www.Global Gypsum.com

Contents Subscribe Ad Index

MAY 2026

global gypsum™ MAGAZINE
& Light Building Materials

Rethink Your Gypsum Milling Efficiency

Fine Gypsum. Simple Process.

Consistent <100 µm fineness—without screens, without classifiers, without compromise.

When milling becomes the bottleneck in gypsum production, efficiency losses, energy waste, and inconsistent product quality quickly add up.
Grenzebach's Whirlwind Mill—a screenless, high-speed impact mill—eliminates these challenges with a compact design and outstanding process performance.
The result: consistently uniform powder in the <100 µm range, often eliminating the need for downstream classification, depending on material properties and process conditions.

Key Advantages

- No classifier required
- Specifically optimized for gypsum applications
- Suitable for materials up to Mohs hardness 3.5
- Consistent and narrow particle size distribution (PSD)
- Compact footprint
- Fully removable mill cover for fast and easy replacement of grinding tools, ensuring high availability

Technical Highlights

- Throughput: 50–35,000 kg/h
- Feed size: ~25–30 mm
- Design: screenless high-speed impact mill
- Adjustment: rotor clearance adjustable from 0.6–5 mm (depending on mill size, airflow, and speed)
- Mill sizes & installed power: 200 mm (11–18 kW), 400 mm (30–55 kW), 800 mm (75–110 kW), 1,200 mm (110–200 kW), 1,600 mm (250–415 kW), 2,000 mm (>500 kW)

Grinding tests with your specific material can be carried out in our technology center.
Upgrade your gypsum milling performance—contact Grenzebach to learn more.

www.grenzebach.com

Grenzebach BSH GmbH
36251 Bad Hersfeld
Germany

Grenzebach Corporation
30265 Newnan, Georgia
USA

GypLabo UG is a German company that sells GypLabo calorimetric testing systems. There are three variants:

GypLabo A for R&D and for slowly reacting slurries, like flooring screeds or cementitious products. The focus is laid on the kinetics of the reaction.

Gyplabo B is specialised for the requirements of plasterboard plants, harsh conditions and fast results. Focus lies on the very first moments after the mixer and progress of setting on the way to the knife and dryer. Several of these combined together (on the same program) allow the adjustment of the setting of different layers.

Gyplabo C is for testing plasters in laboratories of plaster plants. This variant also provides a phase analysis.

Each system is a network that can communicate with other networks.

Gyplabo has been developed by Jörg Bold (bold-technoconsult), a veteran of the gypsum industry.

Address: Ohlkasterhohl 2 • D-67657 Kaiserslautern • Germany
Tel: +49 176 6119 5559
Email: info@gyplabo.com
jb@bold-technoconsult.com

global gypsum MAGAZINE
& Light Building Materials

www.globalgypsum.com
Exclusive Official Magazine for

Global Gypsum Conference
Global Insulation Conference

Dear readers,

Welcome to the May 2026 issue of *Global Gypsum Magazine* - the world's leading gypsum, insulation and light building materials resource. This issue contains all of the sector's news, including how the sector is being affected by the Iran War - more of which on Page 32. Also in this issue is news of expansion of Trevo Drywall's wallboard plant in Brazil and UK-based Adaptavate's first steps into the Asian construction sector. Along these themes is our detailed look at the UK gypsum sector, one of the few European markets where wallboard capacity is on the rise. Turn to Page 12 for more.

Elsewhere, this issue contains a look at how dew point measurement can be used as a highly-accurate measurement system to control wallboard dryer parameters, which is an increasingly important consideration in light of the effect of the Iran War on fossil fuel prices (Page 10). There's also information about ScrapeTec and Kinder's new partnership in Western Australia, one of the toughest proving grounds for industrial conveying systems (Page 18).

Enjoy the issue!

PKEdwards

Peter Edwards
Editor

MIX Supporting responsible forestry FSC® C013417
www.fsc.org

Printed on Forest Stewardship Paper (FSC®) certified papers by Pensord, a company with ISO 14001:2015 environmental certification.

ISSN: 1463-9661
Published by Pro Global Media Ltd
Octagon House, 20 Hook Road,
Epsom, Surrey, UK KT19 8TR
Tel: +44 (0)1372 743837

GYPSUM

7 News

10 Lower emissions for Saint-Gobain's wallboard

Engineers at Saint-Gobain in France have worked closely with Vaisala to develop monitoring solutions that help optimise wallboard quality, improve efficiency, save energy and improve sustainability.

12 Gypsum in the UK

Global Gypsum looks at the expanding wallboard sector of the United Kingdom.

18 Conveyors in Western Australia

ScrapeTec and Kinder have joined forces for cleaner, safer and more profitable belt operations.

LIGHT BUILDING MATERIALS

26 News

INSULATION

28 News

REGULARS

32 Subscription form

33 The Last Word

34 Advertiser Index

PlastRetard®

The Multifunctional Additive

Time-conscious solutions for sustainable living

Made in Italy

SICIT

GYPSUM: DIARY DATES

24th Global Gypsum Conference
14-15 October 2026 • Istanbul, Türkiye
www.GlobalGypsum.com

The annual *Global Gypsum Conference* is well-known around the world as the largest meeting of gypsum professionals and as the industry's must-attend event.

19th Global Insulation Conference
11-12 November 2026 • Dublin, Ireland
www.GlobalInsulation.com

The *Global Insulation Conference* examines insulation market trends, technological developments in insulation, and insulation production advances.

US: GMS buys Frontier Drywall

Gypsum wallboard distributor GMS has acquired the assets of Colorado-based building products distributor Frontier Drywall Supply. Local press has reported that Frontier Drywall Supply operates despatch facilities in Colorado Springs, Denver and Fort Collins. It will continue to operate under its existing branding as part of GMS' Pioneer Materials West distribution unit.

GMS has completed more than 50 acquisitions since 2014 and was itself acquired by retail group Home Depot for US$5.5bn in 2025.

France/Finland: Vaisala and Saint-Gobain develop dryer sensors

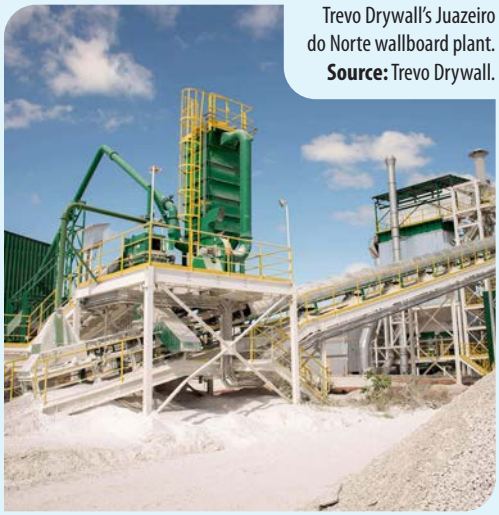
Saint-Gobain has collaborated with Finland-based measurement equipment supplier Vaisala to develop dew point monitoring solutions that reduce the energy used in drying gypsum wallboard. Saint-Gobain drying process team leader Jérôme Cantonnet said "We tried a number of different humidity and temperature sensor suppliers in the early days and found their products to be insufficiently accurate."

Read more on Page 10.

Brazil: Trevo Drywall to expand wallboard plant

Trevo Drywall plans to more than double the capacity of its Juazeiro do Norte gypsum wallboard plant to 50Mm²/yr by 2031. The producer is automating and expanding the plant's existing line up to 20Mm²/yr, scheduled for commissioning later in April 2026. At the same time, it has begun project development for a second, 30Mm²/yr line on adjoining land.

CEO Wilson Soares said "The dry construction market continues to grow steadily, and demand for quality, certified products is rising accordingly. Our decision to expand capacity reflects both our confidence in the sector and Trevo's commitment to leading the advance of industrialised construction in Brazil."



Trevo Drywall's Juazeiro do Norte wallboard plant. **Source:** Trevo Drywall.

Belgium: Etex presents strong 2025 results

Etex has announced that it delivered a strong 2025 performance with stable revenues and slightly improved recurring earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (REBITDA) and profitability, showing resilience in a global construction market still marked by significant challenges. Its revenue for the year was €3.75bn, a decrease of 0.8% in absolute value compared to 2024, particularly impacted by foreign currency conversions to the Euro. Like-for-like, corrected for exchange rate, the revenue represents an increase of 1.7%. Despite volumes remaining low, Etex's REBITDA was €698m, an increase of 0.4% in absolute value. Like-for-like, corrected for exchange rate, it represents an increase of 4.8%. The group's net profit attributable to its shares was €237m, a 42.9% year-on-year increase from €166m in 2024.

Etex also announced that it made significant progress on sustainability, particularly in decarbonisation, recycling and waste sent to landfill, with landfill volumes falling by 6.1% year-on-year. 13.5% of the materials used were from non-virgin sources, with a target of 20% by 2030.

For 2026, Etex is cautiously optimistic regarding the construction sector's possible return to what it called 'satisfactory sales levels' albeit in an environment that will retain economic and political uncertainty. Nevertheless, the company aims for the year to show an acceleration of its growth trajectory, backed by further efficiency gains, commercial excellence initiatives and growth opportunities.

US: Wallboard recycling plant allowed to continue

The Madison County Board of Zoning Appeals in in Indiana has approved a special use for Roy's Recycling to continue to operate its gypsum wallboard recycling plant. Local press has reported that the special use is subject to a ban on new wallboard intake and the continued processing of current inventory of 30,000t at 5000t/yr.

The plant had reportedly stored material outdoors in violation of its previous special use permit, leading to dust and water complaints from local residents.

