

## TOP STORIES

### Is an Office of Multi-Attribute Analysis Coming to a Building Code Department Near You?

Imagine how perplexed you would be if your building code application was rejected because you didn't have a Multi-Attribute Analysis for some of the products in the building. Most of us would first have to revert to our smart phones to look up that term! But we could become even more confused as terms like "EPD" and "LCA" pop up.

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### ASTM Committee E60 on Sustainability Meets in Toronto

The members of ASTM International Committee E60 on Sustainability met during the week of April 7-11, 2014 in Toronto, Canada. During the week, several meetings were held that covered everything from Sustainable Manufacturing, to Construction Waste Management, to Terminology Relative to Buildings. [More](#)

### What's Trending on "Ask an Expert" and 1-800-79-STEEL

The hot topics for our customers for the first half of 2014 are load paths and diaphragms, with operators responding to more than 710 inquiries. [More](#)

## COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE – NEWS AND UPDATES

### CFSEI to Host Webinar on "Cold-Formed Steel Strap-Braced Walls: AISI S213 to AISI S400" on June 12, 2014

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will host a webinar on "Cold-Formed Steel Strap-Braced Walls: AISI S213 to AISI S400" on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 3:00 PM EDT. [More](#)

### Wrap-Up of 2014 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting in Memphis

The just-completed 2014 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting held May 19-21 in Memphis, Tennessee was filled with opportunity. [More](#)

### New Members Installed on CFSEI Executive Committee

As is tradition, the 2014-2015 Executive Committee was installed during the 2014 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting by outgoing CFSEI Executive Chairman Vince Sagan. [More](#)

### Robert Madsen Named as 2014 CFSEI Distinguished Service Award Winner

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute has named Robert Madsen, P.E., Senior Project Engineer at Devco Engineering, Inc. in Corvallis, Oregon as the recipient of its 2014 Distinguished Service Award. [More](#)

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### June 12, 2014

CFSEI Webinar  
Cold-Formed Steel Strap Braced-Walls  
3:00 p.m.  
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### October 1-3, 2014

2014 METALCON International  
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## CFSEI Announces 2014 Design Excellence Award Winner

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) named DSi Engineering, LLC as the winner of its Design Excellence Award, which was presented May 20 during the 2014 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. [More](#)

## The State of CFSEI

As CFSEI's fiscal year comes to a close and a new year begins, CFSEI held its traditional annual meeting last month where Chairman Vince Sagan opened the meeting with a review of the progress that CFSEI has made during his term. [More](#)

## AISI and CFSEI Co-Sponsor 2014 International Student Competition on Cold-Formed Steel Design

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) and the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) are joining the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the University of North Texas as co-sponsors in the fourth International Student Competition on Cold-Formed Steel Design. [More](#)

## MARKETPLACE

### US Construction Spending up 0.2 Percent in April

U.S. construction spending posted modest gains in April, driven by an uptick in home building and government construction that lifted total activity to the highest level in five years. [More](#)

### Apartments Lead Home-Construction Surge In April

WASHINGTON (MarketWatch) — Volatile apartment construction led a surge last month in new-home building, a trend that worried some economists Friday about the health and sustainability of recent housing-market trends. [More](#)

### ICC, NAHB, NMHC Will Initiate Safety Review of Recent Fires in Buildings under Construction

International Code Council, National Association of Home Builders and National Multifamily Housing Council members, stakeholders and others with technical expertise in the built environment will come together to review fires in buildings under construction that recently caused severe property damage and personal injury. [More](#)

### CEOs Announce Major Commitment to Promote Resilient Planning and Building Materials

Washington, D.C. – May 13, 2014 – Leaders of America's design and construction industry – along with building owners and operators - for the first time have agreed to promote resilience in contemporary planning, building materials, design, construction and operational techniques as the solution to making the nation's aging infrastructure more safe and secure. [More](#)

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## Bad Signs in Homebuilding & Lumber

Prices are down some, and rental rates are up. This is not a very exciting spring for wood products manufacturers. It would not take much to upset a fragile recovery. Recent lumber manufacturing, home construction, and housing markets from selected years are compared. [More](#)

## Overbuilding Overblown? Apartment Markets Expand in April NMHC Quarterly Survey

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Apartment markets rebounded from a soft January, with all four indexes above the breakeven level of 50 in the latest National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC) Quarterly Survey of Apartment Market Conditions. [More](#)

## For All Its Promise, BIM Far From Perfect, Users Say

Since 2008, the use of building information modeling (BIM) software among structural engineers has doubled from about a third to two-thirds for steel structures, an industry survey found. [More](#)

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Imagine how perplexed you would be if your building code application was rejected because you didn't have a Multi-Attribute Analysis for some of the products in the building. Most of us would first have to revert to our smart phones to look up that term! But we could become even more confused as terms like "EPD" and "LCA" pop up.

Before we go any further, we should acknowledge that this scenario is closer to reality than we think unless some proposals to the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) are overturned at the International Code Council (ICC) hearings this fall. During the initial hearings in Memphis at the end of April, multiple proposals were approved by the ICC's Code Development Committee that specifically address the multi-attribute assessment of building materials for the first time by a mainstream building code development organization.

We should also put this scenario into perspective from an adoption perspective. Many of the "green" codes and standards have not been widely adopted to date. However, some jurisdictions such as Washington, DC, California, and Dallas have adopted all or parts of the IgCC or their own green building standards. These are some of the first cases where "green" has been incorporated into a mandatory building code, versus the use of LEED or similar programs as part of project specifications.

The Steel Framing Alliance (SFA) attended the IgCC hearings to represent the cold-formed steel (CFS) industry. The SFA representatives testified on dozens of proposals that could have negative implications for the industry or, conversely, could help it. The general tendency of the Code Development Committee was to disapprove most of the proposals. However, two proposals addressing EPDs, or Environmental Product Declarations, were given approval and will become part of the code unless they are successfully challenged through public comments.

