

ACI Attends ICT Annual Meeting and Concrete Expo in London

Following attendance at the Institute of Concrete Technology's (ICT) Annual General Meeting and Symposium in Cambridge, UK, ACI Certification representatives **John Nehasil**, Senior Managing Director of Certification and Chapters, and **Michael Morrison**, Certification Manager, exhibited at the Concrete Expo held at the ExCel Center in London, UK.

With ACI Certification commemorating its 40th year of operation, the Institute was proud to celebrate this milestone with attendees in the UK. Many local, state, national, and international building codes, specifications, and agencies require certified personnel to perform many construction responsibilities to ensure quality benchmarks are met.

"Participating in both the ICT event and trade show exhibit were in support of ACI and ICT's partnership in offering ACI Certification programs based on EN Standards in the UK and beyond," said Nehasil.



ACI's exhibit at the Concrete Expo

SCA and NEU Sign MOU

The Slag Cement Association (SCA) and NEU: An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on May 17, 2023, at ACI World Headquarters in Farmington Hills, MI, USA.

The MOU states the terms and understanding between SCA and NEU to use their individual and collective resources to reduce, through reasonable measures, the carbon footprint of concrete in the built environment. Under the MOU, the SCA will share its technical information about the use of slag cement in lowered embodied concrete construction. NEU will incorporate this technical knowledge into its publications and

educational resources, fostering widespread awareness of the benefits of slag cement in reducing the carbon impact of concrete construction.

"As an Allied Organization of NEU, the Slag Cement Association is uniquely positioned to assist in the reduction of the concrete industry's carbon footprint," stated SCA Marketing Director Nick Brimley. "NEU will now be able to utilize and promote our many technical and educational resources, such as SCA's case studies, webinars, and Life Cycle Assessment Calculator."

The collaboration between the SCA and NEU holds great promise for advancing sustainable concrete practices. By combining their expertise, resources, and networks, they are committed to driving progress in reducing carbon emissions within the industry.

ASCC Sustainability Initiative

The American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC) announced that **Bruce Suprenant**, FACI, and ACI Honorary Member **Bev Garnant** have been retained to develop and manage the association's sustainability initiative. Suprenant and Garnant are ASCC's former Technical Director and Executive Director, respectively.

"This initiative has two purposes. The first is to collaborate with the Portland Cement Association (PCA), the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA), and others to best achieve the goal of lowering the carbon footprint of our industry. The second is to gather and develop resources to help our members navigate this new reality," Garnant explained.

"Sustainability is ASCC's new safety. The majority of owners and developers will soon mandate that the construction of their projects, as well as the long-term operation of the structures, be as sustainable as possible. It's ASCC's responsibility to provide their contractors the knowledge and expertise to meet these preconditions," Suprenant said.

ASCC has established a Sustainability Committee for the purpose of accomplishing the goals of the initiative. Members include representatives from PCA, NRMCA, NEU: An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete, producers, consultants, and contractors from across the country.

PCA Member Companies Recognize June as Safety Month

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) celebrated PCA Safety Month throughout the month of June with materials and resources for safety and health at cement plants. The observance of June as PCA Safety Month is concurrent with the National Safety Council's designation of June as National Safety Month.

“No industry is successful in meeting consumer demand without the daily contributions of a dedicated workforce,” said Mike Ireland, PCA President and CEO. “PCA member companies know that to keep employees motivated and productive, they must provide them with a safe work environment and have well-developed plans in place should emergencies or accidents occur. The well-being of workers has and always will be the top priority of our industry.”

Throughout the month, PCA focused on four common incidents cement manufacturers and their employees must be aware of and control to eliminate injuries and illnesses:

- Week 1: Lock-Out, Tag-Out, Try-Out—avoiding risks posed by hazardous energy;
- Week 2: Haul Truck Safety—preventing incidents during powered haulage operations;
- Week 3: Fall Prevention—preventing employees from falling by using stationary and mobile platforms and issuing fall protection devices; and
- Week 4: Respirators—eliminating and reducing dust exposures and providing workers with respiratory protection.

Links to additional safety resources are available at www.cement.org/safetymonth.

Startups from Around the World Attempt to Solve Challenge of How to Make Low Carbon Concrete

More than 70 startups from across the world have applied for an international program aimed at making low carbon concrete. The Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) and its member companies are on a mission to fully decarbonize concrete. The Innovandi Open Challenge brings together startups and the industry’s leading manufacturers to work together on innovative ways to cut emissions and accelerate progress.

In April, applications were invited from startups interested in working with leading companies on new materials and ingredients for low carbon concrete—a vital element in the GCCA’s Concrete Future 2050 Net Zero Roadmap.

Applications were received from every region of the world. A shortlist will now be drawn up from applications by the GCCA and its member companies of the most promising and deployable technologies. Those ultimately accepted for this year’s Innovandi Open Challenge will gain access to industry plants, labs, key networks, and the expertise and infrastructure of the GCCA’s 40 members from around the world. They will also receive guidance from the GCCA and its members to help them with the development of new technology and business strategies.

This is the second year for the Innovandi Open Challenge.

The first program, which launched in 2021, primarily focused on carbon capture and usage and has already seen two projects go to the pilot stage.

