

2012 IFD Report

November 29, 2012

The International Federation for the Roofing Trade (IFD) (by the way the “D” in IFD is Dachdecker-handwerks in the German language and translates to “roofing trade”) was initially formed 1952 as the International Union (IUD) for the Roofing Trade. Today, the IFD is the highest body worldwide represented by 24 different countries in the interest of the roofing trade. Membership categories are as follows; “Full Members”, “Guest Members”, “Partner Members”, “Co-operating Partners” and “Scientific Members”

One of the most essential tasks of the IFD is to serve as a permanent link to the associate members. The intended purpose is to study the mutual work problems and thereby transfer new ideas for individual members or the entire organization and to notice and support the mutual professional, business management, technical, social, cultural and other occupational political interest of the members on an international level. An essential goal of the IFD is to increase the quality of the companies in all countries and to exchange information about the way towards this. This includes answers to questions about training, education, public relations and the structure of an association.

The IFD cooperates in international panels and organizations for standardization and scientific research. From this it works out its own IFD-guidelines and recommendations, which can be a base for national documents.

The IFD has the task to study the mutual trade problems and thereby transfer ideas for individual members or the entire organization.

To enable working on these tasks and to reach the set aims, the IFD has four commissions:

- General Commission (Economy, Social, Industrial Training, Organization, Finance and the like)
- Pitched Roof and Wall Cladding Commission
- Waterproofing Commission (Flat Roof and Waterproofing on Structures)
- Scientific and Research Commission

The IFD monitors European guidelines and directives. This means that the IFD represents the interests of roofing enterprises including the interests of the manufacturers who are partner members of the IFD. These partner members are integrated in the general reflections, so that they too have the opportunity to express their interests. The IFD also helps member organizations to implement the directives on the national level in such a way that the roofing trade can continue to work efficiently.

Partner members profit from the experiences of other members who gladly bring in their knowledge of products or system presentations. Partner members can collaborate in the formulation of IFD-Recommendations and Guidelines.

Co-operating Partners are national or regional professional organizations in the roofing trade, which are neither Full nor Guest members and are not part of manufacturing or industry within the roofing trade.



The SRCA is proud to be a “Co-operating Partner” of the IFD

(pictured left to right) Piet Jacobs current President of the IFD, Chuck Wagner SRCA Board Member, Michael Olszewski incoming IFD President, Michelle Howes The Durable Slate Company, Gary Howes SRCA Board Member and John Mahan SRCA Board Member.

The IFD regularly (every two years, on the even years) organizes the International World Championship for Young Roofers. This competition pursues the following goals:

- To encourage the mutual international thoughts within the youth and within the trade.
- To bring the vocational training in the countries of the world in line with each other.
- To show the performances of the roofing trade in the participating countries.
- To make the public aware of the apprenticeship program and performance of the roofing trade.
- To emphasize the benefits of a working apprenticeship and to strengthen respect towards a working occupation in the roofing trade.
- To advertise for the roofing trade.

There are three disciplines featured in the competition; “Roofing”, “Waterproofing” and “Industrial roofing, metal roofing”. The young roofers are judged on the following:

- Precision of execution
- Performance
- Accuracy
- Exploitation of material
- Technical skill
- Understanding of the requested work
- Fitness of purpose

Additionally the IFD introduced a competition last year called “Award of the IFD” for exceptional performance of member companies recognizing and rewarding outstanding standards of workmanship and safety among competent roofing companies. This competition is held every two years (the odd numbered years). The categories represented are as follows:

- Pitched roofing
- Flat roofing
- Metal roofing
- Façade/wall cladding

At this year’s 60th IFD in Lucerne Switzerland there were several days of lectures and symposiums for all to attend that covered many different aspects of roofing, framing, insulation and solar products as well as installation techniques of these products. There were Scientific Committees that meet to discuss in detail the different effects that the elements play on the materials as well as the performance of installation techniques. Case studies as well as lab reports were used to substantiate their findings. The speakers and sub-committee members were made up of a wide range of professionals, such as; roofing contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, professors, consultants, architects etc. from all over Europe. There were several dozen suppliers of materials, equipment and a variety companies with services that support the roofing industry in various ways there as exhibitors. The IFD is a very inclusive organization.