### EPDs and Their Impact on the CFS Industry

Before going further, let's examine the definition of an EPD and its potential impact on the CFS industry. EPDs have been described as "nutrition labels" for construction products. They are developed from the results of manufacturers conducting a full-scale Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and describe the potential environmental impacts of a product across a selected list of environmental impact categories. The latest USGBC program—LEED V.4—will grant points for providing a product EPD. In some instances, project developers are already requesting EPDs from product manufacturers.

What does this mean for the CFS industry? Initially, EPDs may not present much of an issue. However, in the long term, EPDs will need to be developed for CFS products as their use expands into other code areas. Presently, the CFS industry does not have an EPD, although one is under development by the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI).

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The introduction of EPDs into the IgCC will set a precedent, but no one really knows what the ultimate impact will be. Proponents of EPDs and other multi-attribute tools don't hide the fact that this is a first step toward eventually disqualifying products that do not meet certain criteria that has yet to be determined.

## Two Areas for Concern

The two IgCC proposals of concern to the CFS industry are GG194 and GG212. GG194 would introduce EPDs as an option and allow users to multiply their materials that qualify for recycled content and other characteristics by 1.5. This won't benefit materials such as steel that already have high recycled content. However, it will help wood and other products that have low recycled content. Thus under GG194, whose proponent is the American Wood Council, an engineered wood product that makes up 1000 lbs of credit toward the recycled content requirements would be increased by 50% (to 1500 lbs) just by submitting an EPD on that product. This proposal is frustrating to the CFS industry because it lacks a relationship between recycled content and an EPD, which seems an obvious factor.

GG212 will have a similar impact on the value of recycled content, perhaps the steel industry's best sustainability attribute. GG212 will allow materials to bypass the recycled content provisions, and in the case of wood, to bypass sustainable forestry practices in the code by introducing a new compliance option for the materials section of the IgCC. Under this new option, EPDs would be substituted for the more traditional prescriptive attributes such as recycled content.

SFA is working with allied interests to overturn the ICC Code Development Committee's decisions on GG194 and GG212. We will submit public comments to disapprove these two items by the full ICC membership at the hearings to be held this fall. In the meantime, work is proceeding to develop an industry-wide EPD for CFS products so that we will be prepared if EPDs become part of the mandatory approval process.

For more information on the IgCC hearings and EPDs in particular, or for general information on CFS codes and standard efforts, please contact Maribeth Rizzuto at [MSRizzuto@aol.com](mailto:MSRizzuto@aol.com) or Mark Nowak at [mnowak@steelframing.org](mailto:mnowak@steelframing.org).

The CFS codes and standards program is supported by AISI, SFA and SFIA.

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### ASTM Committee E60 on Sustainability Meets in Toronto

The members of ASTM International Committee E60 on Sustainability met during the week of April 7-11, 2014 in Toronto, Canada. During the week, several meetings were held that covered everything from Sustainable Manufacturing, to Construction Waste Management, to Terminology Relative to Buildings.

The various subcommittees met to review the results of several balloted items. Of special interest was the discussion surrounding the word **Recycle** as we learned that some industries are attempting to include products in this category whose ultimate end-of-life is incineration.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), there are three classifications of disposal: Recycle, Landfill and Incineration. For steel and other metals, life never ends. Steel products are recovered and remelted to begin new lives, or are sometimes reused for the same intended purpose. These systems are continuous, with the material never losing its chemical or structural properties. This is the traditional definition of the term Recycle and a primary benefit of steel as a sustainable material.

Other products that claim to be recyclable don't meet this traditionally accepted definition. They are often transformed into products that are not capable of retaining the same qualities of the first-generation product, such as a plastic soda bottle that is reground and reprocessed into a plastic bag. This process is often described as **down-cycling**. Some of the newer terms in the marketplace are being **repurposed**, which describes a product that is no longer used for its intended purpose. An example is a wine bottle that is used as a vase, or a license plate that becomes a purse. During the ASTM E60 subcommittee meeting, these terms and issues were debated with no real resolution. Definitions for each will be determined when the Terminology Relative to Buildings goes back out to the committee members for ballot.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is promoting a new work item on Sustainable Manufacturing that needs close attention. As currently written, the document attempts to instruct product manufacturers on the "how-tos" for sustainable manufacturing. This is a problem because these instructions are already in practice by the steel industry, as evidenced by the dramatic reduction in energy use over the past 10 years. Many of the manufacturers in attendance questioned the value of this work item.

Another item of interest was the discussion about Construction Waste Management, which centered on the goal of the work item itself. Questions were raised: was the goal to reduce the amount of waste that is generated on the construction site by minimizing the amount of material brought to the site, or simply on how to dispose of the leftover materials when construction has been completed? The SFA's position is to reduce the amount of material that is taken to a site through panelization or cut-to-length strategies.

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These practices not only conserve the amount of leftover material generated at the construction site, but also save on the environmental burdens of transportation to and from the site. This item will be balloted at a later time.

On a final note, the SFA has responded to 14 ballots since the last ASTM Committee E60 meeting and continues to protect the status of steel in all of the ASTM E60 initiatives.

For more information on ASTM Committee E60 on Sustainability activities, please contact Maribeth Rizzuto at [MSRizzuto@aol.com](mailto:MSRizzuto@aol.com).

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### What's Trending on "Ask an Expert" and 1-800-79-STEEL

The hot topics for our customers for the first half of 2014 are load paths and diaphragms, with operators responding to more than 710 inquiries! Along with the typical inquiries of what publications are needed by designers, or questions about welding with cold-formed steel, we have received several calls asking for specific interpretations of CFS standards between code officials and contractors. This is good news, as we can only surmise that the building construction market is moving in the right direction – Up!

Despite the good news, it is troubling to report the number of calls that we have received from designers who have little or no experience with cold-formed steel. During these calls, we direct the designers to the appropriate tools and expertise to assist them in their projects, and we are constantly promoting the advantages of cold-formed steel through the SFA and CFSEI websites, webinars, publications, and more. While these calls may be a good indicator that designers are interested in CFS for upcoming projects, it is also an indicator that we must continue to do even more in the areas of technology transfer and outreach.

