

Industry Focus

American Restore Launched to Provide Concrete Repair and Protection Services

American Restore, Inc.—a full-service construction company focused on concrete repair, restoration, and protection—has begun operations. The firm's specialties will include chemical grouting, epoxy flooring and wall systems, expansion joints, waterproofing, seismic upgrades, and structural engineering. The company is based in Huntington Beach, CA, but will provide services to the entire United States. Although the company is new to the market, its employees are not. All have backgrounds in engineering and repair, including the company's president, Jim Andrews. For more information, visit www.americanrestore.com.

Holcim Plants Receive ENERGY STAR

Holcim (US) Inc. announced that five of its cement plants have earned the prestigious ENERGY STAR® honor from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The ENERGY STAR denotes excellence in protecting the environment through superior energy performance. Plants receiving the honor were the Theodore plant in Theodore, AL; Ste. Genevieve in Bloomsdale, MO; Holly Hill in Holly Hill, SC; Portland in Florence, CO; and Devil's Slide in Morgan, UT. This is the second year the Portland plant has received the award, the third for the Ste. Genevieve and Holly Hill plants, and fifth consecutive year for the Devil's Slide plant.

Bosch and Simpson Strong-Tie Form Strategic Alliance

Robert Bosch Power Tool Corp. and **Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc.** signed an agreement to form a strategic alliance that will allow the companies to jointly pursue sales, marketing, and product development opportunities in the concrete construction market. This new sales combination will give the companies' distribution partners access to the full range of products from both. The goal is to deliver solutions that meet building code requirements and improve productivity for installers by bringing a complete Bosch/Simpson Strong-Tie installation system to the market, including adhesive and mechanical anchors and demolition and rotary hammers. The new venture also will provide joint job-site training to installers.

Anniversaries

Several industry companies reached milestone anniversaries at the end of 2012.

Buckland & Taylor Ltd. (B&T), recognized internationally as a leader in the design, evaluation, rehabilitation, and construction engineering of bridges, celebrated its 40th anniversary with a handful of celebrations over 40 days.

Employees of all four of its offices started the celebration with a company-wide kickoff breakfast via video conference, featuring a question-and-answer session with B&T founders Peter Buckland and Peter Taylor. Employees were also educated daily in the company's history, going back to its 1972 founding. Employees participated in events and received commemorative gifts during the celebration, and each office celebrated the finale with a special local event. The North Vancouver, BC, Canada, office celebrated with a boat cruise through Vancouver's harbor and was joined by Buckland, Taylor, and Roger Dorton, who are all recipients of the Order of Canada, the highest honor a Canadian citizen can receive.

Pile Dynamics, Inc. (PDI), manufacturer of testing and monitoring equipment for deep foundations, also celebrated its 40th anniversary. A day of events was planned to recognize the milestone, beginning with field demonstrations of PDI's latest technologies. In the afternoon, PDI employees and guests attended a celebration at the renovated Allen Theater in downtown Cleveland, OH. Expansions to the building are supported by foundations tested using PDI's Pile Driving Analyzer®. A video recounting the history of PDI, from its early days in the Civil Engineering department at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, to the present day preceded a series of lectures related to PDI's impact on the industry.

VIBCO Vibrators marked its 50th anniversary in late 2012. The company started in 1962, in a chicken coop in Sparta, NJ, when Swedish immigrant Theodore Wadensten created a silent pneumatic turbine vibrator in response to the need for a more durable, lower-maintenance design in the United States. A patent was awarded 10 years later, and the company expanded and eventually settled operations in Wyoming, RI. The company now markets a variety of products but remains dedicated to customer needs. Though Wadensten semi-retired in 1995, he has since received nine additional patents for VIBCO products; the company is now led by his son, Karl.

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