



Interview by Peter Edwards, Global Gypsum Magazine

An introduction to Protektor's MAXI-TEC® system

Following on from our interview about Mada Gypsum's operations in the March 2017 issue, we speak to company President Stefan Trojer about the Saudi Arabian company's use of the MAXI-TEC system from German based Protektor.

Global Gypsum (GG): Can you introduce the MAXI-TEC® system by Protektor?

Stefan Trojer (ST): Protektor is one of the leading manufacturers of construction profiles in Europe. What drives Protektor is a passion for efficient construction. This is deeply rooted in the history of the company and its culture. The aim of the founders was to supply the construction industry with functional, innovative products.

MAXI-TEC® is Protektor's brand for a special technology to produce stud and tracks with a web characterised by openings in a special design. These openings do not reduce the strength of a wallboard system because of the folding technology. The metal is strengthened by cold forming and the structure is supported by reinforcing fins. This design of stud and tracks enables easy installation of cables and pipes.

GG: How does the system help Mada Gypsum?

ST: Mada Gypsum Company (MGC) has always aspired to be the type of market leader that excels in using current technology and the front runner in terms of introducing new and innovative products to the market. When introducing 'Mada Plus Systems,' MGC understood that offering the best metal profiles would be a vital step towards being placed among the top manufacturers, so the company took it as an opportunity to also introduce a new technology that is both economic and sustainable.

The partnership with Protektor brings to us a long technical know-how of metal profile manufacturing and allows MGC to provide products and solutions on a par with other international brands.

GG: How does it retain performance while placing less weight on the studs?

ST: A stud has several aspects that determine the performance, mainly the

tensile strength of the metal and the amount of metal available in a square centimeter, which, in turn, affects the weight. MAXI-TEC® reduces the metal used thus reducing the weight, which results in a more ergonomic stud that is easy to work with, and is more environmentally sustainable. This is due to the cold forging process that creates a stronger metallic product that balances the reduced weight of the stud.

GG: What benefits do installers report?

ST: There are several key benefits that are inter-related and that result in an easier and quicker installation without the need of additional training or equipment. The stud's unique shape impacts the weight which makes the studs easier to handle, manoeuvre and install, resulting in a more ergonomically-favourable working environment.

Right: Comparison of profiles of Mada's standard stud (above) and Mada MAXI-TEC® stud (below).





GG: What led to Mada Gypsum adopting the technology?

ST: MAXI-TEC® fits perfectly under our aims to be sustainable and innovative. The design requires less steel for the same tensile strength, and reduces wastage by avoiding the punching process. MAXI-TEC® also uses cold forging for the manufacturing, eliminating the need for a heat source. These two aspects of manufacturing result in lower CO₂ emissions.

Green projects are on the rise in the Gulf Cooperation Council region. Using MAXI-TEC® helps projects achieve a better LEED rating. In addition, MGC has also expanded the recycling facility and the plant making 'Mada Plus Systems' is a strong contender for projects in the region.

GG: Are there any disadvantages compared to conventional studs?

ST: No disadvantages or complaints have been reported regarding our products. Indeed, one of the most iconic projects that used MAXI-TEC® is the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change headquarters in Bonn, which made the use of ecological and sustainable building materials their priority in its renovation project.

GG: Thank you for your time today.

ST: You are very welcome!



Left: Images show the flexibility of installation of wallboard systems using Protaktor's MAXI-TEC® stud system.

The design ensures that the installation lines for electricity and water can be easily passed through the wall without having to punch the otherwise customary additional passages, as is required with standard studs. The ergonomic and efficient design reduces the working time required, decreasing the cost of labour in construction, which makes MAXI-TEC® an economical solution for all applicators.



Left: Outside Mada Gypsum, located in Yanbu, Saudi Arabia.