CFSEI's Education Subcommittee, which is chaired by Doug Fox, is working hard to meet this challenge. The subcommittee has finalized the topics for the CFSEI 2014 webinar series, and the Technology Development Committee has 28 new Technical Notes currently in production, with an additional 35 under consideration. Many of the Technical Notes are in direct response to the questions that are most frequently asked through the Hotline and "Ask an Expert" avenues, including the topics of gusset plate design, load path, welded box beam headers, and steel deck on cold-formed steel framing.

This is a breakdown on inquiries that we have received this year through the Hotline and "Ask an Expert":

- 38% on Design
- 26% on Construction
- 21% on Green Building/Sustainability
- 12% on Specifications, Standards and Codes
- 2% on Other Topics
- 1% on Corrosion

The breakdown of callers by profession is: 38% engineers, 29% architects, 19% builders/contractors, 11% code inspectors, 2% others, and 1% educators.

Based on the regions of the United States, the location of the inquirers includes: 23% Mid-Atlantic, 22% West, 17% Southwest, 16% Northeast, 11% Southeast, and 11% Midwest.

If you or any colleagues have questions about CFS, please feel free to call us at 1-800-79-STEEL or email us at [info@steel framing.org](mailto:info@steel framing.org).

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## CFSEI to Host Webinar on “Cold-Formed Steel Strap-Braced Walls: AISI S213 to AISI S400” On June 12, 2014

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute will host a webinar on “Cold-Formed Steel Strap-Braced Walls: AISI S213 to AISI S400” on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 3:00 PM EDT. The webinar is designed for architects, engineers, building officials and contractors. Participants are eligible for 1.5 continuing education hours.

A common means of constructing the lateral load-resisting system of cold-formed steel structures is to provide diagonal tension-only strap braces in the walls. The strap-braced walls act as a vertical concentrically braced system that transfers the lateral loads from the roof and floor levels to the foundation. Provisions for the design of strap-braced walls can be found in AISI S213-07, *North American Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing – Lateral Design*. A new standard is being developed to replace AISI S213 that will contain seismic-specific design requirements and recent research results. The new standard will be known as AISI S400, *North American Standard for Seismic Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Systems*.

Earn  
1.5 PDHs

The webinar will provide information on the inelastic lateral load-carrying performance of CFS frame strap-braced walls that are assembled using screws and welds. It will also relate observations made in the laboratory with the design provisions found in AISI S213 and AISI S400. These design provisions are based on the results of more than 80 tests on braced walls constructed of different configurations of braces, connections, aspect ratios, and more.

The webinar will be conducted by Colin A. Rogers, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Rogers has been involved in research on cold-formed steel structures for more than 20 years. He has participated in the testing of more than 350 cold-formed steel walls constructed with wood sheathing, steel sheathing and with strap bracing, as well as 50 tests conducted on corrugated steel roof deck diaphragms. He is a member of several technical committees associated with the CSA Group in Canada and the American Iron and Steel Institute.



More information on the webinar and registration details are available at [www.cfsei.org](http://www.cfsei.org).

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## Wrap-Up of 2014 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting in Memphis

The just-completed 2014 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting held May 19-21 in Memphis, Tennessee was filled with opportunity. Situated at the historic Grand Peabody Hotel in the heart of downtown Memphis, nearly 100 cold-formed steel framing professionals came to celebrate advancements in cold-formed steel and enjoy all that Memphis had to offer - from Beale Street, to the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, to all the activities surrounding the Memphis in May International Festival. Design professionals and engineers from around the United States and England selected from 15 educational sessions spread over the course of two days and had the opportunity to network with their peers in the cold-formed steel industry. The successful event was sponsored by 12 organizations ranging from stud manufacturers to software developers.

To kick off the Expo, Keith Lindemulder, LEED AP, Environmental Development Business Manager for Nucor Steel Corporation, delivered the keynote address titled **“How Sustainability Can Influence Cold-Formed Steel Design”** at the opening luncheon and plenary session. Keith described the advantages that steel holds in the sustainability marketplace and how the industry can take part. He also described the impact that new green building efforts in the areas of Environmental and Health Product Declarations and life cycle assessments (LCA) will impact the way we do business moving forward. The afternoon sessions included presentations by Cris Moen, Ph.D., of Virginia Tech University and Rick Haws, P.E., of Nucor Building Systems Group Services, who discussed the reorganization of AISI S100, *North American Standard for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members*, and the suite of design standards developed for the cold-formed steel framing industry. Additional sessions on the new *AISI Brick Veneer Cold-Formed Steel Framing Design Guide* and the coordination of cold-formed steel framing with metal buildings were presented by Sutton Stephens, Ph.D., P.E. of Pacific Northwest Engineering and Jeff Klaiman, P.E., with Adtek Engineering, Inc.

The first day was brought to a close with dinner at the Elvis Presley Automobile Museum, where participants dined on grilled peanut butter and banana sandwiches (Elvis's favorite) and other barbeque fare, toured the King's Graceland home, and viewed his collection of airplanes.

At breakfast the following day, Vince Sagan, Associate Principal, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. and outgoing Chairman of CFSEI, held the CFSEI Annual Meeting.

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Participants completed the morning with presentations on “Cementitious Panels and Cold-Formed Steel Framing” by Frank Pospisil of USG; “Innovative Steel Stud Walls for Enhanced Blast Resistance” by Ady Aviram, Ph.D., P.E., of Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc.; “ASCE 7-10: How to Implement the New Wind Provisions” by Jennifer Zabik, P.E., S.E., of Zabik Turner Engineering; and the CFS Design Forum that was moderated by Roger LaBoube, Ph.D., of the Center for Cold-Formed Steel Structures.

Tuesday’s keynote address was delivered by Benjamin Schafer, Ph.D. of The Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. Dr. Schafer’s topic was “**CFS-NEES: Exploring CFS Seismic Performance in Full Buildings.**” He addressed advancements in cold-formed steel design and provided an analysis of research on the performance of light steel framed walls braced with sheathing: OSB or gypsum board.