Asia: Adaptavate to launch novel wallboard products

UK-based alternative building products developer Adaptavate plans to launch its Breathaboard and Carbonboard wallboards and Breathaplast plaster across markets in Asia. The GEAR: Kajima Lab for Global Engineering, Architecture & Real Estate will collaborate on the launch, including hosting Adaptavate's first Asian demonstration at its Singapore HQ.

Adaptavate has confirmed an upcoming project in Asia with a 'multinational partner,' and is currently exploring potential production and supply-chain partnerships to deploy its technologies at scale.

CEO Tom Robinson said that the Singapore installation "shows how Adaptavate's products can integrate into Asian construction systems today - without disruption - while delivering healthier, lower-carbon buildings."

Canada: CGC's Little Narrows gypsum quarry to resume operations

CGC says that it is progressing a US$75.7m revitalisation of its 2Mt/yr Little Narrows gypsum quarry in Victoria County, Nova Scotia. New infrastructure includes a 183m-long dock for vessels of up to 35,000t capacity, a ship loader, a crusher and conveyor systems. CGC is increasing the site's staff by 43%, up to 100 people. Local press has reported that mining is due to resume and gypsum shipping to begin later in 2026. The mine will supply natural gypsum for CGC's plants across North America.

General manager Erik Hinze said "We are entering a transformative year for the Little Narrows quarry. Beyond the construction of world-class sustainable mining operation and modern site infrastructure, we are focused on building a team that reflects the talent and values of Cape Breton. This revitalisation project is about creating a safe, sustainable operation that will support the local economy and the Canadian building industry for the next generation."

Breathaboard. **Source:** Adaptavate.

US: New CEO for USG Corporation

USG has appointed Christopher Macey as its new President and CEO. Macey takes on responsibility for delivering USG's strategic growth roadmap, maintaining its momentum with a focus on operational performance and customer delivery in line with its business plan.

Macey served as USG's Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President from September 2025, and was previously President (Gypsum), President (Canada) and, before that, President (Ceilings). Macey's background encompasses sales and business leadership roles in USG and Owens Corning. He completed an Advanced Management Program at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in Philadelphia, US, and an Executive Master of Business Administration degree (EMBA) degree from Ivey Business School at Western University in London, Canada. Macey also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Western University. USG said that Macey's appointment will help to ensure continuity in strategy and execution as the company approaches its 125th anniversary.

India: Appointment at Knauf India

Knauf India has appointed Pallavi Poddar as Chief Human Resources Officer. In the role, Poddar will focus on organisational capability, people practices and high-performance culture, in line with Knauf's global standards.

Poddar previously served as Chief Human Resources Officer at Fenesta Windows and held managerial positions at Ingersoll Rand, Schneider Electric and Nestlé.

Graham Mellor, for Vaisala

LOWER EMISSIONS FOR SAINT-GOBAIN'S WALLBOARD

The manufacture of wallboard relies heavily on precise moisture control, so accurate temperature and humidity measurements during the drying process are essential. However, process conditions often change significantly within a short period of time, which can be challenging for many sensors on the market. Looking for ways to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of its process, engineers at Saint-Gobain in France have worked closely with Vaisala to develop monitoring solutions that help optimise wallboard quality, improve efficiency, save energy and improve sustainability.

Saint-Gobain is the global leader in light and sustainable construction, with around 161,000 employees and over 1100 manufacturing facilities. As a signatory to numerous global sustainability initiatives, it has committed to reach net-zero CO_2 emissions by no later than 2050 as part of its core purpose to 'Make the World a Better Home.'

The company's journey with gypsum brands began with the acquisition of British Plaster Board in 2005. Today, it is keenly focused on the improvement of wallboard manufacturing, both with respect to product quality and lowering its CO_2 footprint.

Saint-Gobain wallboard dryer with Vaisala DMP6 dew point sensor.

The measurement challenge

Saint-Gobain is able to control three parameters in its wallboard dryers: temperature, air flow rate and air humidity. However, to be able to control these accurately, it needs accurate measurements regarding the air inside the dryers.

The whole wallboard production process can take less than one hour, during which the product can be exposed to temperatures as high as 300°C, depending on the process. The moisture content of the air varies considerably during the process. "These conditions present a significant challenge for sensors," explains Jérôme Cantonnet, Drying Process Team Leader at Saint-Gobain. "We tried a number of different humidity and temperature sensor suppliers in the early days and found their products to be insufficiently accurate."

Saint-Gobain was one of the pioneers of dew point measurement in wallboard drying. It chose dew point sensors because they provide an absolute measure of moisture in the air. Unlike humidity, this does not change with temperature. Crucially, there are no dew point sensors on the market that can survive high temperatures up to 350°C, other than those made by Vaisala. Saint-Gobain therefore established a relationship with Vaisala in 2010, working in partnership to adapt its dew point sensors for the specific requirements of its wallboard plants.

For Saint-Gobain, it is critically important to be able to assess how reliable measurements are by accessing and monitoring sensor diagnostic data. Vaisala therefore developed a bespoke configuration for its DMP6 dew point, temperature and humidity probe to output these parameters. Typically, a wallboard factory needs four DMP6 probes – three to continuously monitor the dryer and a fourth for calibration and as a spare.

Advantages of Vaisala's dew point sensors

The Vaisala DMP6 overcomes many of the problems exhibited by the early trials with humidity sensors from alternative suppliers. This is primarily because of Vaisala's DRYCAP® technology. DRYCAP combines a capacitive thin-film polymer sensor with an auto-calibration function. The sensor's thin-film polymer adsorbs or releases water vapour as the surrounding humidity increases or decreases. This causes a change in capacitance, which is converted into a humidity reading. The capacitive polymer sensor is bonded together with a temperature sensor, and dew point is calculated from the humidity and temperature readings combined.

The advantages of DRYCAP sensors are condensation resistance, due to the materials in the sensor, and an additional warming function which speeds up sensor drying in a condensing environment. DRYCAP also provides immunity to contamination from particulates, oil vapour and most chemicals. If the sensor does get wet, it dries rapidly and recovers its rapid response time. In low-humidity conditions, the sensor will auto-calibrate to ensure accurate, reliable, stable measurements.

"Vaisala's DMP6 proved to be a very effective solution," explains Cantonnet. "It is able to maintain accuracy across a wide temperature range, with limited drift and a very low maintenance requirement. It measures directly inside the oven, so no sample line is necessary, and the response time is very quick."

Energy efficiency is the major driver for a high level of accuracy in the measurement of moisture inside the dryer. For example, Jérôme says: "A small drop in dew point accuracy, say ±2°C, could result in a loss of energy efficiency of up to 10%. This is hugely significant when you consider that our Paris facility has a power consumption of more than 30MW."

Dryers at wallboard plants are generally powered by natural gas with electric fans. The implementation of accurate monitoring and control means that the dryers do not have to be run at full capacity, and instead can be managed to optimise energy efficiency. In addition, in line with its decarbonisation goals, Saint-Gobain has already fully electrified two of its plants.

Looking forward

The long-term partnership between Vaisala and Saint-Gobain has resulted in a measurement solution to meet the specific needs of wallboard manufacturing. This has been deployed in Saint-Gobain by applying good practice in the utilisation of sensors and in the promotion of the energy efficiency objective across the group's global facilities. "This is a good example of the ways in which we continuously search for solutions to environmental challenges," concludes Cantonnet.

Vaisala's Juhani Lehto says "We are delighted to have established this relationship with Saint-Gobain. Not just because it has enabled us to further develop our products, but also because Saint-Gobain and Vaisala share common sustainability objectives. Our core purpose is defined as 'Taking Every Measure for the Planet' so it is great to be able to play a role in helping Saint-Gobain on its path to CO_2 neutrality."

Jacob Winskell, Global Gypsum Magazine

GYPSUM IN THE UK

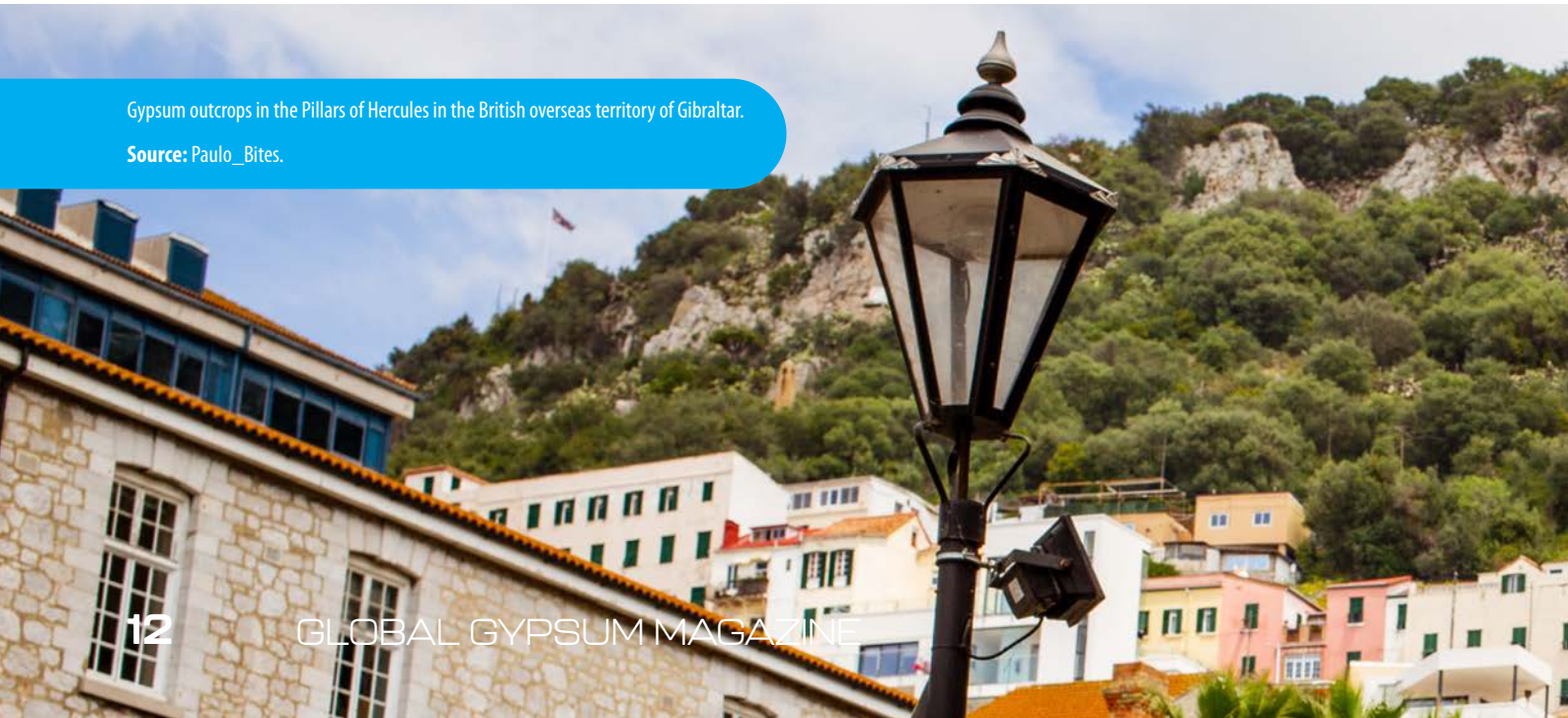
The UK gypsum wallboard market is characterised by massive pent-up demand, amidst a long-term, 'chronic' housing shortage – but little clear sense of how the country can deliver on it.

