Our Members

Kerkstra Precast joins AltusGroup to manufacture CarbonCast

Kerkstra Precast has become the seventh precast concrete manufacturer to join AltusGroup in the past two years, bringing the total number of North American precasters in the organization to an all-time high of 19.

Kerkstra will manufacture CarbonCast high-performance insulated wall panels and CarbonCast insulated architectural cladding in its Grandville, Mich., production facility. With more than 50 years in the construction products business, Kerkstra Precast specializes in structural and architectural precast concrete for a wide variety of building types in the Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois markets.
—Source: AltusGroup

Dayton Superior unveils product solutions guide for Australian market

Dayton Superior Corp. is introducing a new Tilt-Up and Precast Product Solutions Guide developed specifically for the Australian concrete construction market. The guide will be available to Australian tilt-up and precast concrete contractors exclusively through Konnect, a part of the Coventry Group Ltd.

In Australia, Dayton Superior has partnered with Konnect to offer tilt-up and precast concrete construction accessories and chemical product solutions. This product offering includes structural connections, panel-to-panel connections, tilt-up brace attachments, and a range of high-performance concrete construction chemicals developed specifically for the Australian market.
—Source: Dayton Superior Corp.

Texas A&M group names Heldenfels distinguished alumnus

Texas A&M University and The Association of Former Students announced that Frederick W. Heldenfels IV, a 1979 graduate, is one of its 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. The award is the highest honor bestowed upon a former student of Texas A&M University.

Heldenfels is a former PCI chairman and founder, president, and CEO of Heldenfels Enterprises Inc. He has served Texas colleges and universities as chair of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating board, chairman of the 12th Man Foundation board of trustees, and twice as a member of the 12th Man Foundation's executive committee. Heldenfels is the current chairman of the A&M PAC Board; an Aggie 100 award recipient in 2005, 2006, and 2010; and a past chairman of the Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi Foundation.
—Source: The Association of Former Students, Texas A&M University

Smith-Midland gets contract for Dulles Corridor Metrorail project

Through the end of 2016, Smith-Midland will provide 15,000 tons (14,000 tonnes) of concrete for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail silver line phase 2 project in Virginia near Washington, D.C., in a deal contracted at $4 million.

Just over 6 miles (10 km) of Smith-Midland precast concrete aerial guideway parapet panels will run along the sides of the elevated silver line track, beginning in close proximity to Dulles Airport and continuing along Autopilot Drive. In addition, 10,000 ft (3 km) of J-J Hooks precast concrete barriers are included in the deal.

The parapet will serve as a noise barrier and visual screen. The 265 precast concrete manholes will serve as electric, communication, and traction power vaults, which will support Metrorail controls and power lines from the airports authority and Dominion Power.

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail project is a 23-mile (38 km) extension of Washington's existing Metrorail system and is being built in two phases by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. When both phases are complete, the silver line will provide a one-seat, no-transfer ride from Dulles, Va., to Washington and will include 11 new stations. Phase 2 will include six stations along 11.4 miles (18.9 km).

The primary construction company on this project is Capital Rail Constructors and includes a joint venture between Clark Construction Group and Kiewit Infrastructure South.

—Source: Smith-Midland Corp.

Ellis Island Medal of Honor goes to Wahby this year

Wafeek Wahby

Wafeek Wahby, professor of construction technology at Eastern Illinois University (EIU) and member of numerous PCI committees, is the recipient of the 2015 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. This prestigious award is presented by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO).

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is presented annually to American citizens who have distinguished themselves within their own ethnic groups while exemplifying the values of the American way of life. Past medalists include six U.S. presidents, one foreign president, Nobel Prize winners, and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports, and government.

Wahby was recognized for receiving superior evaluations by students, peers, department chairs, and administration for his work at EIU; receiving numerous awards in service and engineering education; initiating, organizing, and administering a series of extended campuswide educational symposia; offering and planning study abroad courses for students, faculty, and professionals; and many other professional and service accomplishments.

NECO says that each nomination should satisfy one or more of the following items:

- Lives a life dedicated to helping others, whether at a community or national level.
- Preserves and celebrates the history, traditions, and values of their ancestry group while proving themselves valuable citizens of the United States.
- Strives for tolerance and acceptance between ethnic, racial, and religious groups in the United States and abroad.
- Shares their personal and/or professional gifts for the benefit of humanity.

Wahby received his BS in civil engineering from Alexandria University in Alexandria, Egypt, where he also completed two master's degrees in structural engineering and earned his PhD in structural/materials engineering. He worked for 23 years in the construction industry in Egypt while teaching as an adjunct instructor at his alma mater. After becoming an American citizen in 1994, Wahby worked as a professor of civil engineering at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. He joined EIU in 1998.

The award is presented to medalists on Ellis Island, New York, N.Y., during a ceremony that includes other distinguished Americans, as well as Joint Service Color Guards, the West Point Band, performers and dancers in native costume, and other Broadway performers' entertainment presentations.

—Source: Wafeek Wahby and NECO

UW students use precast, prestressed concrete for senior design project

This rendering by a University of Wyoming student was made using Revit. UW College of Architecture and Engineering students design parking structures as a senior class project. Courtesy of David Mukai.

Mike Hemberger of Rocky Mountain Prestress explains production methods to students from the University of Wyoming who toured the plant in Denver, Colo., while working on a parking structure project. Courtesy of David Mukai.

For the past two years, University of Wyoming College of Architecture and Engineering students have designed precast, prestressed parking structures for their senior class projects under the direction of David Mukai, associate professor.

