



Education on Emerging Building Technologies at Association's Mid-Year Meeting

PIMA meeting attendees tour Oak Ridge National Laboratories

Knoxville, TN, July 1, 2016 – Members of the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA) gathered in Knoxville, TN for their mid-year meeting. Attended by over 100 members—both polyiso manufacturers and suppliers to the industry—the two-day gathering featured a tour of the Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL) as part of its educational session.

Research at ORNL has been instrumental in the development of high-performance building materials, beginning in the 1990s with initiatives to produce polyiso manufactured with blowing agents free from CFCs. On site at ORNL, members toured the world's largest entirely 3D printed structure – powered by a hybrid engine and embedded with a solar array attached to a battery that stores energy for nighttime power. The technology used in the 3D printing, a vacuum panel insulation embedded in the polyurethane based wall/roof assemblies to achieve high levels of energy efficiency and thermal performance, shows promise for future building applications.

“The building science research facilities at ORNL test products in controlled weather simulations and provide vital information in developing whole building ecosystem technologies,” said PIMA President Jared Blum. “ORNL has been a vital partner of our industry for over 25 years and we look forward to our continued working relationship.”

Supercomputers at ORNL analyze satellite imagery and neighborhood surveys to study energy usage, assess air leakage and thermal performance, and calculate the effects of energy building codes in targeted areas. Information from this research helps PIMA members design products and processes that provide superior performance and resiliency despite demands of a changing climate.

This year's meeting was hosted by Huntsman Polyurethanes.

About PIMA

For over 25 years, the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA) has served as the unified voice of the rigid polyiso industry proactively advocating for safe, cost-effective, sustainable and energy efficient construction. PIMA's members, who first came together in 1987, include a synergistic partnership of polyiso manufacturers and industry suppliers. Polyiso is one of the North America's most widely used and cost-effective insulation products available. To learn more visit www.polyiso.org.

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