The GCCA and its members account for 80% of global cement production capacity outside of China. Member companies have committed to reducing and ultimately eliminating CO₂ emissions in concrete through the implementation of the GCCA’s Concrete Future 2050 Net Zero Roadmap.

Carbon Zero Youth Initiative to Empower Youth to Support Green Building Practices

Youth can help drive more carbon-conscious building practices if they understand what and who can make a building “green.” That’s the core idea behind the Carbon Zero Youth Initiative (CZYI), founded to engage students ages 12 to 18 in the growing movement to decarbonize the built environment.

Buildings and structures offer many opportunities for large-scale carbon reductions, carbon sequestration, and circularity. “Empowering young people to understand and talk about this issue in their communities will help generate public awareness and prepare the next generation to be carbon-conscious leaders,” said Meghan Byrne, Carbon Leadership Forum staff and CZYI Board member.

The CZYI was inspired by a Girl Scout embodied carbon project that was launched in 2021. Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Badgerland Troops 1477 and 1952 created videos and presented them to industry groups.

“The CZYI aims to make learning about cutting-edge sustainability topics fun and accessible for youth,” explained Julia Pooler, CZYI Founder and the Girl Scout Troop Leader involved with the original project. “Most importantly, the CZYI will support youth in using their voices to encourage action, build life skills, share their passion for the planet, and explore careers.”

The CZYI is collaborating with building industry groups and sustainability initiatives to bring topics such as embodied and operational carbon, life-cycle analysis, carbon accounting, low-carbon materials, and building deconstruction into classroom and youth group settings. The CZYI will showcase carbon-conscious building practices and ways to take action through toolkits, games, interactive activities, video content, and patch programs. CZYI educational resources will be distributed free of charge and on-demand through partnerships with education organizations and will be available in multiple languages.

The CZYI will also work to facilitate opportunities for youth to engage directly with building industry professionals. “There is no more memorable way for youth to learn than by

getting real world experiences. Site visits, participation in local industry events, and dialogues between students and professionals are a great way for youth to share their own passion for sustainability,” said Karin O’Brien, CZYI Board President, ACI Missouri Chapter Executive Director, and a Scout Leader.



The CZYI is building its network of sponsors, community and education partners, and building industry volunteers. For more information, visit www.carbonzeroyouth.org.

New Data Bulletin Examines Women in Construction

According to The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR), women are a growing demographic in the construction workforce, accounting in 2022 for 11% of all construction employment and 4% of blue-collar construction workers. The May 2023 issue of CPWR’s *Data Bulletin* examines employment, business owner, and injury trends for women in construction. It found that the number of women grew faster in construction than in all industries from 2021 to 2022 (4% versus 3%), while blue-collar construction workers grew almost three times faster than all blue-collar workers for the same period (19% versus 7%). The corresponding Women in Construction data dashboard has been updated to include the latest data.

For more information and to view the *Data Bulletin*, visit www.cpwr.com/research/data-center/data-dashboards/women-in-construction.

GSA Launches First Biennial Construction Awards

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) announced the new biennial GSA Construction Awards program. The first Construction Awards ceremony will take place in 2024. From small to large projects and from limited scope repairs and alterations to new construction projects, GSA will consider projects that resulted in highly successful outcomes while delivering the best value and demonstrating excellent practice of the following core values: safety, construction quality and craftsmanship, collaboration and team dynamics, sustainability, innovation, and technology.

Projects can be submitted for three main categories: Capital Projects, Small Projects, and Alternative Financing Projects. Call for submissions will begin July 2023.

To learn more about eligibility, judging, and submission instructions, visit www.gsa.gov/real-estate/design-and-construction/construction-excellence/construction-awards.

National Institute of Building Sciences and buildingSMART USA Partner to Advance Building Industry Standards

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) and buildingSMART USA (bSUSA) have partnered to collaborate in the promotion and support of open standards, interoperable solutions, and digital work practices to overcome inefficiencies across the U.S. built environment. A 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed, outlining the mutual agreement of NIBS and bSUSA to advise and educate groups on the benefits of adopting open data and national standards.

These groups include:

- National infrastructure organizations, industry experts, state and local port and transportation owners/operators;
- Corporate and government building owners;
- Industry stakeholders—architects, engineers, contractors, owners, and operators;
- Academia and researchers; and
- Solution providers and public officials.

The agreement provides for the cross-participation of both organizations in advancing standards and practice guidelines. NIBS is also entering into a companion agreement with bSUSA’s parent organization, buildingSMART International (bSI).

SCA Hosts 2023 Slag Cement School

The Slag Cement Association (SCA) concluded its second annual Slag Cement School in Cape Canaveral, FL, USA. The event was held May 22-23, 2023, and featured technical presentations on the benefits of slag cement in concrete design and construction, as well as sustainability tools and resources available to the concrete industry. On the second day, attendees toured the Heidelberg Materials’ slag cement grinding plant.

“Slag Cement School offers a valuable opportunity for individuals interested in understanding the advantages of slag cement and its increasing importance in reducing the carbon impact of concrete construction,” said Nick Brimley, SCA Marketing Director.

The success of Slag Cement School was made possible through the support of its sponsors: NEU: An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete; Heidelberg Materials; Argos; Florida Concrete & Products Association; and Köppern.

Visit www.slagcement.org/school for more information.