Each class is separated into groups of three or four team members who are required to research architectural, functional, and structural design parameters and use that information to prepare schematic and design development drawings and calculations. Students use this information to make a formal presentation to a panel of judges who help determine the students' final grades in the class.

Site and basic parking structure criteria are provided, as are reference materials, including the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*, the International Building Code, and the fifth edition of *The Dimensions of Parking*, which is published by the Urban Land Institute and the National Parking Association. Standard three-level-high and two-bay-wide structures required students to consider street-level entry and exit locations, ramping to supported levels, and top-level layouts with a truncated bay and increased live load due to snow. Each team produces AutoCAD or Revit drawings showing floor plans and elevations to describe their projects.

During the most recent project, students took a field trip to Cheyenne, Wyo., where they viewed and discussed existing parking structures. They also toured Rocky Mountain Prestress in Denver, Colo., so they could see how double tees, beams, walls, spandrels, and columns are made.

Schematic drawings were reviewed by Paul Mack, president of Parking Consultants LLC, and Buddy Kirchmar. Comments were used to refine design development drawings. Both advisors were part of the presentation jury.

—Source: Paul D. Mack

Heldenfels promotes Mainka to to El Paso VP of operations, GM

Adam Mainka

Adam Mainka was promoted to vice president of operations and general manager of Heldenfels Enterprises Inc.'s new plant in El Paso, Tex. In his new role, Mainka will have overall management responsibilities for the El Paso and West Texas market and will oversee other production-related operations.

Mainka first joined Heldenfels in 2009 as a quality control technician and was subsequently promoted during his first two years to quality control supervisor and then quality control manager. He has also held the positions of plant manager of the San Marcos, Tex., plant and most recently director of plant operations of both the San Marcos and Corpus Christi, Tex., plants.

Mainka holds PCI level III certification and is active in the industry as cochair of PCI's Productivity Committee and chair of the Leadership PCI Committee.

—Source: Heldenfels Enterprise Inc.

Spancrete brings precast concrete building solutions to India market

The SP Precast Solutions India Private Ltd. and MAAD Building Innovations Pvt. Ltd. plant in India features the Spancrete GT-120 precast concrete production system. Courtesy of Spancrete.

Spancrete recently entered the India market. In a partnership with SP Precast Solutions India Private Ltd. and MAAD Building Innovations Pvt. Ltd. (MBIPL) Group, Spancrete has supplied the first Spancrete production system in India.

The new plant provides Spancrete-brand hollow-core slabs and other precast concrete elements to residential, commercial, and industrial development projects for the MAAD Group's Realty Development department as well as other companies. The plant is owned and operated through a joint venture company established between MBIPL and SP.

The plant has incorporated the Spancrete GT-120 production system, featuring six casting lines that are 200 m (600 ft) long each, ensuring high volume and efficient output of 1.2 m (3.9 ft) wide hollow-core slabs and wall panels in thicknesses ranging from 100 to 400 mm (4 to 16 in.). Additional precast concrete construction forms were provided by Spancrete to deliver a total structural solution to the India market.

The GT-120 production system is capable of operating outdoors and is self-feeding, requiring no additional automated material delivery systems or other costly infrastructure. The plant is designed to be mobile, allowing the owners the flexibility to move the entire operation when required. Unique to the plant is the minimal infrastructure required to achieve high-volume production (250,000 m^2 [2.7 million ft^2] per year capacity or more).

To assist customers in India, Spancrete is transferring knowledge from its U.S. operations, including engineering, estimating, plant operation, quality control, transportation, and installation capabilities. Spancrete has teamed with Precision Precast Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (PPS) to provide support related to ensuring precast concrete design compliance with Indian building codes. PPS has offices in Mumbai, Delhi, and Bangalore, India.

Spancrete announced the expansion into the India market at the Concrete Show India, shuttling show attendees to the new precast concrete plant for a tour.

—Source: Spancrete

University of Hartford engineering students tour Blakeslee Prestress

Students from the University of Hartford in Connecticut tour the Blakeslee Prestress plant in Branford, Conn. Courtesy of Jim Coyle of Blakeslee Prestress.

Civil engineering students from the University of Hartford in Connecticut recently visited the Blakeslee Prestress Inc. plant in Branford, Conn.

Upon their arrival, the students received a Tekla three-dimensional-modeling presentation by Chris Carasone and Bryan Eastman. Afterwards, the students were split into three smaller groups and given plant tours, with Rick Fitzgerald, Jim Coyle, and Fred Bodyk acting as guides.

Blakeslee regularly supports local engineering students. It also donated money to the University of New Haven's 2015 American Society of Civil Engineers concrete canoe contest entry.

—Source: Blakeslee Prestress Inc.

Sassaman joins JVI as part of sales staff in Northeast, Canada

A. J. Sassaman

JVI Inc. has added A. J. Sassaman to its sales staff. Sassaman has spent more than 27 years in the precast/prestressed concrete industry in sales. Initially, he will cover the Middle Atlantic and New England regions as well as Canada. In addition, because of his strong knowledge of precast concrete, he will assist in technical presentations throughout the country.
—Source: JVI

Structural Engineering Institute names Mujumdar Fellow

The Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) welcomed Vilas Mujumdar, a member of PCI's Seismic Committee, as a new fellow. SEI established the SEI Fellow to recognize a select group of distinguished SEI members as leaders and mentors in the structural engineering profession.

CIM adds Gentoso to national steering committee board

The national steering committee for the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program, a business-intensive program that awards students with a four-year bachelor of science degree in concrete industry management, recently elected Jamie Gentoso as a new board member. Gentoso is a vice president at Sika USA.
—Source: Concrete Industry Management Program

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