The UK is a modern kingdom comprising parts of three former kingdoms – England, Ireland and Scotland – bound through two successive acts of union. First, Queen Anne's dual crowns of England and Scotland merged into Great Britain (including Wales as an English principality) in 1707. The merged entity merged again with its subjugated territory of Ireland to form this United Kingdom in 1801. Upon the founding of the Irish Free State in 1922, Northern Ireland remained and Ireland was partitioned, resulting in the UK's only land border with the republican EU member state to the south.

The UK inherited the governance structures of England, along with its capital city of London (population: 9.4m). Today, the UK is a parliamentary democracy, with the 'Crown in Parliament' enacting all laws and ministerial appointments based on the 'recommendations' of elected officials. Recent governments have recognised and devolved powers to assemblies in the constituent administrative regions of the UK (established in 1999) and London (2000), as well as to individual 'combined authorities' in Manchester and Liverpool (in North West England, established 2011 and 2014 respectively), South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire (Yorkshire & the Humber, both 2014), Tees Valley (North East, 2016) and the West Midlands (2016), East Midlands (2024) and North East (2024). The same spirit of self-determination has previously 'nailed its colours to the mast' of a more nebulous 'UK' identity, when the government held, then campaigned against and lost, a vote over withdrawal from the EU in 2016.

The UK's 75% services-based economy has thus faced the crises of the 2020s in comparative isolation. It responded with a realignment in its international relations, including new commercial and strategic agreements with Commonwealth countries, Japan and the US. Following the US' attack on Iran on 28 February 2026, the UK allowed bombing runs against Iranian missile sites out of its domestic and overseas bases. On 20 March 2026, the government announced that it would begin to allow President Trump to strike any 'Iranian sites targeting shipping through the Strait of Hormuz' from UK bases.

The International Monetary Fund labelled the UK the worst-hit major economy by the Iran War in a forecast on 14 April 2026, revising its anticipated full-year growth from 1.3% to 0.8% year-on-year. Growth hit a two-year high of 0.5% month-on-month in February 2026.



Gypsum outcrops in the Pillars of Hercules in the British overseas territory of Gibraltar.

Source: Paulo_Bites.

UK

Wallboard capacity:[1] 504Mm²/yr

Population:[2] 69.2m (+1%)

Capacity per capita: 7.28m²/yr

GDP: €3.14tn (+8%)

Gypsum supply

Natural gypsum

The geological age of the UK increases (in roughly inverse proportion to population density) from south east to north west. East and South East England share the same Cretaceous and younger chalks and clays as Belgium and northern France; meanwhile, Northern Ireland and Scotland sit on Precambrian gneiss, granite and volcanics. In between, Mesozoic and Permian formations of sedimentary rock extend along most of the length of England, as shown in Figure 1 (overleaf). These formed under tropical seas, beginning in the salt pans of the Pangaean desert, which gave rise to gypsiferous limestone, mudstone and sandstone over 252 million years ago (dark blue in Figure 1). The deposits are of historical commercial importance and today supply gypsum for wallboard production via the Birkshead mine in Eden Valley, North West England.

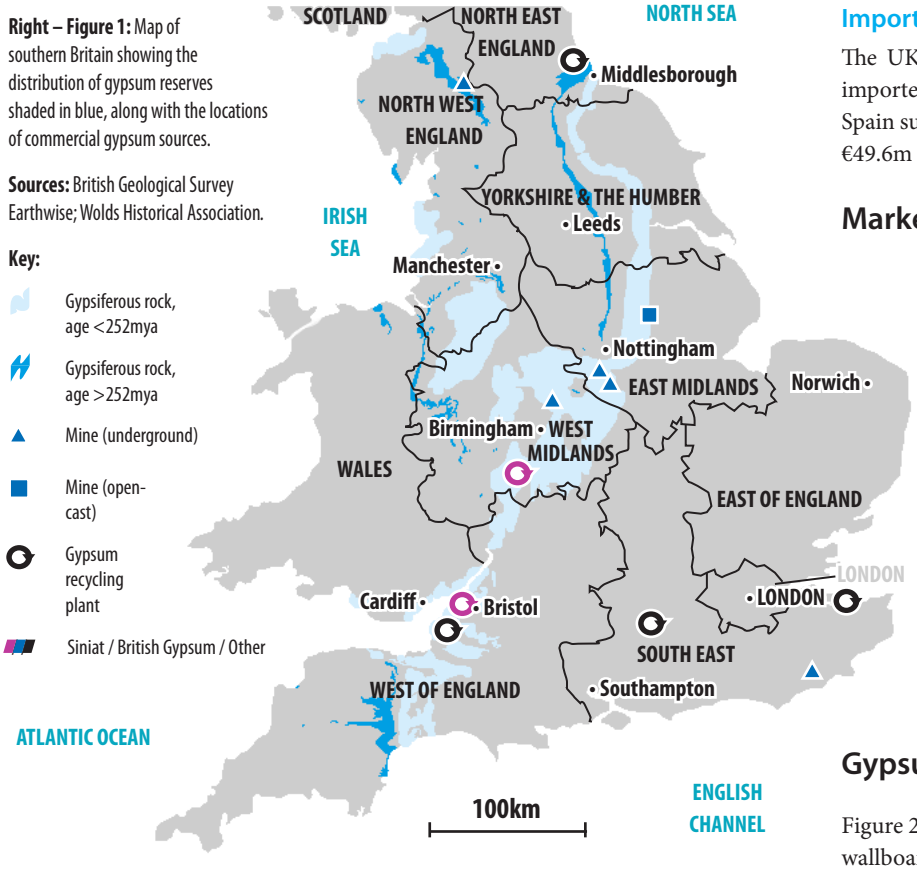
The same stones continued to be laid down (on top of a layer of coal from the Great Dying that marked the start of the Mesozoic) as England's landmass drifted further into the northern hemisphere. These younger deposits are coloured light blue in Figure 1, and today have their commercial centre in a 100km stretch of the valley of the River Trent in the English Midlands. Excavations include the four largest mines in Table 1 (below).

A further mine penetrates the deposits through the Early Cretaceous clays and sands of the East Sussex Weald in Brightling in South East England. The combined capacity of the above mines, 2.15Mt/yr, is 42% below historical peak UK production of 3.7Mt/yr during the 1980s.

Below – Table 1: UK gypsum mines by production capacity.

Source: British Gypsum.

	Mine, County	Region	Capacity (t/yr)	Estimated reserves (Mt)	Applications
1	Barrow-upon-Soar, Leicestershire	East Midlands	900,000	18.5	Gypsum wallboard, plaster
2	Bantycock, Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	300,000	8	Plaster, export
3	Fauld, Staffordshire	West Midlands	300,000	18.5	Gypsum wallboard, cement
4	Marblaegis, Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	250,000	18.5	Gypsum wallboard
5	Birkshead, Cumbria	North West England	250,000	6	Gypsum wallboard, plaster
6	Brightling, East Sussex	South East England	150,000	15	Gypsum wallboard
	TOTAL		**2,150,000**	**47.5**	**Various**



Right – Figure 1: Map of southern Britain showing the distribution of gypsum reserves shaded in blue, along with the locations of commercial gypsum sources.

Sources: British Geological Survey Earthwise; Wolds Historical Association.

Gypsum recycling

The UK processes gypsum from used gypsum wallboards at multiple recycling plants, including at Siniat's Portbury gypsum wallboard plant in the West of England. The plant produced 45% recycled wallboard in 2025. At British Gypsum's East Leake gypsum wallboard plant and headquarters in the East Midlands, excess materials are reintroduced into the production process or transported offsite for recycling. The producer launched its Gyproc SoundBloc Infinaé 100, a fully recycled gypsum wallboard, in January 2025. The company offers a collection service for used wallboard, as well as for used adhesives and fillers.

Imports

The UK is a net importer of gypsum. In 2024, it imported €55.3m, down by 34% year-on-year.[3] Spain supplied €24.5m (44%), contributing to a total €49.6m (90%).

