

MDOT-ACEC Partnership Charter Award Recipient Announced

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Michigan announced the I-94 (Interstate 94) Modernization, Advanced Bridges Project Team, as the 2018 recipient of the MDOT-ACEC Partnership Charter Award. The I-94 team comprises professionals from MDOT and HNTB working closely together to modernize 7 miles (11.3 km) of freeway, reconstruct interchanges, upgrade nearby streets, and replace almost 70 bridges in Detroit, MI. The annual award, now in its sixth year, recognizes project managers and firms in Michigan for project partnerships based on trust, effective communication, continuous improvement, innovation, and timely issue resolution.

CTS Launches New Website

CTS Cement Manufacturing Corporation announced the launch of their new website, which is more responsive and features easy-to-find product information. Full-width menus allow users to navigate to all subsections with one click on a computer browser or two taps on a mobile device. New resources include: CTS's 17 AIA-accredited CE courses to help construction professionals meet their educational needs and learning units; a concrete calculator to estimate the amount of material needed for projects; and a digital catalog of all products. Visit www.ctscement.com.

Northeast Precast Launches Patented Prespan Floor System

Northeast Precast of Millville, NJ, a manufacturer of custom precast panels and systems and a producer member of PCI Mid-Atlantic, launched Prespan, a flooring system that features insulated precast floor planks. Prespan allows extra space to be constructed under a garage during a commercial or residential project's building stage. According to Mark Gorgas, Commercial Division General Manager for Northeast Precast, Prespan creates a completely open space that eliminates the need for interior structural supports like columns or load-bearing walls. Builders can gain a clear span of the entire building to create a full basement or crawl space. Compared to hollow core planks, Prespan delivers less deflection and is 25% lighter. The system is compatible with all concrete wall types and there are no manufacturing size limitations.

Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc. Acquires Ready Products and Radius Tools

Simpson Strong-Tie, a subsidiary of Simpson Manufacturing Co., Inc., recently acquired Ready Products (Ready-Hat®, Ready-Track®, Ready-Arch®, and Ready-

Angle®) and Radius Tools (Radius Track Bender® and Radius Trim Bender™) from Radius Track Corporation. The acquisition will expand Simpson Strong-Tie's solutions for cold-formed steel (CFS) construction. Radius Track Corporation will continue as a separate entity focused on the design, engineering, and fabrication of subsystems for curved and complex services, both preconstruction and post-contract award.

The Ready Products are hand-bendable curved framing solutions for light-gauge steel framing. They are an alternative to the manual, labor-intensive jobsite methods of cutting, snipping, and shaping of CFS framing. The Radius Tools are portable curved framing hand tools that enable the user to bend CFS framing to create curved walls and soffits quickly and accurately on the jobsite.

Concrete Solutions Lab Expands Testing Services

Regional construction materials testing and inspection firm Concrete Solutions Lab, Farmingdale, NY, recently added accreditation for several soil and asphalt test methods to its broad range of services. Under the formal American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Accreditation Program, Concrete Solutions Lab achieved accreditation for testing asphalt mixtures and soil samples for infrastructure projects. In addition, Concrete Solutions Lab is fully accredited by AASHTO for concrete and aggregate test procedures. The company was also recently approved to perform asphalt, soil, and concrete field and lab inspections and testing for New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) projects.

Sika Acquires Concrete Fiber Company in the United States

Sika acquired Concrete Fibers, based in Chattanooga, TN, from Propex Holding, LLC. The acquisition included a U.S. plant that manufactures synthetic fibers for use in concrete reinforcement and the well-established Fibermesh brand. This adds to Sika's range of concrete system solutions for the construction of high-rise buildings and demanding infrastructure projects. The acquired business generates annual sales of 30 million CHF (29.9 million USD).

University of Sheffield Researchers Use Fibers from Old Tires to Improve Fire Resistance of Concrete

Researchers at the University of Sheffield, Sheffield, England, UK, extracted fibers from the textile reinforcement of old tires and added them to a concrete mixture to protect the concrete from fire damage. This reduced the likelihood of the concrete spalling explosively under the intense heat of a

fire. Many modern structures include concrete components with added manmade polypropylene (PP) fibers; this can protect structures from damage or collapse in the event of a fire. However, the Sheffield study is the first to show that these fibers can be reclaimed from used tires. The results of the team's study are published as "Effects of Recycled Steel and Polymer Fibres on Explosive Fire Spalling of Concrete," by S.S. Huang et al., in the journal *Fire Technology*.

