

Industry Focus

Virginia Ready Mixed Plant Achieves NRMCA Green-Star Certification

A Virginia plant operated by a subsidiary of **Titan America**, a large producer of ready mixed concrete, earned Green-Star and Sustainable plant certifications from the **National Ready Mixed Concrete Association** (NRMCA). This is the fourth of Titan America's plants in Virginia certified under the NRMCA Certified Sustainable Concrete Plant program, which uses a document titled *Sustainable Concrete Plant Guidelines* to rate a plant's level of sustainability, with the objective of reducing carbon footprint, energy consumption, and water use and increasing recycled content. The Bryan Park plant in Richmond, VA, is the first to also receive the Green-Star Certification, which recognizes the use of an Environmental Management System and adherence to the principles of the sustainability movement.

First Concrete EPDs Issued in North America

Two companies have issued the first environmental product declarations (EPDs) in North America for ready mixed concrete and concrete masonry, respectively. An EPD is a standardized label designed to communicate the environmental impact of a product through its life cycle in a streamlined and comparable format. Developed by the Carbon Leadership Forum, EPDs help designers select products that will reduce the environmental impact of structures; if at least 20 building materials with EPDs are used, LEED credits can be earned. **Central Concrete Supply**, a **U.S. Concrete, Inc.**, company and leader in producing low-CO₂ concrete, is the first ready mixed concrete supplier in the United States to offer concrete EPDs, as well as the first to produce EPDs on an individual product level, rather than for a class of products. The NRMCA assessed and verified EPDs for more than 1400 Central Concrete mixture designs. **CarbonCure Technologies** and **Atlas Block Co. Ltd.** issued the first EPDs for concrete masonry products for 8 in. (200 mm) concrete masonry units made with CarbonCure technology at Atlas' flagship plant, which serves Ontario and Quebec, and they plan to release EPDs for more products in the future. CarbonCure products contain waste CO₂ that would otherwise have been released into the atmosphere.

Aggregate Industries US Facilities Earn Safety Award

Aggregate Industries US, a **Holcim Group Company**, announced that three of its facilities received Safety

Achievement Awards from the Illinois Department of Mines and Materials. The facilities were recognized for accomplishing a zero time lost accident rate in 2012, which is based on a company's lost time injuries record. The facilities receiving awards are the Dyer Lake Pit #34 in Burlington, WI; the Algonquin Pit #5 in Algonquin, IL; and the McHenry West Pit #26 in McHenry, IL. Aggregate Industries US provides aggregates and construction materials to markets in 18 states and more than 300 cities.

Xiferol Formula Up for Bids

The chemical formula for **Xiferol**[®] admixture is for sale. Developed in the 1950s, Xiferol admixture was a multipurpose treatment that had a number of effects on concrete, including enhanced water resistance, shrinkage reduction, and faster curing. It could also be used in extreme hot or cold temperatures and in any kind of project using portland cement. After the death of its inventor in 1987, production of Xiferol stopped. Recently, however, its current owners decided to place the formula on the market, along with all legal, commercial, and industrial rights. Companies interested in Xiferol can request a sample for analysis, and interested companies can place offers until December 16, 2013. Once the offers have been received, they will be analyzed and selected companies will be invited to a second round of bids. For more information, contact Raúl Louazo Uribe or Sergio Oscar Montejo Verde at Rodinia Consulting (www.rodiniaconsulting.com).

Maxwell Systems and ABC Partner for Webinar Series

Maxwell Systems, Inc., in its partnership with **Associated Builders and Contractors** (ABC), is offering a free educational webinar series on best practices. The four webinars in the series are designed to help business leaders leverage advancements in technology, standardize management processes, and drive organizational change. The first in the series, titled "Optimizing Your Construction Business for Profitable Growth," was held on September 11, 2013. Future topics in the series are: "Committing to Change with Standardized Processes" on November 12; "Managing with Mobility to Drive Productivity and Profit" on February 18, 2014; and "Freeing Cash Flow to Grow Your Construction Business" on April 16, 2014.