Market

The UK government is committed to building 1.5m new homes between 2024 and 2029. In the 2025 financial year (ended 1 April 2025), new completions were 208,600 housing units. This represents a 6% year-on-year decline and is 18% below the required rate for the five years up to 2029.

For a fifth consecutive year, the value of UK construction grew in 2025, up by 1.8% year-on-year. Drivers included the data centres segment and public non-residential construction, backed by health and education initiatives.

Gypsum wallboard production

Figure 2 (overleaf) maps the distribution of gypsum wallboard plants in England, as broken down by subnational unit in Table 2 (below).

	Region	Plants	Capacity (Mm^2/yr)
1	Yorks. & the Humber	3	140
2	West of England	1	100
3	South East England	2	80
4	East Midlands	1	74
5	North West England	1	60
6	Wales	1	50
	TOTAL	**9**	**504**

A covered conveyor connecting British Gypsum's Brightling mine to its Robertsbridge plant in South East England, UK.

Source: British Gypsum.

Producers

British Gypsum
SAINT-GOBAIN

British Gypsum

Headquarters (HQ): East Leake, Nottinghamshire, East Midlands

Gypsum wallboard plants: 4

Capacity: 206Mm^2/yr (41%)

Owner: Saint-Gobain

HQ: Paris, France

Other UK brands: Chryso, GCP Applied Technologies, Gyproc, Okarno, Weber

British Gypsum's wallboard plants range in location over a 500km length of England, from the south coast (Robertsbridge, East Sussex) to the Scottish border (Kirkby Thore, Cumbria). They range in capacity from 32Mm^2/yr at Robertsbridge to 74Mm^2/yr at the lynchpin East Leake plant in Nottinghamshire, a natural centre of gravity for the company's production footprint.

Bottom – Figure 2: Map of UK gypsum wallboard plants. Subnational units are shaded by total capacity.

Key:

BRITISH GYPSUM • 206Mm²/yr
1. East Leake, East Midlands, 74Mm²/yr
2. Kirkby Thore, North West England, 60Mm²/yr
3. Sherburn-in-Elmet, Yorks. & the Humber, 40Mm²/yr
4. Robertsbridge, South East England, 32Mm²/yr

SINIAT • 150Mm²/yr
5. Bristol, West of England, 100Mm²/yr
6. Ferrybridge, Yorkshire & the Humber, 50Mm²/yr

KNAUF • 148Mm²/yr
7. Immingham, Yorkshire & the Humber, 50Mm²/yr
8. Sittingbourne, South East England, 48Mm²/yr
9. Newport, Wales, 50Mm²/yr

Siniat

HQ: Portbury, Bristol, West of England

Gypsum wallboard plants: 2

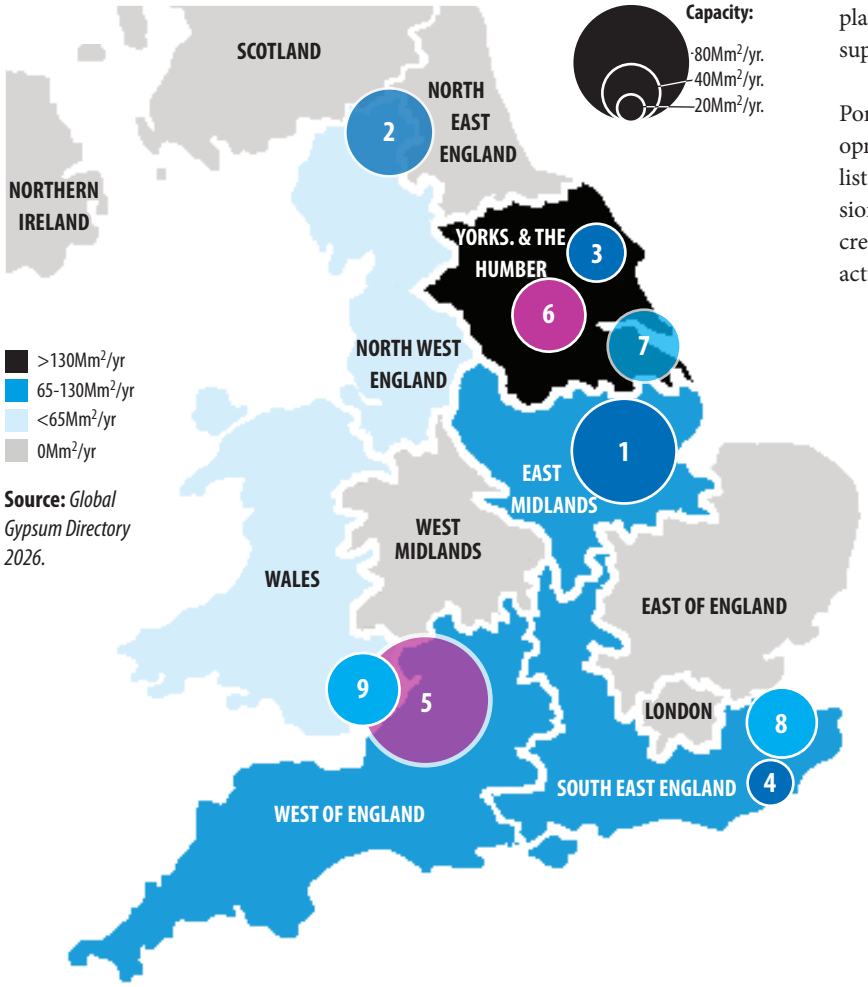
Capacity: 150Mm²/yr (30%)

Owner: Etex

HQ: Zavantem, Belgium

Other UK brands: Cedral, EquiTone, Eternit, FSi Promat, Remagin, SuperGlass, URSA

Siniat doubled the capacity of its Portbury plant (#5 in Figure 2, below) at the site of its headquarters in Portbury on 17 March 2025, following an investment of €200m.



Source: *Global Gypsum Directory 2026.*

Knauf

HQ: Sittingbourne, Kent, South East England

Gypsum wallboard plants: 3

Capacity: 148Mm²/yr (29%)

Owner: Knauf

HQ: Iphofen, Germany

Knauf's triangle of medium-sized plants occupy strategic locations on the UK's Bristol Channel (Newport), Humber Estuary (Immingham) and Thames Estuary (Sittingbourne). Even though the cooling towers of the UK's coal-fired power plants ceased billowing in September 2024, the wallboard plant's locations provide ample access to gypsum supplies – whatever source they should choose.

Knauf bought its 50Mm²/yr Newport plant from Portugal-based Gypfor while it was still under development in 2022. The *Global Gypsum Directory 2026* lists the plant as fully built, however no commissioning has yet to make the *Global Gypsum News*, creating a modicum of uncertainty around the actual status of the plant.

Conclusion

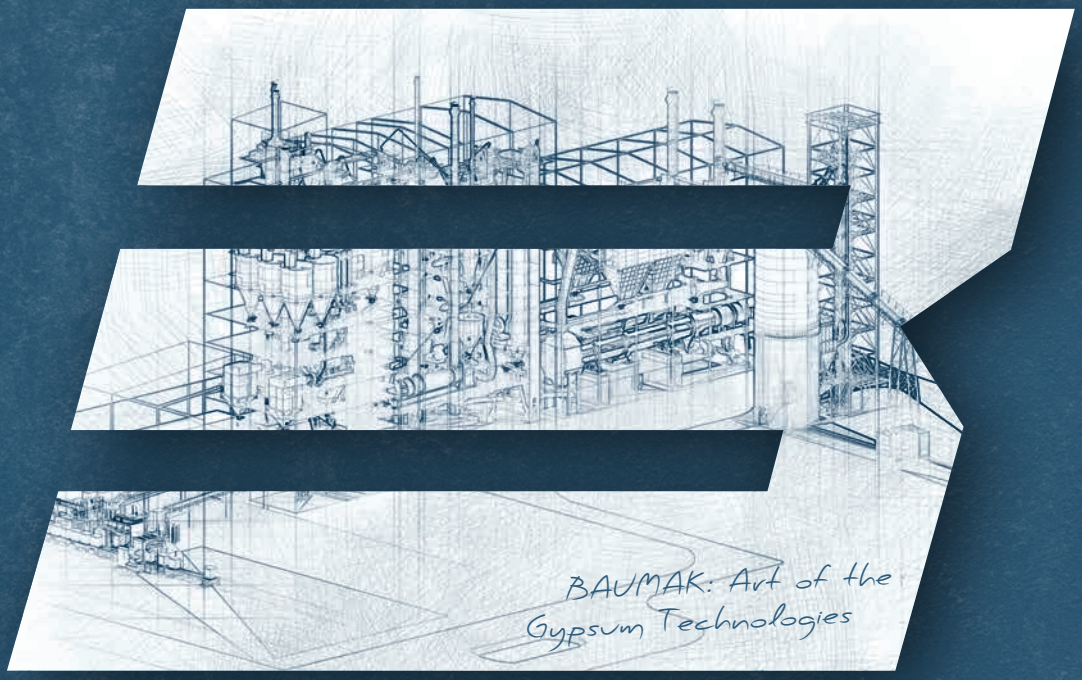
Recent major investments by two UK gypsum wallboard players signal a readiness to convert pent-up market potential into sales. On the other hand, the demand pipeline contains a veritable 'fatberg' of blockages, from flagging homebuilding to low business confidence and a possible energy shock.

