



NASH Board Member Dr Stephen Hicks invited to represent New Zealand on a major European fire research programme.

Dr Stephen Hicks, who is Manager of Structural systems at the Heavy Engineering Research Association (HERA) has been invited as the only non-European representative to participate on the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action entitled 'Integrated Fire Engineering and Response (IFER)', which includes researchers and specialists from 18 European countries. The main objective of this COST Action is to break down the barriers preventing the exchange of information and experience between researchers from different disciplines. It also aims at providing particular applications on the performance-based fire safety design methods to practitioners and the introduction of the latest international research into standards for fire design.

It is believed that Stephen's participation on this COST Action will allow it to gain access to the wealth of European fire test data (most recently, on long span beams with regular web-openings) together with gaining access to, and influencing, international guidance on fire design. It is hoped that the outputs from this work can be used in the development of the new fire part to NZS3404, which is currently underway, together with the update to the HERA Slab Panel Method (SPM).

For further information see http://www.cost.esf.org/domains_actions/tud/Actions/TU0904-IFER-Integrated-Fire-Engineering-and-Response , or contact Dr Stephen Hicks on stephen.hicks@hera.org.nz