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FAQ
Frequently Asked Questions

Why is EcobloQ™ called "a significant advance in masonry construction" ?

The quantum leap represented by EcobloQ™ (EBQ™) relative to conventional masonry is embodied within a coherent construction system composed of value-added concrete products that go together like a toy, while producing substantial reductions in the volume of cement materials and labor skill required to erect quality buildings.

What is meant by "value-added" product ?

"Value-added" denotes the incorporation of useful functions which eliminate the time and cost of additional subsystems normally required to complete conventional masonry, such as parging, waterproofing, exterior finishes, insulation, structural framework, lintels, furring, etc., while at the same time facilitating and simplifying the installation of electrical power, communications and plumbing systems installed by other trades.

How can EBQ™ reduce the skill of labor to assemble it ?

The ergonomic EBQ™ units interlock together in 3 dimensions to quickly generate vertical and horizontal building elements of high strength and durability.

In addition to mechanical interlocks that dispense with most of the mortar used in traditional masonry, EBQ™ systems contain self-inspection features which ensure proper and safe assembly of units and allow unskilled workers production of high quality homes and buildings after a short training period.

What is meant by "ergonomic" units ?

"Ergonomic" refers to units of small size (human scale) and light weight resulting in significant reduction in the fatigue factor and productivity losses that characterize conventional masonry work, thus allowing EBQ™ construction by adults of most body sizes and genders.

What productivity rates can be attained with trained EBQ™ crews ?

Construction rates of one house of 100 SM per week (one level), or one storey per week for multi-floor buildings can be achieved by RBS trained crews using RBS specified equipment.

RBS FAQ

Is the comparison of costs between single product units a true measure of the relative economy between different building systems ?

One-to-one product unit comparisons between value-added and commodity building product units will produce misleading and erroneous results, because the real cost of complete building elements such as walls and floors must include the cost of all structural and accessory components of the finished assembly.

Conventional construction using commodity products - unlike EBQ™ - necessitates the addition of a number of structural and accessory subsystems such as bearing frame, finishes, coatings, insulation and moisture protection, not to mention the added expense of installing plumbing and electrical systems through field perforations and metal conduits.

What are the economic advantages of EBQ™ ?

Cost efficiency results from a decrease in usage of raw materials and accessory subsystems, while additionally, increased EBQ™ productivity significantly reduces construction time and interim financing costs. Overall, the RBS method and products of construction are able to produce meaningful economies in the life-cycle cost of its projects through the durability of its materials, i.e. earth-based, inorganic, incombustible concrete, and the superb engineering and strength of its systems to resist seismic, hurricane, fire and flood events.

What are the requirements for evaluating RBS costs in a new market ?

On the basis of detailed information on the local market collected and provided by the prospective licensee, Synthesis formulates a preliminary design scheme upon which a detailed economic study may be prepared for client review and presentation to funding sources.

How is RBS technology implemented in a new market ?

Based on decades of experience, RBS has developed a Technology Transfer Programme (TTP) that addresses design, manufacture and construction requirements through a multi-disciplinary training component conducted by RBS technical personnel at the new market location.

What is the first step for the initiation of an RBS TTP ?

After execution of RBS license and identification of the particulars of licensee's market demand, the Architectural-Engineering design of the first project is prepared by RBS' holding Company, Synthesis International, Inc., whose intimate knowledge of the EBQ™ modularity and characteristics allows it to demonstrate and optimize the cost effectiveness, structural integrity and outstanding aesthetics enabled by the EBQ™ menu of products.

RBS FAQ

How is the design phase followed ?

After approval of the preliminary design concept and consequent feasibility analysis, and during preparation of construction documents, the RBS manufacturing technology equipment is brought to the client's territory in accordance with the particular contract, in preparation for execution of the EBQ™ training programme at facilities provided by the client.

What is the duration of the TTP ?

Duration of TTP activities will vary depending upon contract scope and market location.

Contracts incorporating complete EBQ™ production plants usually require a minimum of 9 months prior to start of construction of first project. Contracts in markets with available and suitable concrete unit production facilities may require periods primarily defined as a function of RBS molds required, and complexity and scope of the first project.

What is the role of RBS after construction of the first EBQ™ project ?

Continued quality control certification (QCC) is provided by RBS by means of monthly or quarterly product and construction monitoring in order to ensure maintenance of above-Code EBQ™ standards and specifications, while lending the licensee the marketing credibility of third party certification and protection of the value of RBS Trademarks in all markets.

How is the TTP cost assessed ?

The RBS fees agreed through the contract are based on the scope of the technology transfer and size of the market, all as assigned to specific phases of the project, i.e. design services, manufacturing set-up, training services, construction management and QC Certification, in addition to other consulting services that may be contemplated by the particular contract.

For additional information, pertaining the license and use of RBS technology please consult with Synthesis International, Inc..

For technical assistance EBQ™ physical characteristics and evaluation of specific applications, please consult with RBS Technical Department.

For further details please visit: www.rapidbuilding.com *and* www.synthesisinternational.com

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