References

1. *Global Gypsum*, *Global Gypsum Directory 2026*, 2 March 2026, www.globalgypsum.com/directory

2. World Bank Group Data, 'Population, total - United Kingdom,' August 2024, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=GB

3. Observatory of Economic Complexity 'Gypsum in United Kingdom,' July 2025, https://oec.world/en/profile/bilateral-product/gypsum/reporter/gbr?selector2787id=trade_i_baci_a_22&selector1151id=2024



ENGINEERING | MANUFACTURING | AUTOMATION | INSTALLATION | COMMISSIONING | AFTERSALES

+90 312 219 13 50
info@baumak.com.tr

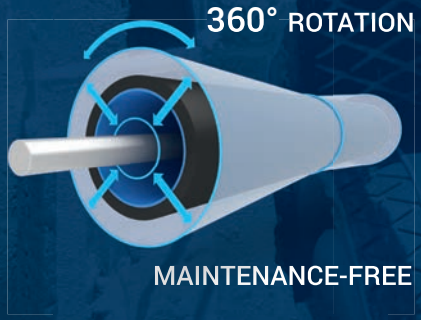
Head Office: Söğütözü, Nergiz Sk. No: 7 06560 Yenimahalle/Ankara
Workshop: Malıköy Anadolu OSB, 12. Cadde No:25 Temelli Sincan/Ankara

BAUMAK
www.baumak.com.tr

ST SCRAPETEC

THE CONVEYOR BELT TRACKING ASSISTANT

with groundbreaking technology that sets new standards in belt guidance.



+49 2842 932 92 94
info@scrapetec.com

PRIMETRACKER

360° ROTATION

- Maintenance free axle bearing
- Unique 360 Degree pivot axle bearing
- Reacts already at slightest belt misalignments
- Works perfectly with reversible belts

GET ALL INFOS
scrapetec.com

ST SCRAPETEC

Thorsten Koth, ScrapeTec International

CONVEYORS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ScrapeTec and Kinder have joined forces for cleaner, safer and more profitable belt operations.

Western Australia represents industrial scale like few other regions. In the iron ore districts of the Pilbara, as well as in gold and lithium operations and port and handling facilities, conveyor systems run around the clock- across kilometre-long routes, in harsh climatic conditions, and at very high throughputs. At this magnitude, conveyor performance is no longer only about productivity - it is increasingly about compliance, safety, and the industry's social licence to operate.

Operator requirements have shifted noticeably in recent years. In addition to availability and tonnage, factors like occupational safety, environmental regulations, dust management, emissions reduction, and sustainable plant operation have moved centre stage. This is precisely where a new distribution partnership targets the Australian market for sealing systems and dust control in conveying: ScrapeTec in Germany and the Kinder Group in Australia.

Under the partnership, Kinder assumes distribution of ScrapeTec sealing systems and technologies in the Australian market. In practice, this brings a specialised European portfolio into Western Australia's major mining and conveying regions through an established local provider - with a clear intent: to help operators measurably improve efficiency, reduce emissions and minimise maintenance.

ScrapeTec and Kinder have formed a new strategic partnership.

A clear value proposition

The starting point is typical for modern mining ecosystems: operators need solutions that are robust, scalable and seamlessly integrated into local operations and maintenance processes. ScrapeTec contributes deep technology expertise focused on conveyor sealing and material-flow optimisation. Kinder contributes market knowledge, proximity to sites, service capability, and direct access to operators, EPCs, and maintenance organisations.

This division of roles is more than a sales model, it is an operational enablement approach. ScrapeTec delivers patented core technology; Kinder ensures that design, implementation, spare parts availability, and

Passionate about PLASTERBOARD

Product Quality • Flexibility • Customer Service

Over the last 10 years PRG has become the UK's leading plasterboard recycler with over 300,000 tonnes of waste recycled annually into quality gypsum products for our plasterboard manufacturing customers.

Plasterboard Recycling Group is looking to build partnerships across Europe with both manufacturers and waste management companies .

Call us now on +44 1325 730168 or email info@prg.uk.com

PLASTERBOARD
RECYCLING GROUP

operational adoption work in the Australian context. For operators, this reduces common risks when introducing new solutions, which typically include long supply chains, limited local support, differing standards and unclear accountability. With Kinder as the distribution partner, ScrapeTec products in Australia are not merely 'imported,' they are embedded into the existing market.

Conveyor sealing and dust control are strategic in Western Australia

In Western Australia, conveyors are not just transport equipment; they are critical production arteries. If any uncontrolled material escapes along the route - whether via spillage, carryback, or dust emissions - it has direct economic and safety consequences:

- **Occupational safety:** Material build-up creates slip and trip hazards, complicates inspections, increases combustible loads and leads to additional manual cleaning in potentially hazardous areas;
- **Compliance:** Dust emissions are increasingly monitored. Uncontrolled dust is not only an environmental and community issue; it is also an operational burden that affects sensors, bearings, drives and electrical components;
- **Availability and cost:** Spillage and carryback are classic drivers of unplanned downtime, increased wear, additional water/cleaning demand and material loss;
- **Sustainability:** Less dust, less cleaning, lower material losses, and optimised energy and maintenance profiles support more sustainable operations - an aspect gaining weight in environmental and social governance (ESG) reporting and permitting frameworks.

Against this background, sealing systems and dust management solutions are not 'peripheral,' they are key levers for performance and compliance.

Kinder expands with the AirScrape

A key element of the partnership is the expansion of Kinder's portfolio with ScrapeTec solutions, including its patented AirScrape technology. AirScrape is designed to minimise material escape and dust generation at critical transfer points—where conveyor systems most often 'leak' in practice: chutes, transfer stations, and loading points with turbulent airflow and fine materials.

Transfer points are driven not only by mechanics but also by aerodynamics. With high belt speed and falling bulk material, air turbulence can carry fine dust into the surrounding environment and separate particles from the material stream. Solutions that address these flow and sealing challenges often do more in the field than conventional belt scraping alone - they intervene earlier in the process, at the source of dust generation. For Western Australian mine operators, this creates a decisive advantage: dust management is treated not as downstream clean-up, but as preventive process stabilisation. The impacts are two-fold: fewer external emissions and less internal secondary wear.

Conveyors as high-performance infrastructure

The largest mines in Western Australia operate conveyor lines designed for maximum throughput. Belt widths, speeds, and transfer points are optimised for bulk transport - often 24/7, with minimal maintenance windows. In this environment, solutions must combine three properties:

1. Robustness against abrasion, varying particle sizes, moisture and temperature extremes;
2. Scalability for large belt widths and diverse transfer scenarios.
3. Ease of maintenance, with quick access, low adjustment sensitivity and easy inspection.

Kinder's distribution and service capability is essential here: technology alone is not decisive - implementation into shutdown planning, spares management, and safety procedures *are*. In Western Australia, where distances are vast and time windows are tight, local support becomes a genuine operational argument.

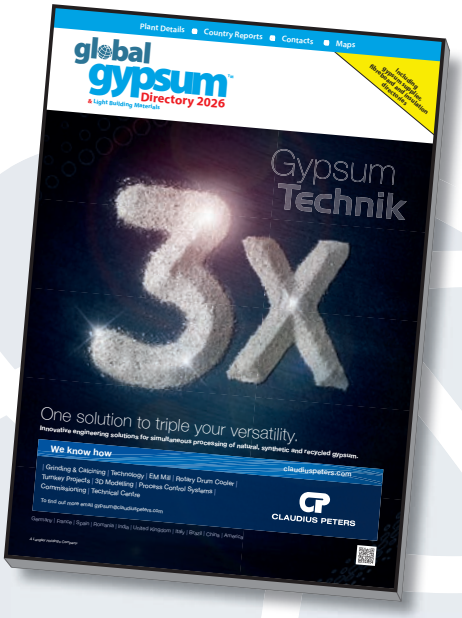
Economic benefits for large plants

The business case for sealing systems and dust-control technologies is increasingly data-driven. Operators no longer ask, 'Does it work?' but 'How fast does it pay back—and how stable is the benefit over time?' Typical value areas include:

1. **Efficiency gains and higher availability:** Reduced spillage and carryback lower cleaning and repair effort. Less build-up means fewer unplanned stops, less emergency maintenance, and more stable conveying performance. In high-throughput plants, even small availability improvements can be economically significant;

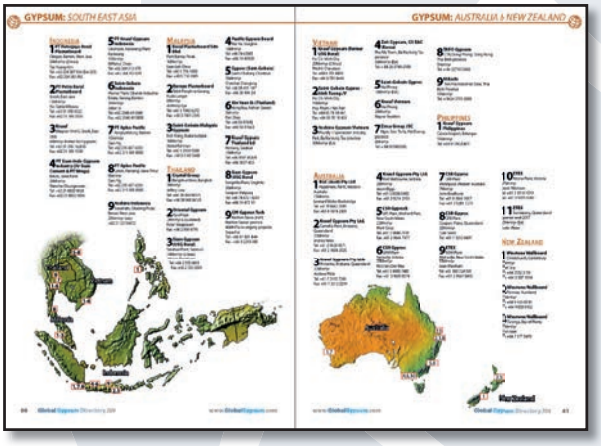
global gypsum™ Directory 2026

& Light Building Materials



The unique listing of all gypsum wallboard plants

The *Global Gypsum Directory* is a unique annual publication that lists all gypsum wallboard plants in the world. The fully revised 2026 edition lists 454 wallboard facilities, 15 gypsum fibreboard plants and 150 raw gypsum suppliers over 110 gypsum sector pages.



Above: Sample pages from a previous edition.

The *Global Gypsum Directory* contains...

- The most complete listing of wallboard plants;
- The number of lines and capacities at each plant;
- Newly-updated contact details for plants;
- News of planned upgrades;
- Maps showing plant locations;
- Rock gypsum sources worldwide;
- Country reports for key countries and regions.

global insulation™ Directory 2026

The *Global Insulation Directory* is published in the same volume as the *Global Gypsum Directory*. It lists all of the world's insulation production facilities, as well as providing counts for different types of plant (mineral wool, glass wool, EPS, XPS, PU, etc...) worldwide. In the 2026 edition there are 1100 plants listed over 58 pages.

