

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Steel Industry Make Stand to Deliver!**

**“We can deliver” is the rallying cry of the Steel Homes Group to the construction industry following last weeks Design for Manufacture Competition criteria announcement.**

With modern methods of construction sitting at the heart of this Government initiative to demonstrate how a quality home can be built for a construction cost of £60,000, the Steel Homes Group is spearheading the re-emergence of steel as a viable option in quality residential construction.

The Steel Homes Group believe that any significant entry to the Design For Manufacture competition will see steel frames and systems play a pivotal role in the design and delivery. Benefiting the developer, steel frame homes offer an increasing level of off-site manufacturing opportunities to ensure the wider development industry can meet and exceed existing standards of build quality and reliability.

From a cost perspective, off-site manufacture plays an integral role in helping to manage the challenges of containing build cost inflation, saving on the need for on-site preliminaries, and reducing the time required on site. These factors directly contribute to reducing the risk of construction programme delays, as well as serving to minimise disruption and disturbance to area surrounding the site. The stability of steel as a construction material results in fewer defects, thereby minimising the need for expensive and time-consuming follow-up work after construction, to promote long-term performance use of the building.

A market share of 95% in the construction of industrial long span single storey constructions and approximately 70% market share in the construction of commercial multi-storey buildings is testimony to the effectiveness of steel framing. This effectiveness can be transferred to residential construction, and if the £60k house is to be a real prospect rather than a stunt, it is only deliverable through the utilisation of that effective supply chain partnering already practised with live on-site projects delivered by members of the steel framing industry.

*“The UK market needs to wake up to the benefits of residential steel framing, and the significant contribution it can make to the development of cost-effective quality housing,”* comments Graham Raven, SCI. *“Over 50% of properties in the Netherlands and parts of the USA utilise steel as a key component in their construction, whilst steel’s current share in the UK MMC market is only 2%. This competition will provide a platform to improve the understanding of how steel frames can deliver high quality sustainable communities, in order to steal a march on the market share of steel in the UK”.*

**– ENDS –**

For more information contact Mark Cooper / Beth Motley on 01242 577277 or:

[mcooper@camarguepr.com](mailto:mcooper@camarguepr.com) / [bmotley@camarguepr.com](mailto:bmotley@camarguepr.com)

***Issued on behalf of Steel Homes Group by Camargue,  
Corporate and B2B Communications, Camargue House, Wellington Road,  
Cheltenham, Glos GL52 2AG.  
Tel: 01242 577277 Fax: 01242 527277.***

***Editor’s Notes:***

<sup>1</sup> *Steel Homes Group members include:*

Spaceover, Fusion Building Systems (UK) Ltd, Banro Projects, Terrapin, UNITE Modular Solutions, Yorkon, Metsec, Metek Building Systems, Corus Strip Products UK, Corus Living Solutions, Kingspan Off-Site, Framing Solutions plc, Caledonian Building Systems  
The Steel Homes group is facilitated by The Steel Construction Institute.

- Further information on the Steel Homes Group is available on: [www.steelhomesgroup.com](http://www.steelhomesgroup.com)