The 2014 CFSEI Awards were presented by Rahim Zadeh, Technical Director of the Steel Stud Manufacturers Association and Chairman of the CFSEI Executive Committee 2014-2015. The award winner for Design Excellence was the David C. Barrow Elementary School in Athens, Georgia – Don Allen, P.E., DSI Engineering and Distinguished Service – Robert L. Madsen, P.E., Devco Engineering, Inc.

The conference participants topped off their afternoon with presentations on “Developments in Power-Actuated Fasteners” by Bill Gould, Director of Codes and Approvals and Andrew Liechti, Technical Services Manager with Hilti; “Mid-Rise Bearing-Wall-to-Floor Interface: Solving the Load Transfer Dilemma” by Don Allen, P.E., LEED AP, SECB, of DSI Engineering; “AISI S310 Diaphragm Standard – What’s New for Steel Diaphragms” by Tom Sputo, Ph.D., P.E., SE, SECB, Technical Director of the Steel Deck Institute; “Proper Loading Specifications for CFS Trusses” by Bill Babich, P.E., and Sowri Rajan from TrusSteel; and “Mechanical Bridging and Bridging Anchorage of Axially Loaded CFS Studs” by Nabil A. Rahman, Ph.D., P.E. of The Steel Network, Inc.

Among the many educational opportunities for attendees was the chance to visit the Trade Expo of technologies and services for the CFS industry. Many thanks to our sponsors, which included **Aegis Metal Framing, ClarkDietrich Building Systems, Simpson Strong-Tie, CEMCO, NUCOR, MarinoWare, TrusSteel, Argos Systems, hsbSteel, USG Structo-Crete, PACO Steel, and StrucSoft Solutions.**

Attendees and organizers agree that the 2014 Annual CFSEI Expo and Meeting was a great success. In addition to the many familiar faces, there were many new faces, an encouraging sign that the CFSEI and its members are meeting the needs of CFS design professionals. We look forward to continuing the mission of CFSEI, and to seeing all of you again next year!

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Cold-Formed Steel Strap Braced-Walls  
3:00 p.m.  
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**October 1-3, 2014**  
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## New Members Installed on CFSEI Executive Committee

As is tradition, the 2014-2015 Executive Committee was installed during the 2014 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting by outgoing CFSEI Executive Chairman Vince Sagan. Two new members were added to the team, one member was re-elected, and two serving members retired.

A complete list of the 2014-2015 Executive Committee follows:

### Chairman

Rahim Zadeh, P.E., Steel Stud Manufacturers Association – Georgia

### Immediate Past Chairman

Vincent E. Sagan, P. E., Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. – Ohio

### Vice Chairman

Jennifer Zabik, P.E., S.E., Zabik Turner Engineering, Inc. – Florida

### Members

Karl Scherzer, P.E, S.E., Excel Engineering, Inc. - Wisconsin  
Cristopher Moen, Ph.D, P.E. – Virginia Tech University – Virginia

### Re-Elected Member

Douglas Fox, P.E., iSPAN Systems - Canada

### New Members

Georgi Hall, P.E., CEMCO - California  
Dennis Fagent, S.E., ZFA Structural Engineers - California

### Retiring Members

Nabil Rahman, Ph.D, P.E., The Steel Network – North Carolina  
Brad Cameron, Cameron & Associates Engineering, LLC – Colorado

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## Robert Madsen Named as 2014 CFSEI Distinguished Service Award Winner

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute has named Robert Madsen, P.E., Senior Project Engineer at Devco Engineering, Inc. in Corvallis, Oregon as the recipient of its 2014 Distinguished Service Award. The award, which recognizes the significant contributions of an individual who has volunteered time, talent and resources to the cold-formed steel industry, was presented May 20 during the 2014 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee.

“Rob Madsen is considered one of the premier structural engineers in the cold-formed steel design arena, and we are proud to recognize him with our highest award for individual achievement,” said Maribeth Rizzuto, LEED-AP-BD&C, Managing Director of the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute. “He has made extensive contributions to the design of cold-formed steel structures, and has also developed a widely used, well-respected family of software programs that is used by engineers worldwide. These programs include AISIWIN™ and LGBEAMER™.”

Madsen is chairman of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) Committee on Framing Standards (COFS) Lateral Design Subcommittee, which is leading an industry-wide effort to develop a new standard—AISI S400, *North American Standard for the Seismic Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Systems*. The standard will provide a platform for the growth of new cold-formed steel seismic force-resisting systems.

He was the design engineer for the two structures tested during the CFS-NEES project conducted during the summer of 2013, which was the final phase of a three-year National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded research project to increase the seismic safety of buildings that use cold-formed steel light-frame construction for their primary support. The structure—which was designed using the most advanced computational models developed by the researchers—performed better than expected on the shake tables at the University at Buffalo. The full-scale testing provided the first look at the full system effect for cold-formed steel light-frame buildings.

An original member of the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute, Madsen is Chairman of the Technical Review Committee, a position he has held since 2006. In that capacity, Madsen and his team are charged with reviewing the content for all of CFSEI’s Technical Notes, which provide technical information to engineers and designers for the safe and efficient design of cold-formed steel structures.

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## CFSEI Announces 2014 Design Excellence Award Winner

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) named DSi Engineering, LLC as the winner of its Design Excellence Award, which was presented on May 20 during the 2014 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. The award recognizes small and large projects that exemplify excellence in the structural design of new or renovated structures utilizing cold-formed steel products.

DSi Engineering, LLC was recognized for its innovative work on the David C. Barrow Elementary School in Athens, Georgia. The project called for renovating a portion of the building that was originally built in 1923 (which now houses the administrative offices and classrooms for pre-kindergarten through first grade) and adding a new two-story structure that houses classrooms for second through fifth grades, a media center, specialty classrooms, a new gymnasium, and a new dining facility.

