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Forecasts unchanged for structural steelwork sector

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Sir, UK-based structural steelwork contractors have reassured their clients in the construction sector that the widely reported issues surrounding some parts of UK steelmaking will not affect the structural steelwork sector's delivery of current and future projects ("Manufacturers unfazed by shrinking steel sector", October 26). The UK sector also has the ability to increase output should demand for structural steelwork increase further.

Structural steelwork is already fabricated in the UK from a mix of high quality domestic and imported steel, and the UK has an efficient steel stockholding and distribution sector that services the structural steelwork sector well. UK steel distributors hold high levels of stock and a wide range of products for all construction and infrastructure end uses. UK stockholders are able to increase their supply to meet all current and future demands.

As a result, the British Constructional Steelwork Association's forecasts for growth in the UK structural steelwork sector are unchanged by the current events in steelmaking. The UK fabrication of structural steelwork is expected to grow in volume terms by 5 per cent in 2015 and by 2 per cent in 2016 as it meets the needs of the growing construction and infrastructure sector.

In contrast to steelmaking, the delivery of steel-framed buildings and steel structures is almost wholly done by UK-based steelwork contractors, with a very high 98 per cent of UK structural steelwork demand fabricated in the UK.

The BCSA and the UK constructional steelwork sector strongly support the steelmaking industry's calls for a level playing field for UK steel manufacturing. A UK supply of high quality steel creates a competitive and efficient market, and importantly supports the UK economy and UK jobs.

Sarah McCann-Bartlett

Director General,

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The British Constructional Steelwork Association

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