

The BRE Trust, the charitable organisation that owns the BRE group of companies celebrates its 10th anniversary with the launch of a new thematic research programme at Ecobuild called 'Future Cities'. The programme will explore the range of challenges faced by the global built environment as more people migrate to cities.

Specific areas of focus will be: Energy Supply & Demand, Buildings and Infrastructure, Health and Wellbeing, Crime, Infrastructure and ICT and Communities and Social Interaction.

BRE's Director of Knowledge Exploitation Deborah Pullen said 'By 2050 70% of the world's population will be living in urban environments and while these can be creative and productive places, generating more wealth and using fewer resources per capita than the average for a country they are also more vulnerable to climate change, infrastructure failure and health problems. They also experience higher levels of congestion and crime. We need a range of new knowledge to support positive city living'

This year the Trust would like to engage a new range of organisations with its activities. Visitors to Ecobuild will be asked to complete a questionnaire requesting their views and ideas on the type of research they think is needed and to indicate whether they would like to get involved with specific areas of the programme.

The Trust which is the largest UK charity dedicated specifically to built environment research and education was set up in 2002 to advance knowledge, innovation and communication in the sector for public benefit. With an income generated by the profits gift-aided from the BRE Group of companies, the Trust commissions research that represents the spectrum of challenges faced by the built environment. Project findings are published and act as authoritative guidance to the construction industry.

For further information on the Trust go to www.bre.co.uk/bretrust or contact Linda McKeown, BRE, email mckeownl@bre.co.uk, tel 01923 664569.