IFD Congress – Pitched roof and Wall Cladding

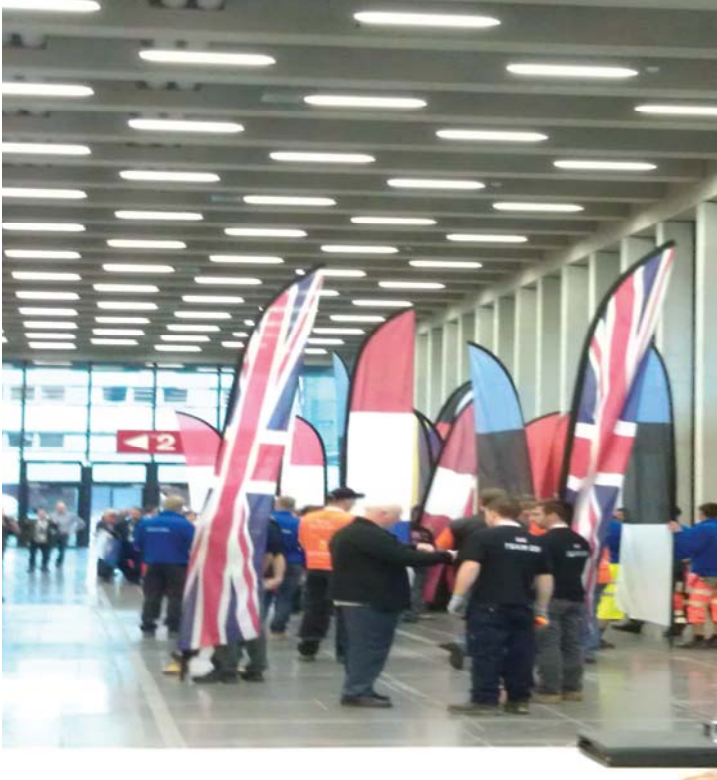


IFD Symposium – Waterproofing



The Scientific Committee

But the spotlight was clearly on The 24th International World Championship for Young Roofers. There were 21 teams that represented 11 different countries from throughout Europe.



The teams gathering for the opening ceremony



The competition floor

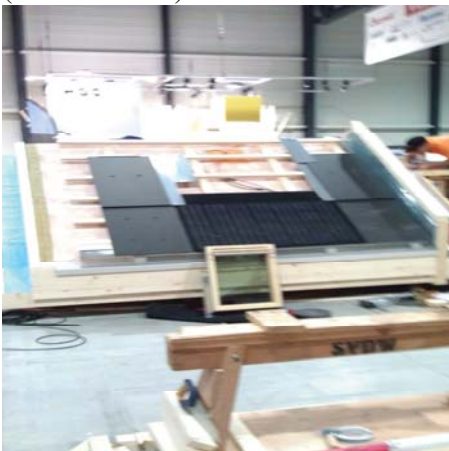


Swiss Team

For the Pitched roofing category the following countries participated; Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Estonia, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland and Romania (Romania will host the next International World Championship for Young Roofers in 2014).

The competition was spread out over three days. The first two days were comprised of the actual Championship competition. Each day was with a different roof material with corresponding specifications that were thoroughly evaluated by three impartial Judges. The third day was judged as a separate freestyle competition using natural slate.

The first day for the pitched roofers was an Eternit roof system with an underlay bonded over a Polyethylene vapor barrier which had to be sealed at the eaves to form an air-tight detail. Thermal insulation laid crosswise between wooden inlays covered by a second underlay with homogeneous bonded laps (hot welded), metal side gutter and eave trims formed and fixed, counter and cross battened with a covering sheets and Solar PV (Photovoltaic) Elements.



In progress shot of the Eternit Roof System



Great Britain's Eternit Roof completed

The second day was a style of roofing called Swiss valley. The roofers installed a taped underlay, timber counter and cross batten, clay beaver tail style tile, Velux skylight, copper eave trim, copper step flashing and cover trim.



Team Netherland



Team Switzerland

The Swiss took first place in the 2012 World Championship and each roofer received a Gold Medal followed by Austria with the Silver Medal and then Germany with the Bronze Medal.



As you can see, the young roofers like to keep their tools organized.

The free style competition was a one day event that challenged the young roofers to think outside the box with their slate design skills as well as installation details.



Team Netherland



Team Austria



Team Germany



Team Slovenia

And the winner is.....

Great Britain!



Winners of the Free style competition

The 2012 IFD wrapped up with a beautiful evening Gala event held at the KKL Culture and Congress Center in Lucerne. The Gala served to announce the winners of the competition and present them their awards as well as to celebrate a very productive and successful Congress. The 61st Annual IFD Conference will be held next year in Rotterdam, Netherlands and will feature many symposiums, congresses and the 2nd ever “Award of the IFD”. So get your premier projects wrapped up so you can submit them at the 2013 IFD and make the USA proud!



Team SRCA



The top three winners of the Industrial roofing, metal roofing category

The host Country sweeps the 24th International World Championship for Young Roofers in Lucerne Switzerland!



Team Switzerland

Pitched Roofing – First Place!

Waterproofing – First Place!

Industrial roofing, metal roofing – First Place!