

Structural Waterproofing System of the Year 2026 – Europe

The construction industry continues to face a challenge that has existed for centuries: how to permanently protect buildings against water ingress, moisture damage, and the long-term deterioration of masonry structures. For its innovative approach to this problem, German manufacturer **la-dry Waterproofing GmbH** has been awarded in the prestigious **Construction and Engineering Awards 2026**.

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At the heart of this achievement is the company's flagship technology, **ISOKRISTALL®**, an advanced structural waterproofing system designed for the permanent internal waterproofing of masonry and concrete structures. Developed, manufactured, and continuously refined in Germany, the system is produced using German expertise, German engineering, and German quality standards throughout the entire production process.

ISOKRISTALL® has gained recognition among contractors, property owners, engineers, and building professionals for its ability to address complex moisture problems without the disruptive excavation work commonly associated with traditional waterproofing methods. Unlike many conventional systems that require extensive external excavation and waterproofing of the outside walls, **ISOKRISTALL®** is applied entirely from the inside of the building.

The system is installed directly onto the basement floor slab and the interior surfaces of the external walls, creating a continuous waterproof structure from within. As a result, costly and disruptive external excavation is typically unnecessary, making the system particularly attractive for existing buildings, densely built urban environments, listed properties, and structures with limited external access.

Unlike many conventional systems that merely create a surface barrier, **ISOKRISTALL®** works within the structure itself. Through a multi-layer application process, active components penetrate deep into the substrate, initiating a controlled crystallisation process within the capillary network of the building material. This creates a durable waterproof structure that effectively prevents water ingress while simultaneously strengthening the masonry. The result is what many specialists describe as a retroactively created internal "white tank" system, allowing the structure itself to become the waterproof barrier.

The system has proven particularly valuable in challenging environments such as basements, underground structures, lift pits, retaining walls,

historic buildings, and structures affected by groundwater pressure. Its performance has been independently verified through recognised European testing procedures, and **ISOKRISTALL®** holds WTA certification for both moisture exposure and hydrostatic water pressure applications.

A key differentiator of the system is its ability to withstand water pressure of up to 1.5 bar, equivalent to approximately 15

metres of water column, making it suitable for demanding waterproofing projects where conventional solutions often reach their limits. In addition, **ISOKRISTALL®** has been independently tested for radon resistance, providing an additional layer of protection in regions where radon infiltration presents a concern.

Another factor contributing to the growing international recognition of **ISOKRISTALL®** is its exceptional long-term durability. The active crystallisation agents within the system do not degrade over time and remain permanently embedded within the structure. Unlike many conventional waterproofing materials that rely on membranes, coatings, or chemical compounds that may age over the years, the waterproofing effect of **ISOKRISTALL®** remains active for decades.

Based on this technology, la-dry Waterproofing Company offers warranty solutions of up to 30 years, providing building owners with the assurance that water cannot penetrate from the surrounding ground through walls or floor slabs into the interior of the building. According to the company, the expected functional lifespan of the system extends significantly beyond the warranty period, making **ISOKRISTALL®** a long-term asset protection solution for both residential and commercial properties.

According to Managing Director Ulrich Thomas Grothoff, the company's success is rooted in a commitment to developing practical solutions that solve the underlying causes of moisture-related problems rather than merely treating their visible symptoms.

"Our objective has always been to offer building owners a long-term solution that protects the value of their properties while avoiding unnecessary disruption. Moisture is one of the most underestimated causes of structural damage, and we believe that effective waterproofing should become a permanent part of sustainable building preservation," he explains.

Today, **ISOKRISTALL®** is used throughout Germany and increasingly across Europe through a growing network of licensed specialist contractors. The company has established a reputation for combining technical innovation with practical on-site expertise, supported by comprehensive training programmes and ongoing technical assistance for its licensed partners.

Looking ahead, la-dry Waterproofing Company is preparing for its next phase of international expansion. One of the company's strategic priorities for 2026 and beyond is the development of the United Kingdom market. To support this growth, the company is actively seeking an exclusive Master License Partner for Great Britain who will work alongside the manufacturer to establish a nationwide network of licensed applicators and regional partners.

As moisture management, building preservation, and sustainable renovation continue to gain importance across Europe, **ISOKRISTALL®** represents a compelling example of how German engineering, certified performance, and practical innovation can transform a long-standing industry challenge into a modern, scalable, and proven solution.

For la-dry Waterproofing Company, the **BUILD** award not only recognises past achievements but also marks the beginning of an ambitious new chapter of international growth.

