

Cold chain builders stress the importance of innovation

At the 45th Annual Controlled Environment Building Association (CEBA) Conference & Expo the message was loud and clear — innovation needs to keep on coming.

By Andrew Meadows, AJOT

As reliance on the global cold chain increases, continually improving construction design through innovation is the key to efficiency and sustainability.

That was one of the main messages at the 45th Annual Controlled Environment Building Association (CEBA) Conference & Expo where more than 550 attendees spent three days in Las Vegas earlier this month discussing best in class facility design, cold chain trends and market investment.

“Temperature-controlled facility design and construction has surged in recent years. These projects — sophisticated next-gen buildings, special endeavors, and retrofits — are all vital links in the global cold chain,” said Lindsay Shelton-Gross, Senior Vice President, Global Communications, Marketing, and Strategic Initiatives for the Global Cold Chain Alliance which partnered with CEBA on the Expo. “Suppliers are also providing increasingly innovative products that make builds more sophisticated, more energy-resilient, and more future-proofed for their clients’ long-term needs.”

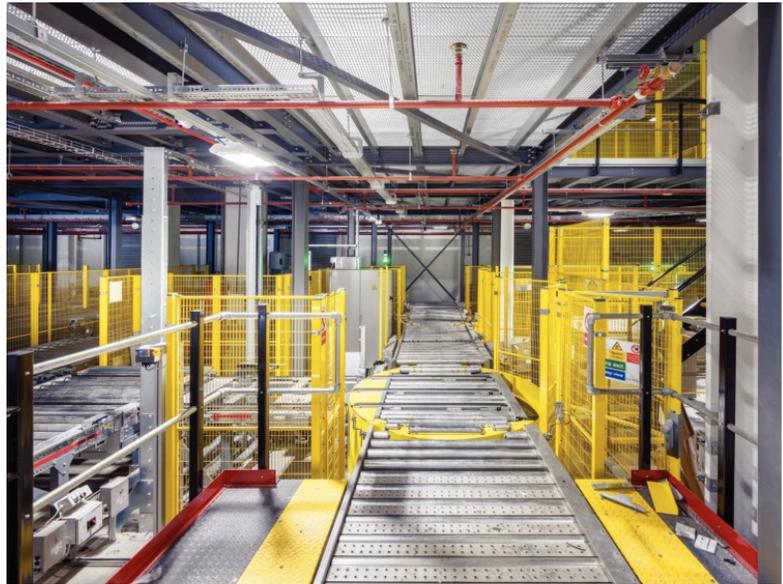


Lindsay Shelton-Gross, Senior VP, Global Cold Chain Alliance

Panelists, presenters and break-out sessions covered food safety by design, energy efficiency, and construction and warehousing. The Trends & Market Forces in Temperature-Controlled Facility Construction panel discussion drew one of the largest crowds. Panelists included Anita Nanda, SVP, Global Development & Automation, Americold; Mark Grimes, Facility and Engineering Development, Gordon Food Services; John Long,

key insights from this year’s programming and discussions.

“A trend that came across clearly throughout the conference is that customers say flexibility is key — investments in anything that becomes antiquated too quickly is problematic. Assessing a technology’s results against the Return on Investment early in a project lifecycle is vital. And with tariffs and material costs starting to rise to the top of RFPs, customers are not willing to pay (INNOVATION — continued on page 26)



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Senior Vice President of Design & Construction, RL Cold; Mike Llewellyn, SVP of Construction, RealCold. The Moderator was Scott Guimond, Vice President, Fisher Construction Group.

CUSTOMERS LOOK FOR FLEXIBILITY

Shelton-Gross offered some

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