“This project presented some stringent time, cost and architectural constraints that challenged the principals involved to come up with several design innovations so that the school could open for the 2013-2014 school year,” said Maribeth Rizzuto, LEED AP-BD&C, Managing Director of the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute. “The design innovations included composite steel beams with the poured concrete slabs, load distribution members, special alignment techniques for the shear walls, and composite slabs with bar-joists that allowed the loadbearing steel portion of the project to be completed in just a few weeks. The innovations, along with the inherent durability, straightness and quality of cold-formed steel framing, enabled the construction process to be completed on time and under budget – the very definition of ‘design excellence.’”

“We congratulate the project team of DSi Structures; DSi Engineering, led by Steve Haddad, Project Manager; GW Design Group, LLC; Odom Construction Systems, Inc.; and the Clarke County School District on meeting all of the project parameters with innovative cold-formed steel solutions,” said Rizzuto.

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The design team utilized DSI Structures' proprietary *IntelliModel* software to integrate the panel design with the architectural and structural design. Using 100% Building Information Modeling (BIM) technology, the panels and shear walls were laid out in 3D along with the composite floor systems using Ecospan floor joists. The innovative DSI header system was used to ensure efficiency.

All CFSEI award entries were judged by a panel of cold-formed steel professionals on demonstrated excellence and achievement in the use of cold-formed steel based on the following criteria: design creativity, technical innovation, system efficiency and economy, constructability, complexity of problems solved, and design integration.

The 2014 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting was attended by architects, builders/contractors, engineers and other construction industry professionals. The event provided opportunities for education, networking, and an exposition featuring state-of-the-art innovations, technologies and principles in cold-formed steel framing. This is the only event of its kind dedicated to the cold-formed steel framing industry.

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## The State of CFSEI

As CFSEI's fiscal year comes to a close and a new year begins, the CFSEI held its traditional annual meeting last month where Chairman Vince Sagan opened the meeting with a review of the progress that CFSEI has made during his term. He specifically mentioned the following significant accomplishments:

### CFSEI Technical Notes

Currently there are 35 Technical Notes in the library, which are available free of charge to CFSEI members at [www.cfsei.org](http://www.cfsei.org) or available for purchase by non-members at AISI's Online Store at [www.steel.org](http://www.steel.org). Other technical notes include 4 finalized and published, 28 in production and 36 new Technical Notes ideas awaiting assignment to experts.

### Webinar Series Conducted

CFSEI continued with an excellent slate of webinars for continuing education. They included the following:

- *Composite Floor Systems* by Reinhold M. Schuster, Ph.D, P.Eng.
- *Blast Design* by Nabil A. Rahman, Ph.D., P.E.
- *Specifying Cold-Formed Steel* by Don Allen, P.E.
- *Designing for Efficiency and Estimating for Accuracy* by Mitch Hughes
- *CFS Curtain Wall Design* by Sutton Stephens, P.E., S.E., Ph.D.

### Seminars Conducted

Forty-eight seminars were delivered, resulting in 6089 Professional Development Hours and 4629 American Institute of Architects Learning Units.

### New Initiatives

Last year, CFSEI's other new initiatives included:

- Establishment of CFSEI Canada
- Transfer of International Student Competition to CFSEI from University of North Texas
- Design of the CFSEI Executive Committee Web Collaboration Site
- Expanded Outreach with ASCE and NCSEA.

At the meeting, Immediate Past Chairman Nabil Rahman was recognized for his service with a presentation of the Lifetime Membership Award for Service, which entitles him to lifetime membership in CFSEI.

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Chairman Sagan expressed his thanks and appreciation to the members of CFSEI, the Executive Committee and staff for their help and expertise during his term. He is looking forward to continuing his work with CFSEI in a new role as past chairman.

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## AISI and CFSEI Co-Sponsor 2014 International Student Competition on Cold-Formed Steel Design

### Fourth Annual Competition Kicks Off

**WASHINGTON, D.C, May 9, 2014** – The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) and the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) are joining the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the University of North Texas as co-sponsors in the fourth International Student Competition on Cold-Formed Steel Design. The competition is open to all full-time students at either the undergraduate or graduate levels who are interested in cold-formed steel design, creative in problem solving, and eager to learn new technologies. The competition is under way and will conclude on September 30, 2014. This is the only student competition of its kind in the cold-formed steel industry.

The competition is unique in that step-by-step instructions and free software are provided so that any student, regardless of the major area of study, can complete and submit a cold-formed steel design. Cold-formed steel refers to products made by rolling or pressing thin gauges of sheet steel into products.

“Although steel has been used as a building material for many years, structures framed with cold-formed steel require knowledge about the latest innovations in manufacturing, Building Information Modeling, and logistics technologies,” said Maribeth Rizzuto, LEED AP-BD&C, managing director of the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute. “With this competition, students are challenged to reach beyond their traditional studies, learn about the design capabilities of cold-formed steel, and apply this information to a specific problem that they might encounter in the workplace. The design solutions that we’ve received during the past three competitions have been very creative, and we’re looking forward to seeing the 2014 competition submissions.”

The 2014 International Student Competition on Cold-Formed Steel Design is co-hosted by the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute and the University of North Texas. Students are required to work on the problem individually, with no team solutions accepted. They can use an open-source software, CUFSM, to perform the elastic buckling analysis. (CUFSM is software that employs the finite strip method to provide solutions for the cross-section stability of thin-walled cold-formed steel members.) Participants can view the problem and contest rules at <http://www.cfsei.org>.

