

Dulles Metrorail Starts Construction

DENVER, PENNSYLVANIA

High Concrete Group LLC has been named to produce architectural-cladding enclosures for the new Dulles Corridor Metrorail project. Planned for completion in 2013, the 325,000-square-foot transit project includes thermally efficient precast enclosures for five metro-station buildings, six entrance pavilions, and two ventilation structures. Erection of the pieces will start in the spring.

The precast panels and related components are being produced at High Concrete's Denver, Pa., plant. The cladding will feature a utility-size brick-veneer finish in two colors. About one-third of the panels will feature CarbonCast brand insulated sandwich wall panels to provide continuous insulation for thermal efficiency.

The \$20 million contract, awarded by Dulles Transit, is part of the first phase of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's two-phase, 23-mile extension of the existing Metrorail system from East Falls Church, Va., to the airport west of Ashburn, Va.



PCI Launches SmartBrief Newsletter

CHICAGO

The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute has teamed with the **SmartBrief** email news service to provide a free weekly e-newsletter to architects and other A/E/C professionals. The free service provides a summary of building news, trends, and best practices.

The e-newsletter offers updated schedules of continuing education opportunities, such as webinars, seminars, workshops, lunch and learns, and more. Included will be a variety of PCI programs available for professional learning credit.

"This service ensures architects, engineers, and contractors have access to a quick overview of key information in the building industry, geared to their needs, every week," says James G. Toscas, P.E., president of PCI. "It's a convenient way for them to receive the most relevant and important information in a quick digest."

Nearly 3 million professionals in 25 key industries use SmartBrief each week. More than 100 trade associations, professional societies, nonprofits, and corporations offer these targeted news briefs.

To register, visit www.pci.org and click on the SmartBrief icon or go directly to www.smartbrief.com/pcibi.

Gate Concrete Products Changes Name

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

The Gate Construction Materials Group has announced that all eight of its facilities manufacturing architectural and structural precast concrete products will now operate under the name **Gate Precast Co.** The name has been used by the company's structural-precast concrete plants in Jacksonville, Fla., and Pearland, Tex.

Underground Vaults Built at Bennett College

GREENSBORO,
NORTH CAROLINA

Oldcastle Precast Inc.—Fuquay-Varina was contracted by Hardin Construction Company LLC to design, engineer, and manufacture two custom underground precast concrete-panel vaults used as sand filters for storm-water runoff at the new Global Learning Center and Honors Housing Project at Bennett College. **HADP Architecture** is the architect of record on the \$22 million project, scheduled for completion later this year.

Oldcastle Precast has frequently used this technique for constructing storm-water management systems in the western United States, but it is a newer approach for the Carolinas, a spokesperson said. Some of those existing systems are almost as large as a football field at 280 feet long and 85 feet wide. The designs for this project comprise a vault 16 feet wide by 33 feet long by 9 feet high for the housing project and 16 feet wide by 44 feet long by 12 feet high for the learning center.

AltusGroup's CarbonCast Earns ICC Acceptance

BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

CarbonCast High Performance Insulated Wall Panels made by **AltusGroup** members have received International Code Council Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) acceptance criteria for the C-Grid carbon-fiber-grid truss system used to connect the inner and outer wythes of precast concrete wall panels.

The acceptance means that the ICC-ES has approved a method for evaluating product samples from each AltusGroup precaster licensed to fabricate the system. Successful completion of the tests, such as load capacity and freeze-thaw cycling, will result in ICC-ES issuing an Evaluation Service Report (ICC-ESR) number certifying that the manufacturer is producing the CarbonCast precast concrete sandwich wall panel system according to established standards.

Many municipalities and building jurisdictions require an ICC-ESR certification before allowing the use of a structural building product. Ongoing product-testing success by the 13 AltusGroup precasters is expected to result in ICC broadening its acceptance criteria to include the entire precast assembly, not just the carbon-fiber-grid connector.

Science Center's Precast Walls Beat Deadline

DENVER, COLORADO

Stresscon Corporation, one of EnCon Companies' fabrication plants, has completed erection of the precast concrete walls for the new Fort Collins Museum and Discovery Science Center. **Hensel Phelps**, the general contractor, used EnCon's 7-inch-thick Structural Plus walls in a cinnamon color for the shell.

The walls, manufactured at the company's Dacono, Colo., plant, consist of 97 individual precast concrete sections, the largest of which is 42 feet tall. The panels were erected by January 12, six days ahead of schedule.

The museum building is laid out to resemble a piano, according to Project Manager Mike Rettig. "The angles of the serpentine walls and shape of the roofline make for some very complex angles, but the use of Stresscon's Structural Plus wall panels and the close coordination between trades helped the project avoid field issues."

