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Partnering with the World — PCI Hosts International Symposium on HPC

What a wonderful way to celebrate PCI's 46th Annual Convention & Exhibition and the beginning of this century than to engage in a partnering effort with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Fédération Internationale du Béton (*fib*) (the successor to the former FIP and CEB (Fédération Internationale de la Précontrainte and Comité Européen du Béton)). From September 24 to 27, 2000, PCI will host a major international symposium on High Performance Concrete (HPC) in conjunction with its own convention in Orlando, Florida.

It is very appropriate that we participate in such an international conference because in today's shrinking world, all of us need to keep up to date with modern technology and be able to translate innovation and new ideas into our business practices. Let us not forget that precast/prestressed concrete is a technologically based product. We must not only receive knowledge but also share our experience with our colleagues. This pooling of information will ultimately strengthen our industry and ourselves as individuals.

The major focus of the convention will be on the High Performance Concrete Symposium. A total of 75 peer-reviewed technical papers will be presented on this subject. In addition to eight sessions on the symposium, there are 16 other sessions on topics important to our industry. Among the highlights:

- A special session, Sunday afternoon, covering PRESSS (Precast Seismic Structural Systems) research program including also an update on the IBC 2000 Provisions (International Building Code).
- Two important Keynote addresses at the Monday morning Business Meeting.
- A special program, Monday afternoon, on Hollow-Core Slabs organized by the International Prestressed Hollow Core Association.
- A session, Monday afternoon, on Research & Development.

- A high-powered session, Tuesday morning, on New Business Opportunities.
- European presentations, Tuesday morning, on *fib*'s Approach to High Performance Concrete Structures.
- Importance of Student Education in the Future Growth of the Precast Industry, Tuesday afternoon.
- Innovative Precast, Prestressed Concrete Structures from 2000 PCI Design Awards Program, Wednesday morning.
- As with every PCI Convention, a major highlight is the large Exhibition (76 exhibitors this year) and the Design Awards Banquet.

Orlando, called "The City Beautiful" and "Family Entertainment Capital of the World," is one of the most desirable places to hold a convention. We are fortunate to be headquartered at the luxurious Orlando World Center Marriott. In addition to the magnificent hotel facilities, Orlando offers delightful parks and lakes, superb tennis courts and golf courses, excellent restaurants, and of course, unlimited entertainment – together with sunny weather. To make this selection process of where to go easier, an interesting spouse/guest program has been planned.

Lastly, we are very grateful to the FHWA and *fib* for co-sponsoring with us this symposium and for giving PCI the privilege of hosting the event. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity which you cannot afford to miss. If you want to be on the cutting edge of technology while also enjoying a great venue, Orlando is the place to be in September. I will look forward to seeing you there and meeting our friends from around the globe!

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