

## **Olsson Launches New Brand and Corporate Identity**

Olsson Associates launched its new corporate brand, name, and website, [www.olsson.com](http://www.olsson.com). The firm will now be known as Olsson, which reflects its growth and national image. Olsson has grown to more than 1000 employees, has offices in eight states, and has worked on projects throughout the United States. The design firm was among the top 100 in 2018 based on revenue, according to *Engineering News-Record*.

## **Twining, Inc., Acquires sys-tek**

Twining acquired sys-tek, a professional commissioning services and mechanical engineering firm. The transaction will enable Twining to provide a broader range of services. This fits into Twining's strategy to expand its core service lines into complementary fields and provide professional building commissioning and mechanical engineering services to clients.

## **Musselman & Hall Contractors Now Employee-Owned**

In 2018, after more than 100 years in business, Kansas City, MO-based Musselman & Hall Contractors announced the transition of the firm from a family-owned to an employee-owned enterprise. Under the new structure, a board of directors of up to five people will manage the company.

## **Clark Pacific Named 2018 Sustainable Business of the Year for Green Building**

Clark Pacific was awarded the 2018 Sacramento Sustainable Business of the Year award for green building. Presented by the Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC), the award recognizes Sacramento, CA-area businesses whose work practices demonstrate a commitment to sustainability. Clark Pacific was recognized for its dedication to environmentally friendly manufacturing and construction methods and significant reduction of environmental impacts. Both of Clark Pacific's two sustainable precast concrete manufacturing plants were designed for zero discharge of storm water as well as other sustainable practices, such as water recycling for reuse in manufacturing, recharge of groundwater, solid waste recycling, and energy conservation. Currently, 45% of Clark Pacific's electrical energy needs are produced by solar, with a goal of reaching 80%.

## **Kubota Manufacturing of America and Kubota Industrial Equipment Donate \$1 Million to Lanier Technical College Foundation**

In a ceremony last year, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal joined leaders from both Kubota Manufacturing of America and Kubota Industrial Equipment as they jointly announced a

\$1 million donation to the Lanier Technical College (LTC) Foundation in support of its Technology and Industry Building on its new campus. LTC serves Hall County, GA, and the surrounding area with career-technical education programs and customized business and industry training. Kubota has been operating in the state of Georgia for more than 40 years.

## **HawkeyePedershaab Concrete Technologies Inc. Combines with CAM Sales**

HawkeyePedershaab Concrete Technologies Inc. announced its acquisition of CAM Sales Inc., a manufacturer of prefabricated shear reinforcement assemblies for concrete pipe, box culverts, and other concrete structures. The company also manufactures reinforcement accessories and is a provider of precast concrete production equipment in North America.

## **Introducing Arcosa**

Trinity Industries, Inc., has separated into two public companies: Trinity Industries, Inc., focused on railcar-related products and services; and Arcosa, Inc., focused on construction, energy, and transportation products. Arcosa's Construction Products Group produces natural sand, gravel, and limestone aggregate; is the largest producer of rotary kiln expanded shale and clay lightweight aggregate in North America; and is the producer of a complete line of steel and aluminum trench shoring and shielding equipment.

## **PennDOT Bridge Project Relies on Precast Concrete**

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) District 5-0 completed a project to replace six bridges over I-78 in Berks County, PA. The original bridges had insufficient under-clearance and were routinely getting hit. The construction contract stipulated maximum bridge closure times of 40 to 60 days, depending on the bridge. The contract also limited traffic stoppages on I-78 to only 15 minutes. To meet these stringent requirements, each new bridge was constructed with precast concrete footings, superstructures, and decks. The precast producer for the project was PENNSTRESS, a producer member of PCI Mid-Atlantic, a chapter of the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI). A time-lapse video of the construction of the final bridge can be viewed at [www.pci-ma.org](http://www.pci-ma.org).

## **Braxton-Bragg Expands into the Polished Concrete Industry**

Braxton-Bragg expanded its product line to include concrete polishing. Braxton-Bragg's floor-polishing system replaces a synthetic pad and detergent with a diamond pad, significantly reducing the amount of soap and chemicals used

to clean. Every time the floor is cleaned, it is also polished, with fewer fumes and chemicals.

