."

Mark Roberts, relationship director at Assetz Capital,



says: "This deal evidences our capability to structure development facilities that would sit outside many other lenders' criteria. We've provided a £6.25m facility at 71% LTGDV for a 22-unit scheme to a well-established family development firm, which sits right in our sweet spot for supporting SME housebuilders.

"Alongside the stretch senior leverage, we're also recycling £200,000 of sales proceeds and enabling the developer to defer a portion of the equity contribution into the construction element of the project."

The funding was facilitated by Dave Symondson at Devbrok. □

www.assetzcapital.co.uk/

Five releases

Yale is pleased to announce the successful release of five environmental product declarations (EPDs) for five of its leading domestic window hardware products, Vertex decorative furniture, Defender hinge range, the Expede window bracket, Quartus espag handle, and the Revolution window hinge.

A Yales spokesman says: "Developed and independently verified, the EPDs provide comprehensive, third-party environmental data, representing a significant step forward in Yale's ongoing sustainability journey. They expand upon Yale's existing portfolio of EPDs for commercial window hardware, further underscoring the company's commitment to transparency, responsible manufacturing, and sustainable innovation."

Each EPD delivers in-depth insights into key environmental impacts, including energy

consumption, carbon footprint, emissions, resource use, and waste generation. This transparency empowers architects, specifiers, and procurement professionals to make more informed, sustainability-driven decisions.

Fully compliant with ISO 14025 and EN 15804 standards for construction products, these declarations support green building initiatives and align seamlessly with sustainability frameworks such as LEED and BREEAM. By offering verifiable environmental data, Yale enables its customers to earn certification credits and meet the growing environmental expectations of the construction industry.

Grant Stratford, Yale's senior fenestration technical director – ASSA ABLOY, Residential, says: "With EPDs already in place for our commercial products, these new EPDs position

Yale as a frontrunner in responsible manufacturing and transparent product reporting across the UK window hardware market.

"We will continue to roll out EPDs for all new product launches, helping customers meet modern sustainability expectations

with confidence." □

www.yaledws.co.uk/uk/en

A reflection of strength

Epwin Window Systems says it has strengthened its sustainability credentials after achieving ISO 50001:2018 certification.

ISO 50001:2018 is an internationally recognised standard that provides a structured framework for improving energy performance through the development of an effective energy management system. It enables organisations to continually improve energy efficiency, use and consumption across their operations.

Tom Langford, QHSE manager at Epwin Window Systems, says: “Achieving ISO 50001:2018 certification reflects the strength of our commitment to sustainability throughout every part of our business. It demonstrates our determination to continuously improve how we manage energy and reduce our environmental impact.”

The certification builds on Epwin Window Systems’ comprehensive cradle-to-cradle approach to sustainability and complements the wide range of accreditations and initiatives already in place.

The company holds ISO 14001, the internationally recognised standard for environmental management systems, which provides a framework for the continual improvement of environmental performance. It is also certified to BES 6001: Issue 3.0, demonstrating that its products are manufactured using responsibly sourced constituent materials that can be independently verified.

In addition, Epwin Window Systems claims it was the first UK systems company to achieve the VinylPlus

product label, enabling customers and markets to easily identify high-performance PVC-U products that meet demanding sustainability criteria.

The company’s sustainability commitment is embedded in daily operations, with a zero-to-landfill

policy and on-site waste segregation. All waste is collected by registered carriers for recycling, including bar offcuts that are repurposed into recycled composite material for use in thermal inserts across product ranges.

Epwin also supports a closed-loop system by recycling post-consumer PVC-U windows and doors at its UK facility. End-of-life frames are processed into high-quality recycled compound and used in new products, while the plant’s ISO 14064-1:2018 certification ensures independently verified measurement and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions. □



www.epwinwindowsystems.co.uk

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings has launched Eco+ products, a dedicated portfolio that brings together its most sustainable powder coating solutions from the Interpon and Resicoat portfolios under one clear designation, bringing clarity, confidence and proof to sustainable coating choices. The Eco+ portfolio focuses on powder coatings that deliver measurable sustainability improvements alongside clear performance benefits in defined areas. These products reduce energy use, waste and carbon emissions, extend product lifespan or improve process efficiency, helping customers improve environmental impact while also strengthening operational performance. Products earn Eco+ status based on measurable sustainability performance, assessed against a clear, data-backed set of criteria that verify improvement in one or more of six defined sustainability areas. □

www.interpon.com

Reinventing the retro

Reynaers Aluminium UK has recently secured the St Magnus House low carbon commercial project. Reynaers says this is due to the environmental credentials and design flexibility of its ConceptWall 50 (CW 50) curtain walling system.

