

## **Minnich Manufacturing Expands Distribution in Canada**

Minnich Manufacturing, a manufacturer of concrete dowel pin drills, concrete vibrators, and vibrator monitoring systems, expanded its distribution in eastern Canada through the authorized distributor Montreal Tractor Inc. and its sister company HMA Equipment. Montreal Tractor Inc. has been a Minnich distributor since 2015, serving the provinces of Ontario and Québec. Going forward, Montreal Tractor and HMA Equipment will offer sales, service, and exchange of Minnich equipment within the provinces of Ontario, Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Headquartered in Montreal, QC, Montreal Tractor opened HMA Equipment in Toronto in 2013.

## **Colorado State University Expands Curriculum with Trimble**

Trimble awarded an in-kind gift to the Department of Construction Management at Colorado State University (CSU). This gift included Trimble Field Link and Rapid Positioning Systems, laser scanner, unmanned aircraft system, and surveying systems, and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receivers for the department's labs. Also gifted were a number of Trimble's software packages, including the three-dimensional (3-D) modeling software SketchUp Pro and MEP software such as AutoBid SheetMetal. Potential applications of these technologies include scanning historic and other buildings to ensure preservation and plan future renovations; designing and 3-D printing architectural building models; surveying and layout; and improving construction estimating and scheduling to reduce costs.

## **Microdesk Celebrates 25 Years**

Microdesk, a global AECO consulting firm, is celebrating its milestone 25th anniversary this year. Over the last 25 years, Microdesk has grown from a two-person New England reseller—focused on design and GIS solutions from Autodesk, Softdesk, and ESRI—to a global BIM consulting firm addressing all aspects of design, construction, and operations with a mandate to assist the industry with meeting the challenges of globalization, urbanization, and sustainability. Microdesk now has 13 offices and 300 employees across the United States and the United Kingdom. The company will be celebrating its 25th anniversary throughout the year.

## **Walter P Moore Opens New Office in Charlotte, NC**

International engineering firm Walter P Moore opened its 20th U.S. office in Charlotte, NC. The Charlotte office officially opened on May 6, 2019. The firm also appointed

Chuck Cardwell as the Managing Director for the firm's Structures Group, which encompasses structural engineering, enclosure engineering, construction engineering, secure design, and parking consulting.

## **TDOT Turns to PlanGrid to Boost Productivity**

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has begun requiring all prime contractors on its state infrastructure projects, such as the reconstruction of Interstate 440 (I-440) in Nashville, TN, to use PlanGrid's construction productivity software. This adoption represents TDOT's push toward broader technology use and away from paper-based processes. PlanGrid allows any changes to drawings to be instantly pushed to every relevant team member across a project, and all construction information is accessible through the software, which can be accessed on smart mobile devices and with a web browser. Once construction has started, plans sync even if field workers are in an environment where there is no connectivity and devices are offline. PlanGrid also has a feature that assigns GPS coordinates to specific drawing details, which allows field workers to know exactly what to build and where. The digital trail of data available in PlanGrid also allows general contractors to provide the required transparency to government officials while reducing miscommunication and the potential for rework.

## **Topcon Announces Advanced Concrete Application Workflows**

Topcon Positioning Group announced a workflow bundle designed to modernize concrete floor flatness and levelness (FFL) applications. A new ClearEdge3D development and sales partnership with Rithm, a software company focused on 3-D laser-scanning software, is advancing the Topcon concrete application offering with a new hardware and software bundle option. Implementing Rithm on projects for wet or dry concrete scanning allows for FFL analysis directly from scan data loaded into the Autodesk Navisworks software. Operators can find floor flatness and levelness mistakes in near real-time from scan to finish. The data Rithm provides allow project teams to easily visualize high and low areas with elevation and deviation heat maps and contour maps.

## **Midwestern Industries Expands Materials Testing Lab**

Midwestern Industries, Inc., of Massillon, OH, expanded its full-scale screening test facility capabilities for customers. Comprising over 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (930 m<sup>2</sup>) of Midwestern's manufacturing headquarters, the Midwestern Materials Testing Lab is a facility that allows end-users to gain quantitative data in their screening processes by running

real-time, full-scale materials tests for new applications, as well as improving on existing ones.

Midwestern provides this testing at no charge other than the cost of sending in a 55 gal. (66 L) drum of material to be test screened or separated. After the material is tested, results are quickly provided about which machine performs best and how efficiently it can run a material.

