

OUR MEMBERS

Spancrete adds Brown as Newnan plant general manager

Randall Brown has joined Spancrete as the general manager of its precast, prestressed concrete plant in Newnan, Ga.

Brown brings with him more than 30 years of concrete and construction experience throughout the South. He will be responsible for all general oversight,



Randall Brown

including implementing operational systems, driving performance improvement and overall business management. Brown holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering technology from Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Ga.

Spancrete's plant in Newnan spans 35 acres and produces hollow-core, RibSlab flooring, RePlenish pervious precast concrete pavement, and wall panels. Spancrete solutions can be found locally in assisted living facilities, hotels, schools, manufacturing facilities, and more. The company employs 25 individuals in roles ranging from production to estimating to design at its Newnan facility and is headquartered in Waukesha, Wis.

—Source: Spancrete

Gate Precast adds structural concrete plant in Hillsboro



Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Gate Precast Hillsboro, Tex., plant are, from left, Mike McDonald, president of the Hillsboro Economic Development Corp. (HEDC); Justin Lewis, county judge; Todd Petty, vice president of operations at the Gate Precast Hillsboro plant; Dean Gwin, president and chief operating officer of Gate Construction Materials Group; Earl Shimp, senior vice president of operations with Gate; Edith Omberg, Hillsboro mayor; Frank Johnson, Hillsboro city manager; and Arthur Mann, HEDC administrator. Courtesy of Gate Precast Co.

Gate Precast broke ground August 2, 2017, on a new fully enclosed structural concrete plant near its existing Hillsboro, Tex., architectural precast concrete operations. The new facility is expected to satisfy growing U.S. demand for prefabricated precast concrete structures. Located on a 50-acre (20 ha) site in the Hillsboro Industrial Park, the new plant—including a 45,000 ft² (4200 m²) manufacturing facility—will be completed and operational by January 2018.

Todd Petty, vice president of operations at the plant, says that the facility will occupy about half of the site, with the remaining acreage available for future expansion. The plant will primarily produce components for structural garage construction, including double tees, inverted tee beams, litewalls, shear walls, columns, stairs, and spandrels.

“Our customer base wants more prefabrication offsite, and we will offer an entire structure prefabricated at one of our three precast Texas plants,” says Dean Gwin, president and COO of Gate Construction Materials Group. “We will not only offer architectural precast, long-line wall panels, and hollow-core floor slabs but also double tees, columns, beams, and stadium risers.”

While the company's Pearland, Tex., facility will satisfy the demand for hollow-core products, the Hillsboro facilities will produce architectural and structural precast concrete. Gate plants will also continue to produce edge-to-edge insulated cladding with integrated electrical conduit and boxes and pre-installed glazing.

—Source: Gate Precast Co.

PCI'S NEWLY CERTIFIED PLANTS

PCI recently certified the following plants. For an explanation of the certification designations, visit http://www.pci.org/PCI_Certification/Plant_Certification/.

- Rail One USA, Clinton, Iowa: C2
- Skanska USA Civil SE, Pensacola, Fla.: B2

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TOM BLAZEK SR.



Tom Blazek Sr., retired vice president of engineering at Gate Precast, died July 31, 2017. He was 75.

Blazek earned a degree in civil engineering from Marquette University in 1969, where he graduated summa cum laude. In the years that followed, he honed his craft by working for Superior Cast Stone and Hufschmidt, both in Sussex, Wis., and Midwest Fiber and Concrete in Whitewater, Wis.

In the mid-1980s, he joined the engineering department at Lazenby Precast (now Gate Precast) in

Monroeville, Ala. Blazek continued working as an engineering consultant following his retirement and was licensed in 23 states.

Blazek was a precast concrete engineer for more than 50 years and worked at Gate Precast for 26 years until his retirement in 2012.

“As a professional, Tom was a champion of champions,” says Mark Ledkins, vice president of operations at Gate’s Monroeville office. “Tom had a strong work ethic and high expectations of those who worked in his department. He was a friend and a mentor to many within our corporate family and the precast industry. He will be missed.”

Compiled by K. Michelle Burgess (mburgess@pci.org) 