

UK Trade & Investment to hold Export Week 11-15 November

Following the success of Export Week in May, which focused on high growth markets, the Government's UK Trade & Investment initiative is running a series of regional events from 11 to 15 November.

Each of 12 regions in the UK will hold at least one event on one of the days. The aim is to give businesses a helping hand either to start exporting or to expand existing export activity. The three devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

will be involved in those regions as well as a large number of partners and related organisations in all regions.

The highlight of the week will be the ExploreExport road show that will visit eight English regions. More than 130 UKTI trade specialists involved in more than 70 markets around the World will hold one-to-one meetings for companies that sign up to the scheme. You can find out about the events in your region at www.exportweek.ukti.gov.uk

Thomann-Hanry solves aquaduct's water problem

Thomann-Hanry's abrasive cleaning system carried out in an enclosed cabinet is just what is needed to prevent water pollution while cleaning High Bridge in New York.

Stone cleaning and restoration company Thomann-Hanry, with its 'façade gommage' dry, gentle abrasive cleaning system that does not require scaffolding, is gaining itself quite a reputation in America.

Having been asked to quote to clean New York's 3,500-year-old version of London's Cleopatra's Needle earlier in the year using its enclosed, heavyweight cherry-pickers, Thomann-Hanry was back in New York last month (September) at the request of New York-based Schiavone Construction, a specialist in complex, heavy construction projects, to offer a solution to the cleaning of High Bridge in Harlem. The bridge is a 15,000m² granite aquaduct that once supplied Manhattan with drinking water.

The instruction was all the more urgent because elements of the \$45million dollar project had been put on hold when water runoff from the cleaning system that had started to be used was proving impossible to control. There were concerns it would contaminate the river, as well as annoying drivers using the expressway below the bridge.

Thomann-Hanry sent a crew to conduct a feasibility study and carry out cleaning samples. Sample cleans in various locations were approved by the conservators. Thomann-Hanry's proposal for containing dust while working from mast climbers above a river, expressway and rail line were also adopted. Schiavone is now moving on to



High Bridge in Harlem, New York, seen from the road below.

larger scale trials and Thomann-Hanry is confident this complex project will move forward successfully.

Thomann-Hanry MD Mark Styles commented: "Once again our unique facade gommage system has been proven and accepted as a safe and non-abrasive technique on one of the oldest and most important historical structures in NYC.

"We are determined to do everything we can to assist our clients wherever they may be in the world and are encouraged by the growing numbers of enquiries we deal with worldwide..."

Originating in France, the Thomann-Hanry's facade gommage patented formula has been in operation in the UK since 2006 and continues to grow year-on-year.

But Thomann-Hanry strongly advise clients that a building survey before work starts can save time, money and unnecessary work, as it demonstrated to a client in London earlier this year.

The Grade 2 listed 18 Wellington Street in Aldwych had not been cleaned or maintained externally for more than 20 years. A large number of cracks had appeared in the render facade and were causing concern to both owners and tenants.

Faced with worst case estimates of £300,000 or more, Thomann-Hanry was employed to carry out a full structural survey of the building, including a hammer

test of the facade from an aerial platform.

The results were marked on to photogrammetric elevation drawings and a full schedule of works was prepared.

The hammer test, combined with render analysis, revealed that the cracks only extended through the render and were not affecting the structural integrity of the building.

Following instruction, Thomann-Hanry made a listed building application on behalf of the clients and the 12 weeks work started last month (September).

Thomann Henri Technical Director Stephen Syfret says: "The initial inspection suggested that the render had failed in most areas and that the entire facade should be stripped off and re-rendered. When we undertook a visual and hammer-test survey from the aerial platform, we found that much of the render had not actually failed and was still in a reasonable condition, only requiring localised repairs.

"The mortar analysis revealed that the surface layer was cement-based. The cracks were a result of differential shrinkage between marginally incompatible materials and should only need consolidation, rather than repair, as this had not failed but had only crazed.

"The detailed survey showed that much of the historic fabric (and our client's budget) could be spared."