The City of Fort Collins Museum and the nonprofit Discovery Science Center, which merged in 2009, are planning to install several exhibits in the 47,000-square-foot building shell. They will include the world's most technologically advanced large-format 360-degree theater, called a digital dome. It will feature interactive educational shows, planetarium-style programs, and movies on science, history, and cultural subjects.

PCI Opens e-Learning Center

CHICAGO

The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute will soon open the **online PCI e-Learning Center**. This web-based continuing education resource provides architects and other construction professionals with access to short educational courses 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Most of the courses are free and contribute to continuing education credits.

PCI is a registered continuing education provider with the American Institute of Architects, National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors, and U.S. Green Building Council. Visit www.pci.org/education to learn more about the courses.



Mixed-Use Project Uses Precast System

CLEARWATER BEACH, FLORIDA

Finrock is providing complete design-build services for Surf Style Retail Management's new mixed-use facility in Clearwater Beach. The \$11.5 million retail and restaurant complex includes 175,300 square feet of space and parking for 344 cars. The building is scheduled to open in May.

Photo courtesy of Finrock.

Personnel Moves



– Mo Wright

Mo Wright has been added to the sales and marketing staff at **Gate Precast Co.** Wright, who has worked in the construction industry for 15 years, will be responsible for servicing clients for architectural precast concrete systems in Alabama and Georgia.



– Mitch McCaulley

Thermomass has promoted Mitch McCaulley to national accounts manager. Previously, he served as regional sales manager for the upper Midwest.



– Chuck Gilbert

Chuck Gilbert has joined **Spancrete** as regional sales manager for Illinois, where he will work with architects and other clients to maximize use of the company's value-engineering and design-assist capabilities.

Rotondo Weirich has hired Mike Sexton in its business-development department to develop relationships with clients and business partners.

Submit your headline news for consideration in a future issue of *Ascent* to Whitney Stephens at wstephens@pci.org.

Metromont Acquires Royal Concrete Concepts

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Metromont Corp. has acquired a majority interest in **Royal Concrete Concepts** in West Palm Beach, Fla. RCC was founded in 1989 and manufactures custom precast concrete modular building systems for residential, educational, commercial, and military projects.

RCC also provides turnkey construction services for domestic and international markets. The company recently expanded its manufacturing facility on a 180-acre site in Okeechobee, Fla.

"The investment in RCC allows us to further diversify our business with additional building systems and grow in other market segments," says Rick Pennell, president/CEO of Metromont. "This partnership will strengthen both companies."

PCI Seeks Student Designers

CHICAGO

PCI invites architectural students to participate in the **2011 Architectural Student Design Competition**. Entries are due by May 27, 2011, and Design Award winners will be announced in July 2011.

Submitted projects should address total-precast concrete design solutions for multi-unit housing, including concepts for duplex, apartment, senior, and extended-care housing projects, as well as hotels, motels, dormitories, and military barracks. Awards for selected submissions will be presented at the PCI 2011 Annual Convention & Exhibition, taking place October 22–25 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

For more information, visit www.pci.org and click on Education, then Architectural Competition, or contact Roger Becker at rbecker@pci.org or (312) 360-3213.

Target Store Design First for Colorado

LAKWOOD, COLORADO

The new Belmar Target store in Lakewood, opening in March, was built on a precast concrete elevated podium, allowing for parking beneath the store. The store, the first of its kind in Colorado, is situated on 5 acres of land, creating a relatively small construction site. That restriction dictated the podium approach, according to Dave Mahan, business development manager at **Stresscon Corporation**, which is providing the precast concrete components.

The project is designed to achieve a LEED Silver certification, to which the precast concrete components will contribute for their use of regional materials and other factors. The precast concrete components include more than 130,000 square feet of double tees, more than 2000 linear feet of beams, more than 5600 square feet of spandrels, more than 56,000 square feet of wall panels, and other components.

Oldcastle Produces 2,100 Prison Cells

TELFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

Oldcastle Precast Modular has been awarded the precast cell contract for the new State Correctional Institution Graterford East and West project in Pennsylvania. The \$365 million prison will be one of the largest correctional projects in progress in the United States. The East facility will incorporate more than 2,100 Level-4/Level-5 maximum-security beds and the West facility will include 2,000 Level-3 medium security beds.

Oldcastle will design, engineer, manufacture, and erect 2,112 single- and double-occupancy precast concrete cells and 68 bare shower modules for the main housing units. The cells will feature a secure ceiling monolithically cast with the upper cell modules to prevent inmate access to the mechanical areas. Oldcastle also is installing detention furniture, sliding-door frames, lights, window, interior wall paint, exterior wall insulation, and formliner finish.

Walsh Construction and **Heery International** (Walsh/Heery Joint Venture) are the principal builders, while **Astorino, Heery Design Group**, and **KZF Design** are the architects of record.