The *Global Gypsum Directory 2026* is available to order in PRINT (£350) or PDF (£295)format, or as a PDF & PRINT BUNDLE (£430).

Order at : www.globalgypsum.com/directory

Scan me!

AirScrape installed on a large conveyor belt.

2. **Emissions reduction and improved compliance:** Less dust at transfer points not only supports environmental and safety goals, but also reduces follow-on costs: fewer dust deposits on sensors, less contamination in drive areas, lower load on extraction systems, and fewer cleaning interventions in high-risk zones;

3. **Maintenance minimisation and longer component life:** Material escape acts as a cost multiplier: it stresses idlers, structures, covers, and electrical infrastructure. Reducing dust and spillage decreases wear across the entire conveyor route - lowering operating expenditure, not just locally, but system-wide;

4. **Sustainable operation:** Sustainability is tangible here - less material loss, lower water and energy demand for cleaning, fewer spare parts, and fewer site trips and interventions. In remote operations, every avoided additional task supports both efficiency and emissions performance.

Fewer manual interventions, less exposure

Safety strategies in conveying consistently aim to reduce manual work around running equipment and minimise exposure in hazardous areas. Dust and spillage issues, however, often force extra walkdowns, cleaning and inspections - exactly the activities modern safety policies aim to reduce.

Sealing systems and technologies such as AirScrape contribute indirectly but decisively: less escape means less cleaning demand. Less dust means lower exposure in areas otherwise regularly affected by fine particles. A 'cleaner' asset condition also improves the visibility of leaks, cracks, and anomalies - supporting inspection and preventative maintenance. In short: dust and material control is safety engineering.

Digitalisation of conveyors

Another driver in Western Australia is the rapid digitalisation of conveyor operations. Operators invest in condition monitoring, asset health, predictive maintenance and central control rooms. In this context, solutions are valued not only for mechanical performance, but also for how they fit into digital operating models:

- **Planned maintenance instead of reactive clean-up:** Stable control of material escape enables standardised, data-based maintenance cycles;

- **Better data quality:** Dust and contamination impair sensors and vision systems; reducing emissions improves the reliability of monitoring and diagnostic data;

- **Standardisation across sites:** Major operators want to scale best-practice solutions across multiple assets. A partnership that combines technology with local execution supports rollouts.

ScrapeTec and Kinder therefore position themselves not only as product suppliers, but as enablers of more modern operating models: fewer disruptions, better predictability and greater transparency.

The next generation of conveyor operations

Mining and materials handling in Western Australia face a dual performance pressure: maximum productivity alongside rising demands for safety, environmental compliance, and sustainability. In this reality, solutions are needed that address root causes - especially at the critical conveyor points where dust and material escape originate.

The distribution partnership between ScrapeTec and Kinder targets exactly this. Operators benefit from a strong technology offering delivered through a locally established partner - supporting fit-for-market design, implementation, and service.

For large plants, the result is clear: higher efficiency, reduced emissions, minimised maintenance and conveyor systems that align better with digital and sustainable operating strategies. In a market where 'clean operations' have become hard currency, this is not a nice-to-have - it is a decisive competitive factor.

Your preferred supplier of

Automated handling & packing systems

We specialize in delivering fully automated handling and packing machinery tailored for materials like insulation and gypsum.

Based in Denmark, we serve clients globally, offering state-of-the-art solutions designed to streamline your production processes.

www.qubiqa.com

www.qubiqa.com | Morsogade 10 6700 Esbjerg DK | +45 75 12 01 99

Qubiqa

24th global gypsum ISTANBUL

CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION & AWARDS 2026

Early-bird registration rate ends on 23 May 2026

Gypsum wallboard and plaster markets

Gypsum production technology advances

Gypsum product performance enhancement

New applications for gypsum products

Istanbul, Türkiye

globalgypsum.com

#globalgypsum

The annual *Global Gypsum Conference* is well-known around the world as the largest meeting of gypsum professionals and as the must-attend gypsum event.

Global Gypsum

1999:	Bangkok
2000:	San Francisco
2002:	Miami
2003:	Barcelona
2005:	Prague
2006:	Cancun
2007:	Shanghai
2008:	Dubai
2009:	Rio de Janeiro
2010:	Paris
2011:	Las Vegas
2012:	Istanbul
2013:	Toronto
2014:	Berlin
2015:	New Orleans
2016:	Bangkok
2017:	Krakow
2018:	Vancouver
2019:	Kuala Lumpur
2022:	Estoril/Lisbon
2023:	Chicago
2024:	Bangkok
2025:	Amsterdam
2026:	***Istanbul***

Global Gypsum Enquiries

Exhibition and sponsorship:
paul.brown@propubs.com

Programme and speakers:
robert.mccaffrey@propubs.com

Contents
Subscribe
Ad Index

US: Start-up raises funds to scale grass-based OSB alternative

North Carolina-based startup Plantd is scaling production of a carbon-negative building material made from fast-growing grasses, targeting replacement of oriented strand board (OSB) in residential construction. The panels are made with compressed grass cuttings that are grown and harvested multiple times a year. The boards are cut to the same dimensions as traditional OSB and are reportedly interchangeable, except that Plantd's boards are stronger and warp less when exposed to moisture. The company has raised US$47.5m in capital and has signed a multi-year deal with homebuilder D.R. Horton to supply 10 million panels, enough to build 90,000 homes. A housing development using the material is already underway and its investors include Amrize.

The first live production run at the Plascon Plastics facility using plastics recovered from construction sites.
Source: Nick Procaylo / PNG.

Canada: Light House completes pilot project to reduce plastic waste

Construction sustainability organisation Light House has completed a pilot project to recycle plastic waste from construction sites into products that reduce concrete use in slab construction. The project, supported by US$292,000 in public funding, collected 38t of plastic from eight construction sites in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia and converted it into InfinaNET, a concrete-displacement system developed with Infina and manufactured by Plascon Plastics. The final product is made up of four egg-shaped plastic moulds linked together in a square, knitted together inside the rebar form before the concrete slab is formed. The shape of the moulds creates air pockets in the slabs and reduces concrete use by up to 30%. The project has just completed its 'pre-commercial' production run to produce material for the company's own tests.

Managing director at Light House Gil Yaron said "At its core, the pilot is about understanding, in real working conditions, what it would actually take to recover these materials and reuse them. Now, we want to scale it."

Infina president Manveer Pattar said "We're essentially making concrete go a little bit further, 30% further, and then a source for plastic waste that would have normally ended up in landfill now ends up in a building product that's more sustainable."

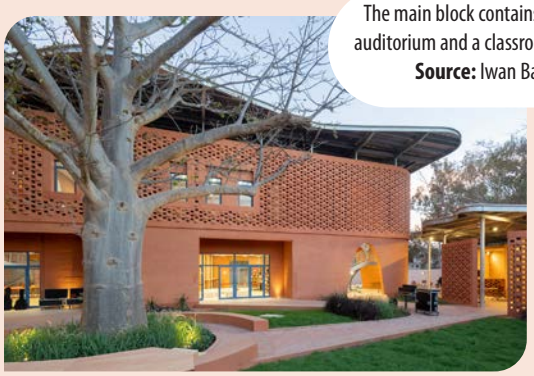
Light House plans to scale the initiative across multiple cities to support a circular construction economy and reduce reliance on landfill and carbon-intensive materials.

Senegal/Germany: Goethe-Institut commissions compressed earth headquarters

Berlin studio Kéré Architecture has completed a two-storey building in Dakar, largely built from perforated bricks and compressed earth blocks, commissioned by the German teaching and cultural non-profit organisation, the Goethe-Institut.

Kéré Architecture founder Diébédo Francis Kéré said "The Goethe-Institut exists to create spaces that facilitate meeting and learning across the world. Designing their first-ever purpose-built space is a responsibility I take seriously. In Dakar, I wanted this building to be open and safe, rooted and flexible, and very much alive."

The building's load-bearing walls were constructed from locally sourced compressed earth blocks, along with the perforated screens on the upper floor, which were designed to continue the theme of 'openness.' Alongside the main building, two smaller structures were also constructed from compressed earth blocks with perforated sections. One acts as an entrance block, while the other contains a kitchen for outdoor events.



The main block contains an auditorium and a classroom.
Source: Iwan Baan.

Hillhead 2026

The UK's largest Quarrying, Construction & Recycling Exhibition

Join the conversation
@Hillheadshow #hillhead2026

23-25 June 2026
Hillhead Quarry
Buxton | Derbyshire
UK

Register now!

Sign up for your **free** visitor ticket at **hillhead.com/register**

Email: **hillhead@qmj.co.uk**
Phone: **+44 (0) 115 945 4367**

US/Canada: QXO to buy TopBuild Corp and completes Kodiak deal

QXO has announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire TopBuild Corporation for around US$17bn, significantly expanding QXO's scale and capabilities across the building products value chain.

TopBuild is the largest distributor and installer of insulation and related building products in North America. The combination will bring together QXO's leading positions in roofing, waterproofing, lumber-related building materials and associated products with TopBuild's insulation capabilities, creating a higher-margin business with expansive value-added offerings for customers.

The transaction has been unanimously approved by the boards of directors of both companies and is subject to customary closing conditions, including approval by the shareholders of TopBuild and QXO. The acquisition is expected to close in the third quarter of 2026.

