

## PCA to recognize public officials for sustainable development

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) announced an initiative to recognize public officials who take the lead in green building. The annual Sustainable Leadership Awards will honor government leaders who advance sustainable development in their communities through the use of concrete and cement-based products. PCA encourages all members of the concrete industry to submit nominations.

Four categories will be recognized. The Leadership in Sustainability Policy Award honors public officials who advance policies that promote the concept of sustainable development by advocating for and promoting the use of concrete and cement-based products in their communities.

In addition, three award categories honor specific projects in three areas: homes and residential building, nonresidential building, and infrastructure. These awards recognize public officials who use cement or cement-based products to achieve sustainable benefits for projects in each of these categories. Buildings and activities must have occurred between January 1, 2006, and December 31, 2007, to be eligible. The deadline to submit final entries is May 30, 2008.

For more information and to download a nomination form, visit [www.cement.org/SustainableLeadership](http://www.cement.org/SustainableLeadership).

## Updated ACI 318 highlights major revisions



The American Concrete Institute (ACI) announced the release of *Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318-08)* and *Commentary (ACI 318R-08)*.

ACI 318-08 contains the latest code requirements for concrete building design and construction alongside the corresponding commentary and includes several improvements and changes from the 2005 edition.

It is expected that the updated code requirements will be adopted in the 2009 *International Building Code (IBC)*. ACI 318-08 is also deemed to satisfy the requirements of ISO 19338:2007, *Performance and Assessment Requirements for Design Standards on Structural Concrete*.

## ASBI releases latest durability survey

The American Segmental Bridge Institute (ASBI) has released the third edition of its "ASBI Durability Survey of Segmental Concrete Bridges."

The newest survey was included with ASBI's winter 2008 edition of its newsletter *Segments*. The newsletter reports that "this survey, based on compilation of the 2006 National Bridge Inventory (NBI) data, again indicates that segmental concrete bridges are performing well with time." Brett Pielstick of Eisman & Russo prepared the survey.

## Novak to head PCA building promotion



Lawrence Novak

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) has appointed Lawrence C. Novak, S.E., SECB, LEED AP, as manager of

buildings and special structures.

He and his staff will consult with engineers, architects, and contractors to directly promote the use of concrete and cement for buildings, stadiums, and environmental and other structures throughout the United States.

In addition, Novak's activities include research and development, project management, producing books and guides to aid engineers in the design of concrete structures, and conducting technical seminars for engineers.

## Walker Parking Consultants moves office

Walker Parking Consultants has changed its address. Its new home is 4904 Eisenhower Blvd., Suite 150, Tampa, FL 33634.

## NTSB makes recommendation

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has issued a safety recommendation that addresses a design issue with the Interstate 35W (I-35W) bridge that collapsed August 1, 2007. In this accident, about 1000 ft (300 m) of the deck truss fell into the Mississippi River, and as a result, 13 people died and 145 people were injured.

On January 15, 2008, the NTSB issued a recommendation to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). NTSB called on FHWA to require bridge owners to conduct load-capacity calculations to verify that the stress levels in all bridge structural elements (for non-load-path-redundant steel-truss bridges), including gusset plates, remain within applicable requirements whenever planned modifications or operational changes may significantly increase stresses. This was the result of the board's investigation that found that some of the gusset plates on the I-35W bridge were undersized because of an error in the original design process.

Undersized gusset plates were found at 8 of the 112 nodes (joints) on the main trusses of the bridge. These 16 gusset plates (2 at each node) were roughly half the thickness required and too thin to provide the margin of safety expected in a properly designed bridge.

Immediately following issuance of this recommendation, the FHWA

released a technical advisory to state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) that supplements the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' procedures for load rating steel-truss bridges. The FHWA is continuing to develop guidance for load-rating evaluations of gusset plates in truss bridges and will work with the state DOTs to refine and finalize this guidance.

Also following the NTSB's recommendation and FHWA's technical advisory, states have initiated courses of action to address the concerns raised. These actions generally include identifying bridges that have undergone changes during their lifetimes, then analyzing and recalculating the load-carrying capacity of the gusset plates using the evolving FHWA guidance.

The NTSB emphasizes that there is no evidence to suggest that the deficiencies in the various design review procedures associated with this bridge are widespread or even go beyond this particular bridge. In fact, this is the only bridge failure of this type of which the NTSB is aware.

The probable cause of this accident will be determined when the final report is presented to the board and is estimated to be sometime before the end of 2008.

The recommendation letter can be found at [www.nts.gov/Recs/letters/2008/H08\\_1.pdf](http://www.nts.gov/Recs/letters/2008/H08_1.pdf) on the NTSB website. The board's public docket on this investigation, which comprises investigative reports of the NTSB group chairs, photos, and information submitted by parties, has also been made available to the public at [www.nts.gov/dockets/Highway/HWY07MH024/default.htm](http://www.nts.gov/dockets/Highway/HWY07MH024/default.htm). Additional reports will be placed on the website as they are entered into the docket in the coming months.