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Students will submit a completed information form, design essay and CUFSM result file by September 30, 2014. A panel of judges will review all entries and announce the winners in December 2014, with awards mailed in January 2015. The panel of judges is nationally recognized in the area of cold-formed steel design and includes:

- Yared Shifferaw Bayleyegn, Ph.D., assistant professor, Drexel University
- Rick Haws, P.E., NBS Group Services, A Nucor Company, United States
- Roger A. LaBoube, Ph.D., P.E., Distinguished Teaching Professor, Missouri University of Science and Technology, United States
- Yuanqi Li, Ph.D., professor, Tongji University, China
- Cheng Yu, Ph.D., associate professor, University of North Texas, United States

Monetary awards will be provided to the top three winners, and each of the top 10 winners will receive a one-year student membership in the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute. The winning designs will be recognized and exhibited at selected professional conferences. For more information on the competition, please contact:

- Maribeth Rizzuto, LEED AP-BD&C, [MSRizzuto@aol.com](mailto:MSRizzuto@aol.com), tel: 412.921.1060
- Cheng Yu, Ph.D., [Cheng.Yu@unt.edu](mailto:Cheng.Yu@unt.edu), tel: 940.565.2022

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## MARKETPLACE

### US Construction Spending up 0.2 Percent in April

U.S. construction spending posted modest gains in April, driven by an uptick in home building and government construction that lifted total activity to the highest level in five years.

Construction spending rose 0.2 percent in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$953.5 billion, the strongest performance since March 2009, the Commerce Department said Monday. The April increase was lower than economists had expected. But the government revised March activity higher to a 0.6 percent gain, up from an initial estimate of a 0.2 percent increase.

The small April improvement, combined with the strong gain in March, suggest that the construction industry is recovering from the harsh winter and will provide a boost to growth in the months ahead.

"This was mostly a good report," IHS Global Insight economists Stephanie Karol and Patrick Newport said in an analyst note. "Core construction, the piece of the report which affects GDP, advanced 0.6 percent, the largest gain since December."

The April figure marked the third straight increase after the weather pushed spending down 0.4 percent in January. Construction activity dragged the overall economy in the first quarter when gross domestic product actually shrank.

The overall economy contracted at an annual rate of 1 percent in the January-March quarter. Analysts estimate growth to recover to a rate of around 3.8 percent in the April-June period. The expectation is that strong gains in hiring will help lift consumer spending. Other sectors including construction should also bounce back.

In April, residential construction edged up 0.1 percent. It was the lowest monthly gain since an outright decline last October. However, the small increase followed strong gains over the past five months and was enough to lift spending on housing to a seasonally adjusted \$378.5 billion, the highest level since March 2008.

Spending on single-family home construction was up 1.3 percent, while spending on apartment construction rose 2.7 percent. Only the remodeling sector, which accounts for 40 percent of the total, posted a decline, falling 2.2 percent.

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Spending on non-residential projects fell 0.1 percent to an annual rate of \$308 billion, with weakness in the communications industry, where activity dropped 11.7 percent. Spending on hotels, office buildings and shopping centers all showed gains.

Government construction spending rose 0.8 percent to a rate of \$267 billion. This sector has been struggling because of budget cutbacks at all levels of government. In April, spending on federal projects rose 1.9 percent to a rate of \$23.5 billion. Spending on state and local projects was up 0.7 percent to \$243.5 billion.

Total construction spending is 8.6 percent higher than a year ago, led by a 17.2 percent increase in housing construction. Non-residential construction is up by 5.6 percent from a year ago, while government projects are just 1.2 percent higher.

Source: Associated Press, June 2, 2014

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## MARKETPLACE

### Apartments Lead Home-Construction Surge In April

WASHINGTON (MarketWatch) — Volatile apartment construction led a surge last month in new-home building, a trend that worried some economists Friday about the health and sustainability of recent housing-market trends.

Overall construction starts on U.S. homes rose 13.2% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.07 million, the fastest pace in five months, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. That jump was led by apartments, as starts for single-family homes only nudged higher.

“For anyone tempted by these shiny headline numbers to conclude all the recent worry about the state of the housing market was much ado about nothing, we suggest you curb your enthusiasm, at least for now,” Richard Moody, chief economist at Regions Financial Corp., wrote in a research note.

April’s result signals that home construction is continuing to rebound from a tough winter, though economists would like to see a larger share of new construction made up by single-family homes. Building a single-family home costs more and creates more jobs than constructing one apartment.

April’s overall construction result beat expectations from economists polled by MarketWatch, who were looking for a starts rate of 980,000, compared with an originally estimated pace of 946,000 for March. On Friday, the government tweaked March’s starts rate to 947,000.

By type of housing, starts in buildings with at least five units rose 43% in April to an annual pace of 413,000. It’s worth noting that apartment starts had a wide confidence interval of plus-or-minus 36%. Meanwhile, starts for single-family homes eked out a 1% gain in April, rising to an annual rate of 649,000.

In addition to tough weather, the housing market has been hit in recent months by dropping affordability that curbed buyer demand. It’s clear that home builders are concerned. The most recent monthly reading on builders’ confidence in the market for single-family homes showed they are the most pessimistic they’ve been in a year.

### Lukewarm report, despite April surge

Because apartments drove April’s growth, some economists were lukewarm over the results.

“We...prefer to see a tilt towards singles due to the fact that the multiples figures are so volatile. If gains were in single family we would be more confident that overall housing starts could hold that new level,” said Andrew Grantham, an economist at CIBC World Markets.

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Data for building permits, which are an indicator of future projects, also indicated that demand for apartments, not single-family homes, is driving growth. Overall permits rose 8% in April to an annual rate of 1.08 million, the fastest pace since June 2008. Permits for buildings with at least five units rose 22% to an annual pace of 453,000, while permits for single-family homes rose less than 1% to an annual pace of 602,000.

Just last week, Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen expressed caution about the housing market.

“Readings on housing activity — a sector that has been recovering since 2011 — have remained disappointing so far this year and will bear watching,” she told U.S. lawmakers. “The recent flattening out in housing activity could prove more protracted than currently expected rather than resuming its earlier pace of recovery.”

But the good news is that some headwinds for the housing market are abating. Mortgage rates, for example, have declined in recent weeks. Home-price growth is slowing down. And employers are picking up the pace of hiring.

There’s certainly room for construction to grow. Recent home-construction rates are far below the 1.7 million starts per year economists estimate are needed to keep up with population growth and meet demand for replacement and second homes. Builders themselves are more optimistic about future than present sales of single-family homes.

