

MEDIA RELEASE

From Ecquate and Ecospecifier International (approved by Australian Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation)

Product Life Cycle Assessment turns over a new leaf.

Ecquate Pty Ltd are proud to announce they are working with Ecospecifier Pty Ltd (t/as Ecospecifier International) for the development, distribution, use and sales of “**LCADesign for ecospecifier**” for brand-name, product-specific life cycle assessment (LCA) customised using corporate data, together with enhanced versions of the LCADesign software suite incorporating ecospecifier defined, product specific life cycle impact assessment (LCIA).

The Australian Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Construction Innovation developed LCADesign software, is a world-first, rapid ecoprofiling system with real-time take off from building information models (BIMs) generated by 3D Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) packages such as ArchiCAD and REVIT. These leading tools can save files in industry foundation class (IFC) data transfer format essential for interoperability. Once BIMS are imported, a smart tagging tool links element groups with algorithms and LCI data to generate whole-of-life environmental health LCIA covering manufacture, periodic maintenance, replacement and operating energy and water.

LCADesign provides very detailed LCIA of every element and system defined in the BIM, as well as aggregated weighted impact results to generate a single eco-point score all compared to reference designs. The software, with generic material specifications, is only now on the market in Australia. Other tools in the suite licensed to Ecospecifier, allow the same type of analysis to be conducted at a product level and Ecospecifier will initially use LCADesign to undertake product specific analysis to create integrated green BIM Data.

Ecospecifier is Australia’s benchmark online green product verification knowledgebase and database with over 3500 eco-preferred products. Ecospecifier’s unique GreenRate service provides product green building rating scheme e.g. Green Star™, NABERS, LEED®, etc product pre-assessment services connecting unique Tool and Credit specific searches of products that meet the relevant Technical Manual Criteria. Ecospecifier launched in the UAE in early 2008 and is launching in South Africa and Singapore shortly.

According to Ecospecifier Technical Director David Baggs ‘*LCADesign will allow ecospecifier to undertake its unique eco-product verification service in a much more robust way while at the same time making it much simpler for the market to understand and work with*’. Industry professionals will be able to undertake whole building eco-profiling that ‘*in the past might have taken numerous person-months to years, in a matter of hours to weeks and considering scenarios of alternative product selections in a matter of hours*’ he said.

Delwyn Jones, Ecquate’s Sustainability Assessment Manager and former Principal Scientist with QLD Department of Public Works, Technology and Development and member of CRC CI LCADesign project teams since 2001 considers that the relationship with Ecospecifier “*will foster confidence in the relevance of this transformational product and provides a most significant impetus to user acceptance and to accelerate market uptake.*” The engagement of Ecospecifier in the development of product specific data for LCADesign users will enable many manufacturers already or interested in being involved in listing with Ecospecifier this unique opportunity to have LCA data compiled, communicated to the market-at-large and eventually to interact with BIM eco-profiling of real world building projects. The LCA future is very different from that in the past when LCA data has had no real ‘life’ after the LCA report.

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