## CSI forms Building Product Manufacturers Alliance

The Construction Specifications Institute has formed the Building Product Manufacturers Alliance (BPMA). BPMA was created to help its members improve their products and services and strengthen their outreach to the entire building industry by providing a forum to discuss common issues and challenges and to share best practices.

The BPMA seeks to offer a wide range of benefits to participants, including

- identifying critical trends in building construction, design, and business that will affect the industry;
- addressing new technologies that will benefit the building construction industry as well as affect the performance of building product manufacturers;
- promoting more effective communication among leading building product manufacturers and architecture, engineering, and construction firms;
- commissioning research to better understand, define, and communicate issues and opportunities important to building product manufacturers and the building industry;
- providing an online discussion forum for members to share information and seek input from other building product manufacturers.

## Carl Walker wins \$10.5 million contract



**Carl Walker Construction will build a new parking structure for the Pittsburgh Technology Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. Courtesy of Indovina Associates Architects.**

Carl Walker Construction was recently awarded the contract to build a new, 726-space parking structure at the Pittsburgh Technology Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. The company will be responsible for all phases of construction, from facilitating planning and zoning review and approval to obtaining permits and managing day-to-day work at the construction site.

The project was bid as a design-build assignment. Carl Walker Construction partnered with the Pittsburgh-based architectural firm Indovina Associates Architects to develop the winning project plans.

## Population increase expected to fuel cement consumption

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) reports that by 2030 the U.S. population is expected to reach 363.5 million people. Supplying the needed housing, buildings, and roads would lead to a 43% growth in U.S. cement consumption by that year.

According to Edward J. Sullivan, PCA chief economist, annual cement consumption will hit 183 million tonnes (165 million tons), reflecting a 55 million tonne (50 million ton) increase compared with the past cyclical peak level in 2005.

While 50% of the rise in cement consumption is due to population growth, the remaining half will be driven by per-capita cement consumption.

One sector that Sullivan predicts will incur large growth is highway construction, which currently accounts for 30% of total annual cement consumption. To meet the demand of the expected additional 49 million drivers, at least 670,000 additional lane kilometers (400,000 miles) of highway must be added by 2030. Efforts to reduce congestion and wasted fuel and its associated emissions could further increase the number of miles.

In addition, energy and environmental concerns are predicted to boost cement intensities, the tonnes of cement per dollar of construction activity.

"If these green conditions materialize, residential concrete construction will add roughly 8 million metric tons to the cement intensities in 2030," Sullivan says.

## ASBI releases names of speakers

The American Segmental Bridge Institute (ASBI) has announced some of the speakers for its first ASBI International Symposium this year.

Speakers include keynote speaker Michele Virlogeux, consulting engineer and designer, Bonnelles, France; Rick Land, chief engineer, Caltrans; Frieder Seible, dean of the Jacobs School of Engineering and professor in structural engineering at the University of California—San Diego; Jeff St. John, Obayashi, PSM Joint Venture; Linda Figg, president and CEO, FIGG; Man-Chung Tang and David Goodyear, both of T. Y. Lin International; Andrea Schokker, Pennsylvania State University; Peter Matt, consultant, Ittigen, Switzerland; Jacques Combault, president, IASBSE; John Breen, University of Texas at Austin; Myint Lwin, Office of Bridge Technology, Federal Highway Administration; Brian Maroney, Caltrans; Wolfgang Eilzer, Leonhardt, Andrä und Partner, Stuttgart, Germany; Giuseppe Mancini, past president of *fib* (International Concrete Federation); and Akio Kasuga, Sumitomo Mitsui Construction, Japan.

The symposium will be November 17–19, 2008, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, Calif.

## Carl Walker Parking moves office

Carl Walker Parking has relocated and expanded its Indianapolis office. Its new address is 8910 Purdue Road, Suite 400, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

## NCMA to celebrate 90th, unveil new lab

The National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) will welcome its members, industry partners, and trade press to an open house on May 15, 2008, to celebrate the association's 90 years in the concrete masonry and hardscape industry.

The open house will include the unveiling of the newly expanded and upgraded NCMA Research and Development Laboratory. The laboratory is a research facility dedicated to the scientific testing and research of concrete masonry and hardscape products and systems.

The laboratory's staff of professional engineers and technicians perform research for NCMA, compliance testing and product certification for individual companies, and contract-based product development research. It includes a state-of-the-art manufacturing line capable of producing a variety of concrete units and simulating many of the methods in use at modern production facilities.

## PCA, ANSI develop first standard together

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) created its first standard using an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accreditation process.

The new standard, "Prescriptive Design of Exterior Concrete Walls for One- and Two-Family Dwellings," also known as PCA 100-07, facilitates the use of cast-in-place concrete wall systems built with either removable or stay-in-place forms, such as insulating concrete forms.