## **Uplift Data Partners Leverages Night Waiver to Launch Night Ops Training**

Uplift Data Partners is the leading drone service provider for the AEC industry, with an integrated service model that connects drone pilots, site surveyors, construction site managers, and designers. To maintain its leadership, Uplift Data Partners launched a night-ops training module in collaboration with Aerovista Drone Academy. The 90-minute, self-directed training course is required for pilots that will operate under the company's FAA waiver allowing it to fly drones at night. The night-ops training covers scenarios such as construction site inspections, infrared roof inspections, and skyline views for proposed buildings. The training program discusses the anatomy and functions of the eye as well as parameters of night missions, and it explains the additional safety precautions required for night operations. Upon completing the module and passing an online exam, pilots are authorized to operate under Uplift Data Partners' night waiver.

## **Chaney Enterprises Adds CarbonCure to Its Portfolio of Sustainable Initiatives**

Chaney Enterprises (Chaney), a ready mixed concrete company, partnered with CarbonCure Technologies to reduce the carbon footprint of its concrete. Chaney installed the CarbonCure Technology at its Green-Star Certified Waldorf concrete plant. The CarbonCure Technology injects recycled carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into concrete during mixing, and the CO<sub>2</sub> reacts with calcium ions from cement to form a nano-sized calcium carbonate mineral within the concrete. The process improves the concrete's compressive strength, which has enabled Chaney to reduce its cement content while maintaining compressive strength requirements.

## **CSI Announces Project Dynamo, an Industry-Wide Digital Construction Initiative**

Driven by rapid change and the need to better integrate specifications, building products, and building information modeling (BIM), the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) announced CSI Project Dynamo, an initiative to expand its industry-standard organizing principles to work more effectively with BIM to support the digital needs of design and construction professionals. CSI Project Dynamo is a pilot program to expand the North American MasterFormat®, Uniformat®, and Omniclass® standards for organizing construction information by creating a more robust connection between the standards and BIM objects. Those interested in participating in Project Dynamo can find more information at [www.CSIProjectDynamo.org](http://www.CSIProjectDynamo.org).

## **i-Theses and Trimble to Simplify BIM to Fabrication Workflows in Precast Industry**

i-Theses, a developer of specialized software solutions for precast concrete manufacturers, and Trimble, a developer of structural building information modeling (BIM) software Tekla Structures, signed a partnership agreement. Their commitment for joint development will enable more streamlined precast design, detailing, and production workflows for their customers. Software such as Tekla Structures and i-Theses PrecastOffice helps precast detailers and manufacturers reduce manual work and human errors, improve efficiency, and streamline their processes.

## **COMANSA: A Unique Brand**

After many years using the Linden Comansa brand name, the tower crane manufacturer is now focusing its efforts on a single overall brand, to be used throughout the group, by returning to its original name: COMANSA. This change will be implemented gradually across the company's product range and at the company's facilities in Spain (headquarters), the United States, and China.

## **Smith-Midland Signs Largest Contract in Company's History**

FAM Construction, LLC (a Ferrovia Agroman US and Allan Myers joint venture), awarded Smith-Midland the contract to supply 900,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (84,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of SoftSound noise absorptive precast concrete sound wall panels for the I-66 Outside the Beltway Express Lanes project in Northern Virginia. The 22.5 mile (36 km) long I-66 project will provide two express lanes alongside three regular lanes from I-495 to Route 29 in Gainesville, VA, along with other amenities and space reserved for future transit options. The Midland, VA, plant's final project completion date is scheduled for 2022. SoftSound, an Easi-Set Worldwide licensed product, is a proprietary material molded and compressed to meet the desired technical and aesthetic requirements, providing sound-absorptive technology. It combines a highly specialized mineralized aggregate with cement as a binder.

## **Wood Manufacturing Company Expands Product Offering into Concrete Industry**

Woodgrain Millwork, a manufacturer of doors, moldings, and windows, acquired EcoForm, a manufacturer of polymer-coated engineered lumber products. EcoForm introduced its process of coating lumber with UV-stabilized polyethylene in the early '90s. The coating repels moisture and other harsh elements, making EcoForm lumber products suitable for use in reusable concrete forms and landscape edging.