Liebherr-Werk Ehingen Celebrates 50-Year Anniversary

Liebherr-Werk Ehingen GmbH, Ehingen, Germany, a construction machinery manufacturer, celebrated their 50-year anniversary. Their current product range includes 40 different crane types. The cranes manufactured in Ehingen can be divided into two product lines: wheeled mobile cranes and crawler cranes with lattice jibs or telescopic booms. The most powerful crawler crane towers over the famous Ulm Minster church, Ulm, Germany. It is 240 m (787 ft) high and lifts loads up to 3000 tonnes (3307 tons).

The company's growth has been significant since its founding by Hans Liebherr 50 years ago. The AUK 40T-60 was produced with 87 employees in 1969. The company sold a total of 79 machines between 1969 and 1972. Today, approximately 3600 employees work for the company to produce around 1800 machines every year.

Dunn Investment Company Launches Dunn University

Dunn Investment Company, Birmingham, AL, a contracting business, announced the launch of their workforce development business unit, Dunn University. The mission of Dunn University is to recruit, train, develop, and retain the most highly skilled workforce possible while improving the lives and engagement of team members. Dunn University will not only provide training opportunities for every employee but will also provide workforce development for those outside of the company to develop a pipeline of potential new employees. With this launch comes the appointment of Retired Air Force Colonel Chris R. Stricklin as the founding President of Dunn University. Stricklin will lead all Dunn operating companies in recruiting, craft, and team member developmental training.

i+iconUSA to Be Acquired by Shikun & Binui

Infrastructure & Industrial Constructors USA (i+iconUSA) of Pittsburgh, PA, will be acquired by Shikun & Binui (S&B), an Israeli infrastructure and real estate company, as part of its expansion strategy into the U.S. infrastructure market. i+iconUSA is a family of industrial and heavy civil

construction companies and operates through subsidiaries Fay and i+iconSOUTHEAST. i+iconUSA has more than 70 years of heavy construction experience in several U.S. states, specializing in the transportation, ports and waterways, and industrial markets. The company will become a subsidiary of Shikun & Binui America (SBA), the construction arm of S&B in the United States, but will continue to operate independently. The transaction will have no impact on the location of i+iconUSA's existing offices or workforce.

Braxton-Bragg Celebrates 25 Years

Braxton-Bragg of Knoxville, TN, is celebrating 25 years in business. The company provides tooling and supplies to the stone and tile industries. Founded in 1994 by Doug Slocum and partner Ron Weiler, Braxton-Bragg has grown from a start-up to a national distributor with international ties. The company has planned a celebration spanning the entire year, which includes supporting local charities, events for partners and employees, and the unveiling of a new logo.

Carhartt Company Gear Launches with Fundraiser for Helmets to Hardhats

Dearborn, MI, workwear company Carhartt announced a new uniform program, Carhartt Company Gear™, which debuted at World of Concrete 2019 in Las Vegas, NV. Carhartt Company Gear expands Carhartt's uniform offerings, including products from standard uniforms to more specific clothing, such as flame-resistant and high-visibility gear. Carhartt celebrated the launch of the program with a fundraising effort to benefit Helmets to Hardhats (H2H). H2H is a nonprofit that offers military service members training and career opportunities to transition into civilian roles within the construction industry. Carhartt donated \$5 (with a ceiling of \$25,000) to H2H for every visitor that registered their name and e-mail address at the company's World of Concrete exhibit.

ConTech Roadshow Fueled by JBKnowledge Announces Stops on 2019 Tour

The ConTech Roadshow will bring presentations, product demonstrations, and local networking opportunities to several U.S. cities in 2019, with the goal of creating a more tech-savvy construction industry. The circuit's next stop is in Atlanta, GA, this month. Midwest stops include Chicago, IL, in June and Kansas City, KS, in August. Further stops include Dallas, TX, in October, and, finally, Denver, CO, in December. Beyond presentations and demonstrations, attendees are treated to refreshments, happy hour, and giveaways. For more information and to register, visit www.jbknowledge.com/2019-construction-technology-conference.