Source: MarketWatch, May 16, 2014

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## MARKETPLACE

### ICC, NAHB, NMHC Will Initiate Safety Review of Recent Fires in Buildings under Construction

*Industry roundtable will discuss the steps that need to be taken to identify what may be driving a rise in fire safety incidents in multi-family buildings under construction*

[International Code Council](#), [National Association of Home Builders](#) and [National Multifamily Housing Council](#) members, stakeholders and others with technical expertise in the built environment will come together to review fires in buildings under construction that recently caused severe property damage and personal injury. The initiative will seek to identify causes and publish its findings to provide an opportunity for code and fire officials, architects, engineers, builders, construction workers, manufacturers and others to collaborate on recommendations for prevention, mitigation and safety.

Using a roundtable, open discussion format, participants will meet on July 31 for a day-long session at the ICC Governmental Affairs Office in Washington, D.C., and deliver its findings by Sept. 15. Retired California State Fire Marshal Ronny J. Coleman will be the moderator. Interested participants can get details by calling 888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233), ext. 6235.

“We have noted a series of recent fires that have struck buildings under construction,” said ICC Board President Stephen Jones, CBO. “Once we identify common causes, participants will explore strategies so the building industry might prevent or mitigate the primary causes of these incidents.”

Under construction building sites can have large amounts of combustible materials that create risks for onsite construction workers, the structure and first responders who may have to battle a fire or other man-made disaster. Both the *2012 International Building Code* and *2012 International Fire Code* address safety during construction, including mitigating fire hazards, standpipes, water supply for fire protection, precautions against fire, owner’s responsibility for fire protection, fire reporting, access for firefighting, portable fire extinguishers and safeguarding roofing operations.

“While the codes address safety measures for buildings under construction, code development and code compliance are ongoing improvement processes,” Jones said. “Eliminating unsafe worksite practices in the built environment, improving contractor and worker competencies through training programs aimed at compliance with current ICC building and fire codes, applicable federal and state fire protection requirements, and identifying best practices can help prevent future incidents.”

Roundtable participants will review the official report of cause for major under construction fires as determined by the local investigating fire and/or building department or any other official agency. The group also will work with site owners and contractors to examine the relevant information about each incident in developing any recommendations for improving safety at construction sites.

Source: *International Code Council, May 7, 2014*

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### CEOs Announce Major Commitment to Promote Resilient Planning and Building Materials

Washington, D.C. – May 13, 2014 – Leaders of America’s design and construction industry – along with building owners and operators - for the first time have agreed to promote resilience in contemporary planning, building materials, design, construction and operational techniques as the solution to making the nation’s aging infrastructure more safe and secure.

CEOs of almost two-dozen leading design and construction industry associations with more than 700,000 members generating almost \$1 trillion in GDP today used the occasion of “Building Safety Month” to issue a joint statement on resilience, which can be found [here](#). The statement was unveiled at a press conference at the National Building Museum, where a major exhibition titled *Designing for Disaster* presents design and building solutions for disaster mitigation, opened May 11.

“We recognize that natural and manmade hazards pose an increasing threat to the safety of the public and the vitality of our nation,” reads the statement, in part. “We further recognize that contemporary planning, building materials, design, construction and operational techniques can make our communities more resilient to these threats.”

The CEOs committed their design and construction sector organizations to significantly improve the resilience of the nation’s entire built environment through research into new materials, construction procedures and other methods to improve the standard of practice. Among other things, they also committed the industry to educating itself through continuous learning; to advocating for effective land use policies; to responding to disasters alongside first responders; and to planning for future events, with a strategy for fast recovery.

“Resilient design places architects at the center of the solution, with particular emphasis on the private, non-governmental sectors,” said American Institute of Architects CEO Robert Ivy, FAIA. “I would like to congratulate my fellow leaders in the design and construction sector for joining together to make sure resiliency is not viewed as just a fad but remains front and center in our efforts moving forward.”

In addition to the AIA, here is a list of organizations signing onto the joint statement on resilience:

American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Planning Association  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Interior Designers  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
American Society of Plumbing Engineers  
ASHRAE

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Associated Builders and Contractors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Building Owners and Managers Association  
International Code Council  
International Interior Design Association  
Lean Construction Institute  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Institute of Building Sciences International Facility Management Association  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors  
Urban Land Institute  
U.S. Green Building Council

Source: *The American Institute of Architects, May 13, 2014*

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## MARKETPLACE

### Bad Signs in Homebuilding & Lumber

Prices are down some, and rental rates are up. This is not a very exciting Spring for wood products manufacturers. It would not take much to upset a fragile recovery. Recent lumber manufacturing, home construction, and housing markets from selected years are compared.

#### Prices in Dollars per Thousand Board Feet

	Apr'14	Mar'14	Feb'14	Jan'14	Mar'13	Mar'11	Mar '05
Southern Oregon Studs <sup>1</sup>	\$322	\$330	\$332	\$322	\$430	\$270	\$405
Southern Oregon Logs <sup>2</sup>	Not avail.	\$730	\$763	\$763	\$705	\$596	\$685

#### Thousands of Housing Units

US Private Housing Starts <sup>3</sup>	946	920	903	1005	600	1864
US Private Building Permits	990	1014	945	890	583	2062

#### Months of Inventory of Unsold Homes

Portland OR Unsold Home inventory <sup>4</sup>	3.1	3.9	4.1	3.2	7.1	1.8
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#### Percentage interest rate

30-year Fixed Rate Mortgage <sup>5</sup>	4.33 <sup>6</sup>	4.34	4.30	4.43	3.57	4.84	5.93
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#### Thousands of Dollars

Median US Home Value <sup>7</sup>	\$169.8	\$169.5	\$169.2	\$160.7	\$156.5	\$175.7
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### Interpretation and Looking Ahead.

This month's report is lackluster. Spring is approaching. Yet, lumber and logs have started to drop – albeit from record log prices. Mill inventories are low as reported by Random Lengths, as they have been for the last 8 months. Any spark in demand would translate to a spark in price of studs, but there has been no such spark.