The nine-storey St Magnus house, a 1970s Richard Seifert-designed office block on the North Bank of the River Thames, is being reinvented as a contemporary work-place, making the most of its enviable position at the heart of London's iconic landmarks.

A key demand for this retrofit project was to improve the building's environmental credentials in line with modern sustainability standards. The CW 50 curtain walling from Reynaers Aluminium UK was chosen to replace the existing brutalist façade with the low carbon, high performance system to create bright and comfortable

spaces flooded with natural light.

Working with architect Buckley Grey Yeoman (BYG), Mace Construct has chosen long-standing Reynaers' partners Century Facades, which appointed Aluminium and Glass Facades (AGF) to help reinvent St Magnus House for a new generation. As part of the face lift, the building will be renamed as Fresh Wharf.

With practical completion scheduled for mid-2026, the retrofit project will provide a significant new amenity for local residents, workers and visitors with 70,000sq. ft of Grade-A office space, 5,000sq. ft for retail, and a riverside restaurant. The building will also feature a first-floor podium terrace with panoramic views over the Thames, as well as a roof garden for a healthier built environment. □

www.reynaers.co.uk

26th for 2026

Qualicoat UK and Ireland has published the 26th edition of the Qualicoat Specifications, establishing the latest international benchmark for aluminium finishing quality and compliance.

Presented in three volumes, the updated specifications contain essential guidance for organisations seeking to obtain and retain the Qualicoat quality label.

While the specifications apply directly to powder coaters, chemical pretreatment manufacturers and powder manufacturers, Qualicoat is also calling on architects, specifiers, contractors and aluminium systems houses to ensure their supply chains are working to the latest edition. Clear and accurate referencing of *Qualicoat Specifications – 26th Edition* within project documentation is also recommended.

Aluminium finishing plays a critical role in the durability, appearance and long-term performance of architectural aluminium and its alloys. Consistent quality relies on an integrated supply chain, with all parties working to the same, current standard.

"Specifications evolve for a reason; they are active documents," says Qualicoat UK and Ireland, chair, Chris Mansfield. "Referencing outdated information can introduce unnecessary risk, whether that's reduced



Chris Mansfield

coating performance, non-compliance or challenges further down the supply chain. The 26th edition reflects current best practice based on previous experience, new and additional testing regimes and R&D by our technical committee, and provides an up-to-date, internationally recognised benchmark." □

www.qualicoatuki.org

Centre of excellence

Yale Door and Window Solutions' Cheltenham Test Centre has been awarded the FGIA Accredited Component Laboratory Certificate for 2026, for testing to AAMA 904 – maintaining its position as the only FGIA-accredited laboratory to this standard outside the United States.

The AAMA Laboratory Accreditation Programme (AAMA), operated by the Fenestration and Glazing Industry Alliance (FGIA), identifies and accredits highly qualified testing laboratories against AAMA performance standards. The AAMA 904 accreditation covers multi-bar hinges in window applications.

The renewed certification enables Yale to continue supporting the US customer base for its Storm, Sterling, and SAT heavy-duty hinges with a third-party-accredited testing facility. This proves that the hinges meet the most stringent American standards – delivering reliable performance that has been independently verified.

It also further enhances the credibility of ASSA ABLOY in the US fenestration market, underlining investment in world-class testing infrastructure and the company's ongoing commitment to its customers and clients.

Richard Gurmin, director and head of export at Yale DWS, says: "We are extremely proud of our centre of excellence for window products in Cheltenham, which enables us to test door and window hardware to the most



stringent and up-to-date industry standards, providing accurate data on the product's performance as well as offering endurance-testing, static load-testing, and corrosion-testing. □

www.yaledws.co.uk/uk/en

Strength of structure

Woodsafe Research and Development claims to be the only privately-owned laboratory working in fire safety for wood. Woodsafe has announced that it has been accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025 by Swedac. The accreditation means that advanced fire testing and

research-based development can now be offered within an internationally recognised, independent quality framework – outside traditional government and institute-owned laboratories. ISO/IEC 17025 is the international standard for testing and calibration laboratories and includes requirements for methodology, equipment, staff competence and laboratory quality assurance. The accreditation means that WRD now operates within a formal, internationally-accepted framework for laboratory testing, with full traceability and verifiability of results and processes.

"The accreditation is a clear recognition of the technical level and the structure we have methodically built up in our laboratory operations. It strengthens confidence in our test results and confirms our role as a qualified and independent R&D company in wood fire protection," says Patrik Svanerud, deputy CEO of Woodsafe Research and Development.

WRD is based in Västerås, Sweden, and conducts testing of reaction to fire as well as related methods for wood-based materials and fire protection treatments. Its activities are closely linked to the development of European regulations and the application of harmonised and standardised test methods in the construction and wood industries. □

www.woodsafes.com



Woodsafe team stand proud with their renewed certification