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## Civils 98 attracts high quality visitors

Leading players in the road construction and maintenance market ensured that their industry sector was well represented at Civils 98 at the NEC between 19 and 21 May.

The construction industry's first major exhibition for many years is being heralded a great success by both the event organiser Emap Construct and exhibitors alike. Over 300 separate companies and organisations exhibited at Civils 98 representing all aspects of the construction industry from major projects to materials testing.

Bitumen specialist Nynas attracted considerable interest with its wheel load simulator and

live demonstrations of the power and versatility of the Nynas developed pavement design computer software Noah.

Nynas materials engineer Steve Harris was on hand to demonstrate Noah which, says Harris, attracted a great deal of attention from both asphalt and IT specialists. Nynas marketing communications manager Siobhan McKelvey said attending the exhibition was highly beneficial for Nynas.

"Shows like Civils 98 present an ideal opportunity for Nynas to liaise with the industry and to show people the advances in materials technology that have



Tarmac Quarry Products staff were kept busy on the company's stand

## RBA calls for united transport finance rethink

Funds intended for roads should be both adequate and ringfenced, states the Refined Bitumen Association in a call for reform of transport finance. Britain's roads are deteriorating and a new system of funding should be thought through.

To this end, the RBA is seeking to forge an alliance of likeminded

organisations to lobby for reform. Relevant parties are being approached to discuss the viability of a campaign.

The RBA's concern stems from an awareness that each local authority highways department receives, on average, only half the budget necessary to adequately maintain its roads.



been made for the benefit of our customers."

Tarmac was at Civils 98 with representatives on its stand of the many different businesses which operate under its banner. Representing the company's interests in the UK asphalt market, Tarmac Quarry Products promotions manager Nicholas Iddenden said he was very pleased with Civils 98.

"The quality of visitors here has been extremely high in terms of influential potential customers. The show has not been attended by the usual crowds of brochure hunters, meaning we have had space and time on our stand to deal with serious inquiries."

"If it is left to me we will certainly attend Civils 2000, the next event. Our exhibiting here has been

This has led to some authorities spending as much as a third of their budgets on reactive maintenance. Roads are not being resurfaced until they are several times over the limit required to maintain skid resistance, the association claims.

The association has firm ideas on the workings of a new system of road funding, although it is wedded only to the policy of ringfencing and not to specific methods of implementation. It believes a strategic alliance of organisations with experience and expertise could cooperate to



*Nynas' NOAH software package attracted keen attention at Civils 98*

highly beneficial," said Iddenden.

Stand 855 at Civils 98 was unique in that it was the only one occupied by a project team. Representatives from the M6 Joint Venture design, build, finance and operate project were at Civils 98 to promote the DBFO construction procurement method said Amey Construction operations director Bob Clapperton.

"The M6 DBFO is a shining example of how through partnering and sharing of common goals, difficult construction projects can be carried out successfully and with greater profit margins for the partners in the project to share."

produce a solution for proposal to the Department of Environment, Transport & the Regions.

The RBA's policy being put forward for discussion is that Government tax on vehicle fuel should be separated into two elements, general tax and "road charge". All revenue raised for the road charge and road fund licence would go directly to roads.

A Roads Regulator would ensure fair distribution of road funds between national and local services and regulate the road charge according to set minimum standards.

#### **Modern Asphalts**