Likewise, housing starts and building permits have stalled, compared to the steady upward, albeit slow, trend of the last few years. Homebuilding is barely better than a year ago. The median price increase of homes has also slowed to a crawl, compared to the last couple of years.

Today, the Oregonian reported that home ownership in the US dipped to 64.8 percent, from a high of 69.2% in 2004. This is the lowest rate since 64.7% in 1995. In Portland, the home ownership rate is 60.9% and the rental vacancy rate is 3.1% is the second lowest in the nation, according to Census Bureau reports.

What will it take to increase home construction? A lower unsold inventory, as happened this month, helps. It will also take a fundamental change in the desire of current homeowners to sell. The Oregonian cited a Redfin report that 6 in 10 Portland area homes will not likely be put up for sale because owners do not have enough equity in their homes. Many more would not make enough on the sale of a home to have money for a down payment on the next home.

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USA Today reports that 17% of mortgages are still under water nationwide, relative to the mortgage amount. These homes will not sell anytime soon. While Redfin is predicting slow improvement over the next 5 years, increased mortgage rates would dampen the enthusiasm quickly.

Fortunately, mortgage rates have not increased much, or have increased very slowly. The European Central Bank could contribute to maintaining lower interest rates by starting a quantitative easing program which helped keep US, interest rates low for years. In a global economy, this would have some influence on US interest rates.

Another grey cloud on the horizon: Watch for National legislation, the Johnson-Crapo bill, that replaces Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Although introduced in mid-March, its fate is uncertain. One report I saw, said that this bill would preserve the 30-year fixed rate mortgage, and introduce other affordable housing incentives. These incentives are crucial and worth watching closely. Analysts indicated that this bill may move in about 3 years (after the next Presidential election).

Either conditions change so that homeowners sell their current homes and build new ones, or more renters become homeowners again. Otherwise, the homebuilding market is not going to markedly improve.

Data reports used with permission of: 1Random Lengths. Kiln Dried 2x4-8' PET #2/#2&Btr lumber. 2RISI, Log Lines. Douglas-fir #2 Sawmill Log Average, Southern Oregon region. 3 US Dept of Commerce. 4Regional Multiple Listing Service, courtesy of Janet Johnston, Prudential Real Estate Professionals, Roseburg, OR. 5Freddie Mac. National monthly average. 6Mortgage-X, national average, most recent week. 7Zillow.com, National Median home value. (<http://www.zillow.com/or/>) © Copyright Rick Sohn, Umpqua Coquille LLC. Issue #7-4. For more information or permission to reprint, please e-mail [rsohn@umpquacoquille.com](mailto:rsohn@umpquacoquille.com)

Source: *Natural Resource Report, May 5, 2014*

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## MARKETPLACE

### Overbuilding Overblown? Apartment Markets Expand in April NMHC Quarterly Survey

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Apartment markets rebounded from a soft January, with all four indexes above the breakeven level of 50 in the latest National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC) Quarterly Survey of Apartment Market Conditions. Last year's concerns of overbuilding or lack of capital have largely eased, reflected in market tightness (56), sales volume (52), equity financing (53) and debt financing (63) all above 50 for the first time since April 2013.

"Supply appears to have ramped up enough to meet approximate ongoing demand with few, if any, signs of irrational exuberance," said NMHC Senior Vice President of Research and Chief Economist Mark Obrinsky. "A handful of submarkets are facing a temporary surge in new deliveries that may put downward pressure on occupancy rates or rent growth. However, increased development costs could well keep a lid on new supply."

"The improvement in sales volume comes as a bit of a surprise, both because volume generally falls off seasonally at the beginning of the calendar year and because there has been a dearth of product available. It will be interesting to see whether the results are further borne out in transactions data over the next few months," said Obrinsky.

#### Key findings include:

**The Market Tightness Index rose from 41 to 56.** Almost half (47 percent) of respondents reported unchanged conditions, and approximately one-third (32 percent) saw conditions as tighter than three months ago, in contrast with January's survey, where almost one-third saw conditions as looser than three months ago. This is the first time the index has indicated overall improving conditions since July 2013.

**The Sales Volume Index also rose from 41 to 52,** the first time the index has been above 50 in a year. Almost half (43 percent) of respondents felt that sales volumes were unchanged from three months earlier, while a slightly higher share of responses noted higher sales (28 percent) than lower sales (23 percent).

**The Equity Financing Index rose slightly from 50 to 53.** The majority of respondents (58 percent) continue to report that the availability of equity financing is unchanged from three months ago—a similar result to the past two quarterly surveys. One-fifth of respondents (20 percent) believed that financing was more available than three months prior, slightly higher than the amount of respondents (13 percent) that believed financing was less available.

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## The Debt Financing Index had the largest increase, rising to 63 from 42.

Almost one-third (30 percent) believed that conditions are better, and only 3 percent felt that conditions were worse, a marked decline from January's Quarterly Survey, when 30 percent felt conditions were worse.

## A strong majority of respondents (80 percent) reported that land costs for new development have increased from last year.

34 percent reported increases of 10 percent or more and 46 percent noted increases of less than 10 percent. By contrast, just under one-fifth (19 percent) reported land costs unchanged from the previous year. [Note: these percentages exclude those who responded "Don't know/not applicable."]

Source: National Multifamily Housing Council, April 29, 2014

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## MARKETPLACE

### For All Its Promise, BIM Far From Perfect, Users Say

#### Dive Brief:

- Since 2008, the use of building information modeling (BIM) software among structural engineers has doubled from about a third to two-thirds for steel structures, an industry survey found.
- Some are also starting to use BIM for cast-in-place concrete projects, but few engineers share their models with contractors because they fear liability issues.
- For all BIM's inroads, a two-dimensional file is still how most projects are delivered, according to Will Ikerd, BIM and structural consultant who co-chairs the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) and the Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE) committee that surveyed U.S. firms.

#### Dive Insight:

Firms must see a benefit to using BIM, even if it is not for deliverables. Just over three-quarters of the firms responding the survey said they do not charge clients extra for working in BIM models.

Source: *ConstructionDIVE*, May 13, 2014

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