## New Carl Walker website helps plan parking structures



Carl Walker Construction unveiled its completely new corporate website, designed as an information resource for current and potential clients. The website features video messages from Leonard Tsupros, president of the firm, as well as case studies showcasing company projects, testimonials from clients, and current project

updates. The website also details information on the design-build process for parking structure construction.

The site features an "Ask the Expert" section that allows potential customers to complete a questionnaire and receive information that is specific to their needs. The new website can be viewed at [www.carlwalkerconstruction.com](http://www.carlwalkerconstruction.com).

## CSI announces 2008 webinars

The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) has launched a new educational webinar series focusing on leadership training and business growth.

Expanding on its traditional educational webinars, CSI developed a series intended to reach chapter leaders, company executives, and professionals seeking to hone their business and communication skills.

CSI's new 90-minute webinars began in April, with topics such as communications 2.0, leadership lessons, and building your brand. Many of CSI's educational programs qualify for CSI's continuing education credits and American Institute of Architects learning units.

## Life-365 version 2.0 released



Life-365, a computer model for predicting the service lives of concrete structures, has received a major upgrade in the recent release of its version 2.0.

The new version of Life-365 has a completely redesigned user interface, a new probabilistic approach, and improved life-cycle cost functionality.

Corrosion-induced damage can often be mitigated through numerous strategies, including low-permeability (high-performance) concretes, corrosion-inhibiting admixtures, epoxy-coated steel reinforcement, corrosion-resistant steel, application of waterproofing membranes or sealants, or any combination of these methods and materials.

“Each of these strategies has technical merits and costs, and the challenge is to select the proper combination of protection methods, at an acceptable cost, to achieve the desired result,” says Arnie Rosenberg, executive director of the Concrete Corrosion Inhibitors Association (CCIA).

The consortium that supported the newest development of Life-365 includes the Cement Slag Association, CCIA, the National Ready Mix Concrete Association, and the Silica Fume Association.

## CSI, CSC publication combines and updates standards

The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) released the new *SectionFormat/PageFormat*, a joint publication with Construction Specifications Canada (CSC). The document is the first to combine the two recommended formatting standards into one publication.

*SectionFormat* provides a uniform standard for arranging specification text in a project manual's sections using a three-part format. It reduces the chance of omissions or duplications in a specification section. *PageFormat* offers a recommended arrangement of text on a specification page within a project manual by providing a framework for consistently formatting and designating articles, paragraphs, and subparagraphs. It also includes guidance for page numbers and margins.

The changes to *SectionFormat* represent a major update from the previous edition, including coordination with *MasterFormat* and *The Project Resource Manual: The CSI Manual of Practice*, sustainability-related additions, and enhancements to consistency, clarity, and flexibility.

## InsulFoam partners with AltusGroup

InsulFoam has joined AltusGroup to contribute its technical expertise and marketing strength toward the advancement of CarbonCast technology made using C-GRID carbon-fiber grid reinforcement.

Richard D. Holen, strategic marketing manager for InsulFoam, will be the dedicated contact for AltusGroup and its various manufacturing partners. He will participate on the organization's various marketing, technical, and productivity committees.

## CIM auction raises \$540,000

The Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program, a business-intensive program that awards students with a four-year Bachelor of Science degree, raised \$540,000 at its third annual auction, held in conjunction with World of Concrete.

According to Brian Gallagher, chair of the CIM Marketing Committee, the auction raised 13% more than the 2007 event raised.

In addition to the live auction, a silent auction was added this year.

Wally Johnson of U.S. Concrete Products, the 2008 auction chair, says, “The money raised from both the live and silent auctions will benefit the CIM National Steering Committee and support the CIM Programs at Middle Tennessee State University, Arizona State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and California State University, Chico, as well as help fund future program expansion.”

## CRSI appoints regional manager



**Mike Mota**

The Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI) appointed Mike Mota, P.E., the new Atlantic regional manager.

In this position, Mota will be responsible for managing all CRSI activities in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Eastern New York, New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland and within the region's individual chapters.

Before joining CRSI, Mota spent seven years with the Portland Cement Association as regional engineering manager for the eastern United States.

## CRH signs cement contracts in China, India

CRH plc, parent company of Oldcast Precast Inc., has signed an agreement with Shanghai-listed Jilin Yatai Group in China and with My Home Industries Ltd. (MHIL) in India.

CRH will acquire a 26% shareholding in Jilin Yatai Group's cement operations, Yatai Cement, and partly finance a doubling of production capacity. Completion of the proposed transaction is subject to Chinese regulatory approval.

A major investment program to double annual cement capacity is already under way, with completion scheduled for 2009. With this expansion, Yatai Cement will strengthen its leading role in northeastern China and secure its position as a top-10 cement supplier in China.

CRH also signed an agreement to acquire a 50% shareholding in MHIL, a privately owned cement company with its head office in Hyderabad, India. The transaction is expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2008.

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