

Recruitment News

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German builders pave way for UK entry

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CONSTRUCTION workers from Germany are heading to Britain in search of work.

The construction industry is stagnating in Germany but 30,000 new homes a year are planned in the UK over the next 20 years.

London's 2012 Olympic Games is another attraction for German builders.

Bettina Hansmeier, a spokeswoman for a lobby representing craftsmen in the industrial state of North Rhine-Westphalia, said websites advising German builders how to get into the British market have been launched.

Hansmeier said: "We start with: how can I attack the market, how do I get a contract? There are hurdles, such as customs, taxes, registration, and even cultural barriers."

Last September the German Master Craftsmen group gathered ten trade associations together to "facilitate entry into the British construction market and promote German attributes, such as the high quality of workmanship".

At the end of this month, the German Master Craftsmen will set up an exhibit at the trade fair Interbuild in Birmingham.

Hansmeier said that bi-lingual flyers have been printed and English lessons are being offered to builders by the craftsmen group.

She added: "German craftsmen have a very, very sound level of training.

"We have the Meistertitel, or master certificate, a designation which doesn't even exist in Britain. Then there are German qualities, such as punctuality, reliability, and exactness, which are also vital. The Brits know that we can be counted on."

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