On 1 April 2026, QXO completed its previously announced acquisition of Kodiak Building Partners, a leading distributor of lumber, trusses, and other building materials, for approximately US$2.25bn. Upon completion of the TopBuild transaction, QXO will operate in an addressable market of more than US$300bn/yr and hold leadership positions in key building product verticals in North America, including first place in insulation and second place in roofing.

Brad Jacobs, CEO and Chair of QXO, said, "Over the past 11 months, we've built QXO into a market leader through more than US$13bn of acquisitions. TopBuild will be our most significant acquisition yet, making QXO the second-largest publicly traded building products distributor in North America, with more than US$18bn of combined company revenue and more than US$2bn of combined company adjusted EBITDA."

UK: Kingspan launches Steico wood fibre insulation range

Kingspan Insulation has launched two wood fibre-based insulation products in the UK. Steico Flex 036 stud/rafter insulation and Steico Universal Dry sarking and sheathing boards join the producer's BioKor 80% biogenic insulation range. The products consist of PEFC-certified softwood materials. STEICO Flex 036 offers thermal conductivity of 0.036W/mK, while STEICO Universal Dry offers 0.043W/mK.

Kingspan acquired a 51% stake in Germany-based wood-based insulation producer Steico from Schramek in January 2024.

Russia: TechnoNICOL upgrades plants

TechnoNICOL plans to carry out upgrades worth a combined US$65.8m at its Serpukhov glass wool insulation and Ryazan stone wool insulation plants in Central Russia. Local press has reported that the Serpukhov plant will receive US$45.1m in investments to increase the efficiency of flue gas scrubbing systems to 96% and line productivity by 25%. The Ryazan plant will receive US$20.7m in investments for a new combined heat and power plant and mineral wool briquetting workshop.

19th global insulation™ CONFERENCE 2026

globalinsulation.com
#globalinsulation

Insulation markets and trends

Production advances

Insulation performance and applications

Global Insulation Enquiries

Exhibition and sponsorship:
paul.brown@propubs.com

Programme and speakers:
robert.mccaffrey@propubs.com

China: Researchers turn coffee grounds into insulation

Chinese researchers have converted used coffee grounds into a sustainable thermal insulator, according to a scientific study focused on high-porosity biochar. They claim that this material can compete with traditional insulation materials and reduce the environmental impact of the construction industry.

The main obstacle to using coffee as insulation lay in its low natural porosity, which is around 40%, too low to act as an insulator. The solution came through its transformation into biochar by heating the material in the absence of oxygen. This process modifies the internal structure, increasing porosity to 71%, which significantly improves its insulating capacity. The result is a material with a thermal conductivity of 0.04W/mK, comparable to that of the most commonly used commercial insulators.

The coffee-based insulator has already been tested in solar panels, where it has demonstrated its ability to minimise heat losses. This translates to better performance and greater operational stability. Researchers additionally say that the material could be integrated into façades, roofs and prefabricated panels, helping to reduce the use of petroleum-based materials and improving the energy efficiency of buildings.

New Zealand: Fletcher Building warns of insulation price rises

Fletcher Building's insulation products are highly exposed to fuel price rises, according to CEO and Managing Director Andrew Reding, who said that the company's Iplex brand in New Zealand and Fletcher Insulation in Australia were the most exposed.

While the price increases due to the Middle East conflict were significant, the impacts were being partly mitigated through bulk purchasing, hedging and pass-through pricing mechanisms, said Reding. He said that a US$0.10/L rise in vehicle fuel prices would equate to about US$200,000/yr in additional costs at a group level. The group consumes nearly 36 million L/yr of fuel, with diesel accounting for 94% of total usage.

The heavy building materials division represented more than half of total consumption, with the construction division, which includes insulation, accounting for nearly a third. Price increases across Fletcher Building's divisions have so far ranged from approximately just 1-5% to as high as 36%.

World: Global insulation market to record 4.7% CAGR up to 2032

Persistence Market Research has valued the global insulation market at US$47.9bn in 2025. The research body forecasts compound annual growth of 4.7%, up to US$66.2bn by 2032. It based its outlook on rising construction activity, urbanisation and tightening building energy codes across global markets.

Netherlands: Insulation funding in response to Iran War

The Dutch government has allocated €195m to the national energy emergency fund, with the aim of supporting more households with rising energy bills than in previous years. An earlier version of the fund was introduced at the start of the Ukraine war but was later discontinued. To improve housing energy efficiency, €180m will be directed to the National Heat Fund, allowing homeowners to finance insulation improvements. Additional funding includes €80m for 'energy fixers,' €25m for homeowners' associations to improve sustainability, and €15m for residents in poorly-insulated housing through a national livability program.

19-20 MAY 2026 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

global cementAI™

globalcementAI.com

#globalcementai

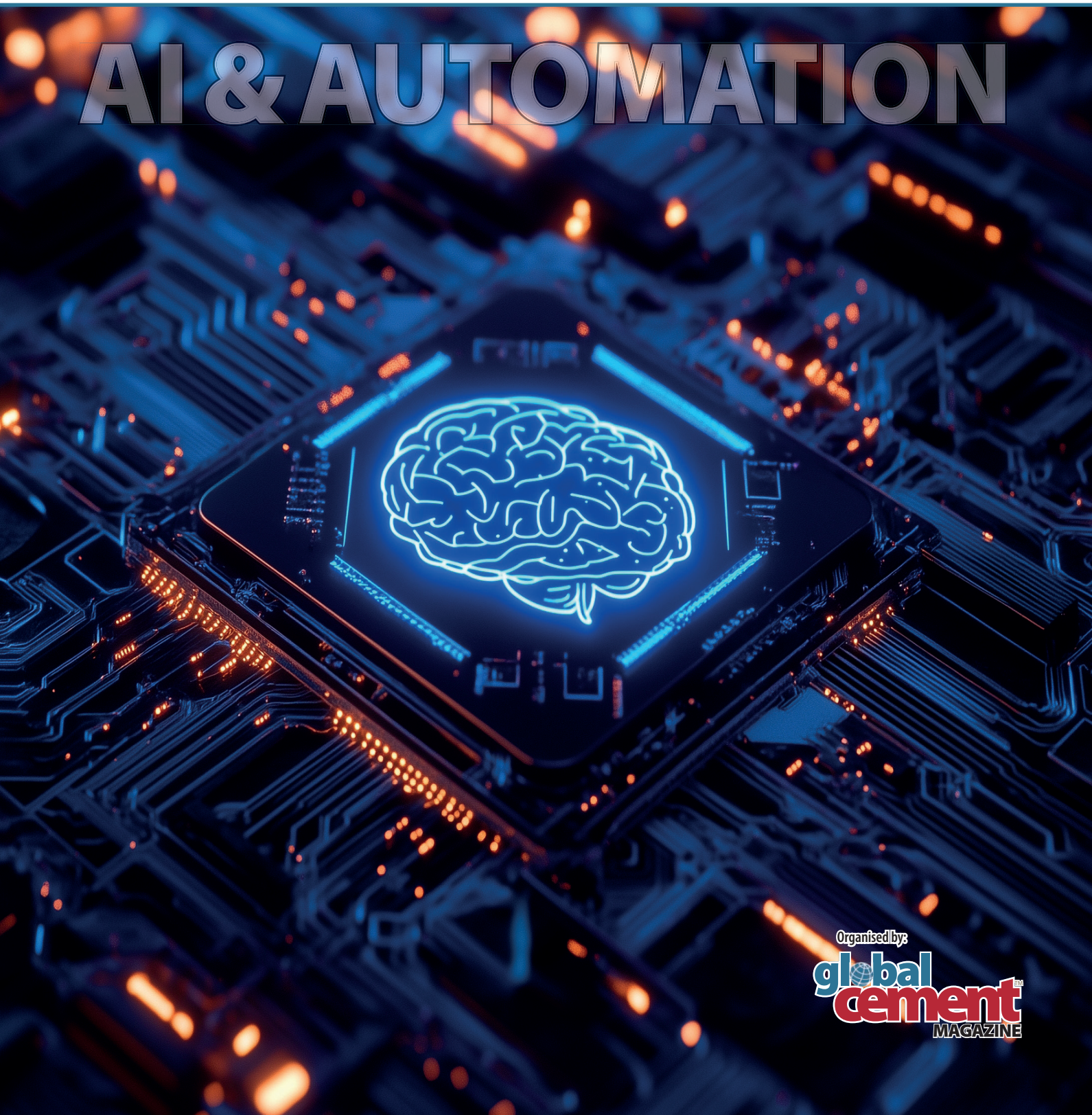
Optimising the future of cement with AI & automation

Artificial Intelligence & automation, predictive maintenance, process and logistics optimisation

Global CementAI Enquiries

Exhibition and sponsorship:
paul.brown@propubs.com

Programme and speakers:
david.perilli@propubs.com



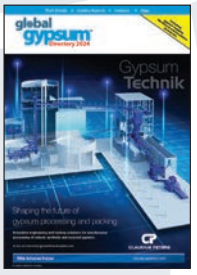
Organised by: global cement MAGAZINE

Subscribe to ...

global gypsum™ MAGAZINE
& Light Building Materials

...the world's leading print and online gypsum, insulation and light building materials resource

Subscribers to *Global Gypsum Magazine* receive:



- Priority-mailed print copy of every issue (10 copies per year);
- High-resolution printable PDF download straight to your inbox;
- 33% discount on *Global Gypsum Directory 2026*.

Subscribe via: www.globalgypsum.com/magazine/subscribe

1 year = £180	2 years = £325	3 years = £460

Independent Analysis • Industry Trends • Global Gypsum News
National & Regional Reports • Interviews • Technology • Global Insulation Section
Ceilings • Walls • Floors • Roofing • Light Building Materials

Effects of the Iran War...