A staff of Midwestern screening professionals works with clients to make sure the desired piece of equipment will function as intended to satisfy screening goals. Feasibility tests are done on all types of major machines (round, rectangular, and others) by running samples of aggregates and fine powders from 20 microns and up. Product batches and tests on bulk-bag quantities are also run to see if screening will meet the standards set forth by the end-user.

A brief overview of the Midwestern Materials Testing Lab can be viewed on YouTube at [http://youtu.be/hou\\_CtU8x-c](http://youtu.be/hou_CtU8x-c).

## LafargeHolcim Announces Scholarship Recipients

LafargeHolcim announced the eight recipients of the 36th Annual Gygi and von Wyss Foundation Scholarship. The scholarship was originally established in 1983 to recognize the accomplishments of the children of Holcim employees. Since then, the scholarship program has been expanded to include children of employees of all LafargeHolcim companies in the United States. The award honors the memories of Hans Gygi and Marc R. von Wyss, two former leaders of Holcim and its predecessor companies.

Each winner will receive a financial scholarship worth \$6000 for the 2019-2020 academic year and will be eligible to continue receiving the scholarship for an additional 3 years based on continuous academic performance. Since the foundation began 35 years ago, more than 100 young adults have received the Gygi and von Wyss Foundation Scholarship.

This year's recipients include:

- Catherine Gerst, daughter of Jocelyn Gerst, Vice President U.S. Marketing & Communications, Illinois;
- Margaret Hope, daughter of Randy Hope, ITSM Operations Analyst, North American IT Services, Minnesota;
- Colton Jackson, son of Ronald Jackson, RMX Plant Batch Operator, Texas;
- Annika Olsen, daughter of Lisa Olsen, Regional Counsel, Michigan;
- Morgan Powell, daughter of Dustin Powell, Cement Market Manager, Midwest Cement Sales Group, Iowa;
- Bronson Sloan, son of Rodney Sloan, Cement Terminal Manager, Theodore Cement Terminal, Alabama;

- Serena Smith, daughter of Brian Smith, Regional Counsel, Michigan; and
- Jessica Tardich, daughter of Michael Tardich, Cement Market Manager, North Central Cement Sales Group, Michigan.

## Structural Group Becomes STRUCTURAL TECHNOLOGIES

Structural Group, the corporate brand name representing STRUCTURAL TECHNOLOGIES, STRUCTURAL, and PULLMAN, changed its name. The corporate brand representing all three companies will now be STRUCTURAL TECHNOLOGIES. This change reflects the company's progress in achieving its mission and vision of "providing technology-driven solutions that make structures stronger and last longer." The STRUCTURAL TECHNOLOGIES companies combine repair and maintenance services, engineered products, and engineering support services.

With this change in branding, the company has also enhanced its websites: [www.structuraltechnologies.com](http://www.structuraltechnologies.com), [www.structural.net](http://www.structural.net), and [www.pullman-services.com](http://www.pullman-services.com).

## CEMEX Supplies Largest-Ever Los Angeles Bridge

CEMEX USA is providing concrete and thousands of tons of aggregate for the largest bridge project in the history of Los Angeles, CA: the replacement of the iconic Sixth Street Viaduct Bridge. The original 3500 ft (1070 m) bridge, which has served as a backdrop in several feature films, was built in 1932 as a transportation link across the Los Angeles River to connect Boyle Heights with the Arts District. Over the years, the structure has deteriorated, leading to several repairs and now replacement.

CEMEX is expected to supply 45,000 yd<sup>3</sup> (34,400 m<sup>3</sup>) of ready mixed concrete for the project, including 6300 yd<sup>3</sup> (4800 m<sup>3</sup>) of a specialized self-consolidating mixture that was developed to fit the bridge's design specifications and standards required by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). CEMEX is also supplying fiber-reinforced concrete for the structure and bridge deck.

The new viaduct will have 10 pairs of lit arches along with stairway access and bike ramps.

## Arcosa Acquires ACG Materials

Arcosa, Inc., a provider of infrastructure-related products and solutions, completed the acquisition of ACG Materials, a producer of specialty materials and aggregates. The purchase price of approximately \$315 million was funded with a combination of cash on hand and \$180 million borrowed under Arcosa's \$400 million 5-year credit facility.