



## Media Release

### **YOUNG ROOFERS FROM 12 COUNTRIES DISPLAY THEIR SKILLS AT 2010 IFD INTERNATIONAL ROOFING CONGRESS & COMPETITION IN BELFAST**

Some 27 teams of young roofers from 12 countries will be displaying their very special skills in tackling a range of roofing details in a unique competition in Belfast, Northern Ireland, from 17 - 19 November, 2010. Gold, silver and bronze medals are the ultimate goals for the competition participants.

This event is a major part of the important 58th Congress of the International Federation for the Roofing Trade (IFD) that is being hosted in the UK by the National Federation of Roofing Contractors. IFD is the world's most highly regarded organisation representing the roofing trade.

To be held in the King's Hall, Belfast, the competition will also feature an exhibition of some of the very latest roofing materials and products available to the roofing industry, including four 'Roofs of the Future'.

The unique competition will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Championship for Young Roofers and focuses on the skills and training of the young craftsmen and their expertise in working with a spectrum of traditional and new roofing materials and techniques within the industry's international standards.

Gordon Penrose, current IFD President and Northern Ireland roofing contractor, says: "The competition is a very special opportunity for young roofers from different backgrounds, cultures and countries to get together in a full bloodied competition. Most of them don't speak any other language than their own but the common denominator of roofing seems to break down all barriers.

"They all get a real buzz from the competition and bring different solutions to different problems, all within the same roofing discipline. It gives them great confidence in their roofing abilities and the ultimate accolade is winning a gold, silver or bronze medal on the international stage."

Working on specially constructed rigs the teams of young roofers will demonstrate their expertise and skills in pitched roofing, metal roofing and waterproofing. Amongst the materials they will use are natural slate and concrete tiles, lightweight steel metal panels and waterproofing techniques including upstands, internal and external corners, gutters and pipe penetrations.

The young roofers come from Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Estonia, France, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Poland and Russia. The competitions are sponsored by leading manufacturers and suppliers to the roofing industry.

Speakers at the IFD Congress will bring a wide range of international experience and knowledge to the delegates, embracing the new codes and standards, materials, techniques and ideas on sustainability that are all playing a major role at the leading edge of today's roofing industry.

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**Media enquiries:**

Project Director - Debbie Simcock Tel: 020 7448 3186 Email: [debbie@nfrco.co.uk](mailto:debbie@nfrco.co.uk)

Press - Andrew Leech Tel: 020 7448 3853 Email: [andrew@nhic.org.uk](mailto:andrew@nhic.org.uk)

PR & Marketing - Laura Mason Tel: 020 7448 3187 Email: [lauramason@nfrco.co.uk](mailto:lauramason@nfrco.co.uk)

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**Notes to Editor:**

NFRC is the UK's largest roofing trade association representing over 60% of the roofing industry by value. NFRC actively ensures that members offer high standards of workmanship and sound business practice through a strict code of practice and vetting procedure, including site inspections and adhering to the Government endorsed TrustMark standards. NFRC also offers training services, technical advice, and represents member interests to the wider construction industry and Government. For more information please visit [www.nfrc.co.uk](http://www.nfrc.co.uk).

IFD (International Federation for the Roofing Trade) is the most important organisation worldwide representing the Roofing Trade. Manufacturers from around the globe call on its secretariat for information related to market studies and research. In Europe the major co-operating bodies include CEN (European Committee for Standardisation), EOTA (European Organisation for Technical Approvals) NORMAPME (European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium sized Enterprises for Standardisation) and UEAPME (The European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises).