

Delivering Practical Solutions to the Concrete Industry

Charles Pankow Foundation partners with ACI to fund and guide qualified research projects

BY JOSEPH SANDERS AND CLAUDE BÉDARD

The ACI Foundation and the Charles Pankow Foundation (Pankow Foundation) announce a strategic alliance to facilitate research aimed at developing innovative, commercially viable applications for the design and construction of concrete buildings. The partnership was formalized with a memorandum of agreement signed by representatives of the two organizations at the recent ACI Spring 2008 Convention in Los Angeles, CA.

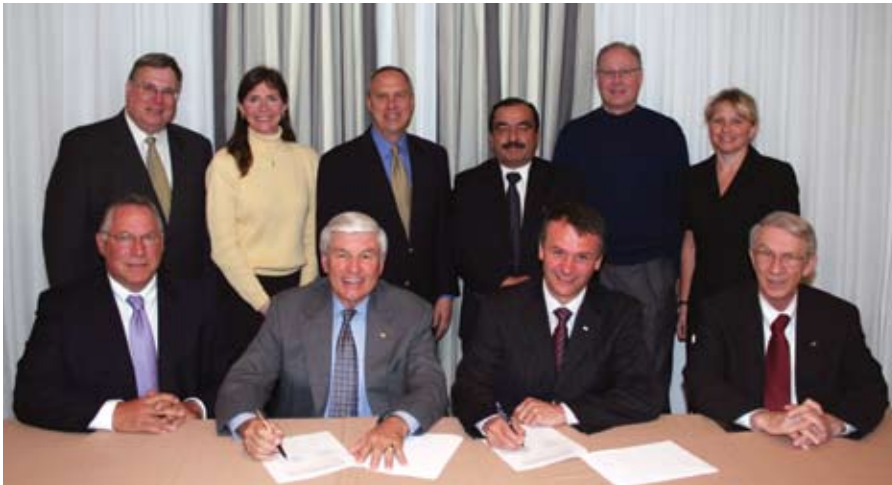
The Pankow Foundation was established in 2002 by ACI Past President Charles Pankow, founder of Charles Pankow Builders, one of the leading design-build firms in the U.S. The purpose of the foundation is to fund research that will deliver innovative new building design and construction solutions. The ACI Foundation has a similar mission: to receive, administer, and expend funds for educational, research, scientific, and charitable purposes; to increase the knowledge and understanding of concrete materials; and to support programs that improve concrete design and construction.



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Under the terms of the 3-year agreement, the ACI Foundation will help identify the research needs of the industry and recommend worthy projects to the Pankow Foundation, which will then select, fund, and manage research projects meeting its criteria. Finally, the ACI Foundation will help the Pankow Foundation disseminate the research results to reach a wide range of industry users.



Representatives of the ACI Foundation and the Pankow Foundation finalized a memorandum of agreement during the ACI Spring 2008 Convention in Los Angeles, seated from left: Thomas Verti, Robert Tener, Claude Bédard, and William Tolley; standing from left: Douglas Sordyl, Debrethann Orsak, Joseph Sanders, Luis García, Richard Stehly, and Donna Halstead

Research must be related to one of two research goals:

- Structures—for example, practices in performance-based design; and
- Project Team Tools and Practices—for example, tools and methods for interoperability and Building Information Modeling (BIM).

Through the Concrete Research Council (CRC), and with the input of the Strategic Development Council (SDC), the ACI Foundation will identify research projects that serve the concrete building sector in the U.S. construction industry, are needed by the market, and match well with the Pankow Foundation mission statement and research program focus. Refer to the sidebar for an outline of the information to be included in a Proposed Pankow Foundation Research Need Statement.

It is expected that topics for research needs will continue to be generated by ACI technical committees, and topics related to SDC-designated “industry critical technologies/ issues” will also generate specific research opportunities. It is envisioned that CRC’s operation will be expanded to facilitate the handling of these and other suggestions for research. CRC will continue its role of providing validation and funding of other research needs outside the scope of the ACI Foundation-Pankow Foundation agreement.

The Pankow Foundation’s research program focus is defined by eight characteristics:

1. Research that will enable:
 - developing an innovative product, component, or system;
 - advancing means, materials, or methods to deliver better buildings;
 - completing necessary testing, proving, and approvals; and
 - moving the solution to commercial adoption.
2. A market need exists.
3. The problem is customer driven.
4. An innovative solution will have broad applicability.

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PROPOSED PANKOW FOUNDATION RESEARCH NEED STATEMENT OUTLINE

(Please follow the format listed and be concise; not more than two pages)

1. Topic.
 2. Background.
 3. Proposed research including outputs/products.
 4. Market need (i.e., problem to be solved and users of research products).
 5. Outcomes intended from research (i.e., benefits for and impacts on building design and construction).
 6. Industry champion.
 7. Proposed grantee and expert(s) to conduct the research.
 8. Time to market (i.e., commercially deployed).
 9. Estimated cost of research (even if a range).
 10. Other funding received or committed.
 11. Any critical timing or deadlines that impact the proposed project.
 12. Other comments (optional).
5. Integrated project delivery will facilitate implementing the solution.
 6. Led by a research team that can deliver expert, tangible results.
 7. The impact of research outputs can be assessed.
 8. An industry champion exists who attests to the need and will participate in the research.

Based on prospective research projects identified and recommended by the ACI Foundation, the Pankow Foundation will consider funding such research projects on the basis of the proven grant-making process requirements listed above. Additionally, every proposal that is funded by the Pankow Foundation will closely involve an industry champion who will work with the research team.

Once the research is completed, ACI will disseminate the resulting products to the marketplace through printed and electronic means and possible inclusion in ACI reports, guides, specifications, and codes. The Pankow Foundation's vision can be best expressed as "moving needed research efforts from the 'red zone' to the 'end zone'" by delivering practical tools and information to designers and builders. The partnership with the ACI Foundation is a strategic step in assuring that ball moves forward. Toward that goal, the Pankow Foundation is prepared to award its first grant in conjunction with the ACI Foundation in 2008.

The Pankow Foundation has been a leader in facilitating valuable building construction research since its first grant awards in 2006. The Foundation has granted over \$3.5 million toward research projects by such institutions

as Purdue University (to develop design procedures for dual-plate composite shear walls), the National Institute of Building Sciences (to develop BIM for architectural precast concrete), and the University of Arizona (to develop design procedures for precast concrete diaphragm systems).

Because of the agreement, the ACI Foundation will have the opportunity to secure the Pankow Foundation's funding resources and program management to advance an increasing number of important and worthy research projects. CRC receives many qualified proposals for research funding each year; but in the past, has never had the resources to fund them to the degree needed. With this partnership, the concrete industry will benefit from Charles Pankow's vision through increased funding of innovative and market-driven research projects.

If you believe your research project should be considered by the ACI Foundation for possible funding by the Charles Pankow Foundation, please contact the CRC. Contact information, as well as the current proposal and submittal requirements for a CRC or Pankow Foundation grant, can be found at www.ACIFoundation.org. The Charles Pankow Foundation is a private nonprofit foundation headquartered in Claremont, CA (www.PankowFoundation.org).



Joseph Sanders is the Senior Vice President of Charles Pankow Builders, Ltd., Pasadena, CA, and currently serves on the Advisory Council for the Charles Pankow Foundation and as a Trustee for the ACI Foundation. He serves as Chair of the Concrete Research Council and is a member of Joint ACI-ASCE Committee 550, Precast Concrete Structures, and the ACI Innovation Task Group 6 (ITG-6) on High-Strength Steel Reinforcement.



Claude Bédard is the Vice President and General Manager of the North American Admixtures Division of The Euclid Chemical Company in St. Hubert, QC, Canada. He also serves as the Chair of both the ACI Foundation and the Strategic Development Council. Recently elected to the ACI Board of Direction, Bédard is an ACI Fellow and has twice served as President of the ACI Quebec and Eastern Ontario Chapter. He is a member of several ACI committees, including 211, Proportioning Concrete Mixtures; 212, Chemical Admixtures; 237, Self-Consolidating Concrete; and the Financial Advisory Committee.