

CTS Expands North American Production Network

CTS Cement Manufacturing Corporation (CTS), a manufacturer of calcium sulfoaluminate cement, is adding a fourth blending-and-packaging plant to its locations in Mexico, MO, USA.; Nazareth, PA, USA; and Gardena, CA, USA.

CTS has completed the acquisition of toll packager JE Tomes in Blue Island, IL, USA. In addition to a 4 acre (2 ha) blending-and-packaging facility that supplies three Home Depot regional distribution centers in Illinois and Ohio, USA, the purchase includes almost 40 shotcrete, masonry, and other products Tomes developed and has offered since Joseph Tomes III founded the company in 1988. These products will continue to be produced using the same formulations and rebranded as CTS-Tomes.



CTS completed the acquisition of the JE Tomes blending, packing, and distribution facility near Chicago, IL

STIHL Named to 2023 Forbes America's Best Employers List

STIHL Inc. was named to the 2023 Forbes list of America's Best Midsize Employers, ranking at No. 30. This is the third year STIHL has been recognized on this list, moving up from No. 205 in 2022. This prestigious award is presented by Forbes and Statista Inc., a statistics portal and industry ranking provider.

STIHL has been operating in the United States for nearly 50 years, growing from 50 employees in 1974 to over 3000 today. With an average tenure of 8 to 10 years, STIHL's commitment to its employees is evident in everything from competitive pay to top-notch benefits and investments in career development.

Command Alkon Ranked Top 10 in Logistics Category

Command Alkon, a software and solutions provider, was named to *Fast Company* magazine's annual list of the World's Most Innovative Companies for 2023. This year's list

highlights businesses at the forefront of their respective industries, paving the way for the innovations of tomorrow. In addition to the World's 50 Most Innovative Companies, 540 organizations are recognized across 54 sectors and regions.

Command Alkon enables the heavy building materials industry to build smarter, safer, and stronger by creating greater automation, visibility, and simplicity in its mission-critical dispatch, production, and quality control processes. The company was recognized in the Logistics category for its Load Assurance, Command Alkon Dispatch, and Inventory and Replenishment modules.

KPA Accelerates Growth in Construction Industry

KPA, a provider of environment, health, and safety software and solutions, announced the acquisition of AnchoRock, a construction safety and compliance software company. AnchoRock provides easy-to-use, mobile-first safety and compliance management software designed for contractors to digitize their safety programs and automate daily tasks to stay compliant and keep workers safe.

AnchoRock software was built for the needs of the construction industry, providing contractors with user-friendly tools to manage inspections and observations, incident management and Occupational Safety and Health Administration reporting, toolbox talks, job hazard analysis and pre-task planning, certifications and training, and safety documents.

XYZ Reality Wins Two Red Dot Design Awards

XYZ Reality, an augmented reality (AR) developer for construction, has won two 2023 Red Dot Design Awards for its Engineering Grade AR™ headset, The Atom™, in the innovative products and tools categories.

Dating back more than 60 years, the global design award is contested by some of the world's best-known designers and manufacturers. Every entry is judged by a panel of 50 experts who evaluate each submission according to a strict set of criteria, including functionality, durability, innovation, and quality.

The Atom headset provides accurate and detailed AR experiences for construction professionals. It allows users to visualize and interact with digital models of building designs in the real world, improving collaboration, reducing errors, and saving time and money.

Carbonaide Raises €1.8 Million to Manufacture Carbon-Negative Concrete

Carbonaide, a spin-out company from VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd. that enables the

manufacturing of carbon-negative concrete, has raised €1.8 million in seed funding led by Lakan Betoni and Vantaa Energy. The round was completed with public loans and in-kind contributions from Business Finland and other Finnish concrete companies and strategic investors.

The company will use the funding to integrate its CO₂ curing technology into an automated production line of its precast concrete factory in Hollola, Finland. With its factory-sized pilot unit and fully operational value chain, Carbonaide can mineralize up to 5 tons (4.5 tonnes) of CO₂ per day and increase production by 100-fold of its carbon-negative concrete products.

Holcim US joins the U.S. Department of Energy Better Climate Challenge

Green building materials provider Holcim US joined the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Better Climate Challenge to drive real-world action that reduces carbon emissions and saves energy. The Chicago, IL-based company is the first cement producer to commit to the DOE program.

Holcim US' involvement in the Better Climate Challenge reflects its ambitious goal to power U.S. operations at 13 cement plants nationwide with 100% renewable energy by 2030 and to reach net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050. For the Better Climate Challenge, which unites organizations across the economy in a pledge to set and achieve notable greenhouse gas reductions across a 10-year period, Holcim US restated its renewable energy pledge and committed to reducing CO₂ emissions in the United States by at least 25% by 2033.

CarbonBuilt and Blair Block Announce Production of Ultra-Low-Carbon Concrete Blocks

Blair Block, LLC, has begun commercial production of ultra-low-carbon concrete blocks at its concrete masonry production facility in Childersburg, AL, USA. The new blocks leverage CarbonBuilt's technology that reduces embodied carbon by 70% to over 100% compared to traditional concrete blocks. The blocks, which cost no more to produce than traditional concrete, will be used by C&C Masonry, Inc., in the construction of several municipal projects across Alabama.

CarbonBuilt's technology replaces most of the portland cement used in concrete manufacturing with a low-cost cement alternative made from widely available, low-carbon materials. These materials harden by chemically reacting with CO₂, piped into the curing chamber from an on-site furnace that also generates the heat needed for the process. The furnace uses waste biomass that would have otherwise

produced carbon emissions. This process strengthens the blocks and also permanently stores the CO₂ in solid form.



Blair Block's ultra-low-carbon concrete blocks

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