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FIRA exports expertise to Egypt

The Furniture Industry Research Association (FIRA) has announced that it has – in partnership with the Egyptian government – set up a state-of-the-art test laboratory in Egypt, allowing furniture testing to be done locally for the first time.

The new laboratory, which is currently able to carry out structural testing of tables, chairs, storage cabinets and surface finishes, has been set up to improve the competitiveness of Egypt's local furniture manufacturing industry in international markets.

FIRA revealed that additional equipment will be installed shortly which will allow testing for formaldehyde content in chipboard.

Located just outside Cairo, the Furniture Technology Centre is being operated by FIRA's programme director in Egypt, Paul Greenbank.

Phil Reynolds, senior manager of technical services at FIRA, said: "The new testing laboratory gives local manufacturers access to internationally recognised expertise and will form a vital link in ensuring the Egyptian furniture manufacturing industry can compete on the international stage.

"FIRA sees this as a long term partnership between the Egyptian furniture industry and the UK and we're excited by the challenges of taking this project forward."

As part of the partnership FIRA revealed that it supported the Furniture Technology Centre at the recent Furnex exhibition in Cairo.

Additionally, Phil Reynolds recently took part in a seminar on improving furniture quality with the Egyptian Organisation for Standards and Quality (EOS), the equivalent of the UK's British Standards Institute.



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