Robert McCaffrey Editorial Director *(rob@propubs.com)*

Contents
Subscribe
Ad Index

I suspect that it may have been one of the most momentous telephone calls of recent decades. Someone in Iran who knew the movements of the very top leadership of the country called or texted their handler in Israel and informed them that the Supreme Leader and several of his top officials were meeting in Tehran. The decision was taken to act on the information. At some point the US was informed. At some later point, the US decided to become involved in what has come to be known as the Iran War[1] (Marco Rubio said "We knew that that would precipitate an attack against American forces, and we knew that if we didn't pre-emptively go after them before they launched those attacks, we would suffer higher casualties.") Presumably there was a pre-existing list of targets in Iran and the bombing quickly started (unfortunately one of them turned out to have been part of an army base that had been turned into a school for girls, and which was obliterated by Tomahawk missiles, killing around 170).

Iran is a proud country with more than 6000 years of history, significant oil and gas wealth, a population of 90m people dispersed over an area as large as France, Germany, Spain and the UK combined, total military personnel of up to a million, relatively recent experience of fighting a multi-year conflict (the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War in which 500,000 people were killed[2]), a plethora of soft targets within missile and drone range, and complete control of the Strait of Hormuz. This is not a soft target. However, the country's fanatical and hard-line theocratic rulers had made progress towards obtaining nuclear technology (despite US bombing during the '12-day War' of 2025), and had expressed their intention to eliminate Israel. Whatever your views on the reasons for and wisdom or otherwise of the conflict, it's impossible to think that this is going to be over soon. Russia's war on Ukraine has been going on for more than four years now. It's even more unlikely that the Strait of Hormuz will be opened quickly, and that matters to the global building materials industry for many reasons.

As a consequence of the closure of the Strait, oil and gas prices have spiked - but all energy prices have risen, since in the absence of the 20% of the world's oil and gas that passed through the Strait, demand for all other forms of energy has increased too. Unfortunately, an energy price spike is the last thing that weak global economies need right now – and it will have echoing effects on the global building materials industries too. This issue contains several news stories, particularly in the global insulation section, that show the inflationary effects of the Iran War. The effects so far are an increase in production costs for gypsum wallboard, insulation and other light building materials, although it could also result in greater insulation use due to schemes like that of the Dutch government, which aim to increase the energy efficiency of buildings. Overall however, the war will dampen economic activity and construction markets in particular, reducing demand for building materials across the board. So, we are likely to have a demand shock, on the back of a softening in global economic activity. Energy shocks have been known to cause severe recessions.[3]

The sharp increase in energy prices may have other effects on the gypsum and insulation sectors. The process of diversifying your energy mix – especially the replacement of natural gas with hot air heated using renewable electricity for wallboard dryers - is looking increasingly wise. Even companies in Saudi Arabia, which had previously had access to cheap fossil fuels, will be scrambling for energy if the country's refineries are targeted and put partially out of action. (If Iran targets Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure, then the global energy price spike will go through the roof). The rest of us, who always had to pay the full market price for energy, will experience new pain with every new bill. Alternative energy sources will receive a massive boost around the world. More widely, I also predict a newfound interest in landfill-mining for fuels and other resources, on which we organised a series of conferences in the past.

Another knock-on effect will be on the building materials sector's decarbonisation efforts. Before the start of the Iran War, politicians in the EU, including Germany's Chancellor Merz, had started to hint that the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) might be loosened in the hope of increasing Europe's competitiveness. CO_2 prices dropped immediately. With energy prices increasing, you can expect those voices to become louder, possibly undermining overall steps on the route to a lower-CO_2 future. These are just some of the potential effects, but there will no doubt be other unforeseen consequences of the Iran War.

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Iran_war

2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran–Iraq_War

3 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970s_energy_crisis

global gypsum™ MAGAZINE
& Light Building Materials

Advertising: **Paul Brown:** +44 (0) 7767 475 998 paul.brown@propubs.com

Editorial: **Peter Edwards:** peter.edwards@propubs.com

Advertisers - May 2026

BAUMAK	17	www.baumak.com.tr
Global CementAI Conference 2026, Brussels, Belgium	31	www.globalcementai.com
Global Gypsum Conference 2026, Istanbul, Türkiye	24 - 25	www.globalgypsum.com
Global Gypsum Directory 2026	21	www.globalgypsum.com/directory
Global Insulation Conference 2026, Dublin, Ireland	29	www.globalinsulation.com
Grenzebach	IFC	www.grenzebach.com
GypLabo UG	FC	info@gyplabo.com
GYPROS Contracting AG	IBC	www.gypros.com
Gyptech	OBC	www.gyptech.com
Hillhead Quarrying & Recycling Show 2026, Buxton, UK	27	www.hillhead.com
Jürgens Maschinenbau GmbH	15	www.juergens.net
Limab	6	www.limab.com
New West Gypsum Recycling	7	www.nwgypsum.com
Plasterboard Recycling Group	19	www.prg.uk.com
Qubiqa A/S	23	www.qubiqa.com
Scrapetec International GmbH	17	www.scrapetec.com
SICIT GROUP S.p.A.	5	www.sicitgroup.com
Westmill Industries	9	www.westmillindustries.com

Next issue: June 2026

Report: Chinese gypsum industry

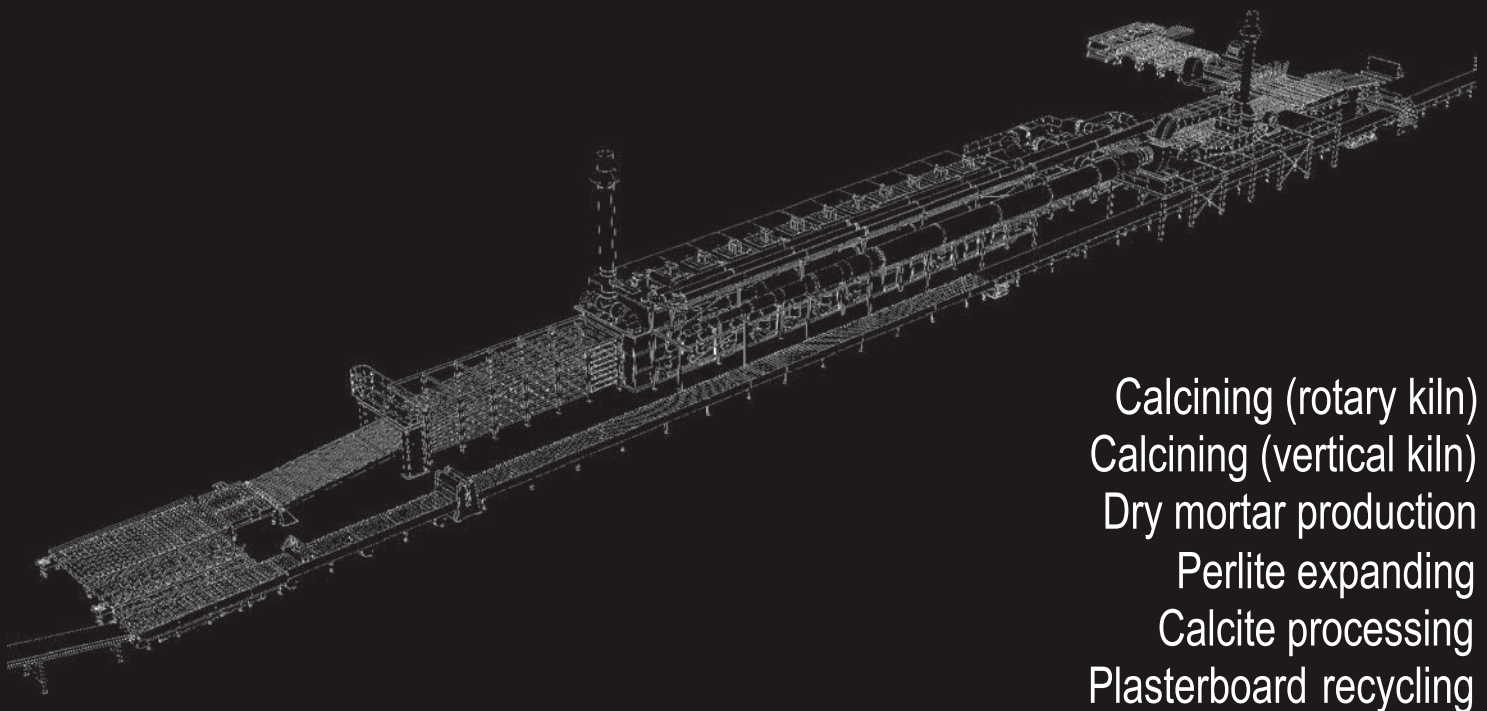
Advertising deadline: 26 May 2026

Technical: Building Materials Systems, Fixings, Gypsum mortars, Crushing, Quarrying

Processing GYPSUM

Complete Solutions

PLASTER
&
WALLBOARD



Calcining (rotary kiln)
Calcining (vertical kiln)
Dry mortar production
Perlite expanding
Calcite processing
Plasterboard recycling

GYPROS

www.gypros.com

Designed for Peak Drying Efficiency.

Gyptech dryers deliver precise humidity and evaporation control with dependable performance — day after day. Designed for high dryer efficiency, they help reduce energy consumption and lower emissions without compromising output.

Whether you are upgrading an existing line or developing a new project, Gyptech dryers are engineered to align with your process, your product, and your performance requirements. You can rely on their efficiency, durability, and long-term consistency.

Built for gypsum. Built for efficiency. Built for the future.

Gyptech

Gypsum Technologies Inc.
578 King Forest Court
Burlington, ON Canada L7P 5C1
t: +1.905.567.2000 | e: info@gyptech.ca
www.gyptech.com