The Veterans Who Build Show: Service and a Future in the Built Environment

The Veterans Who Build (VWB) Show is a podcast that honors veterans' life stories and highlights their transition from military service to careers in the built environment. VWB explores their discipline, adaptability, and work ethic while sharing their journeys—from service to civilian life and discovering new purpose in their civilian careers. Beyond personal stories, the podcast discusses the growing workforce shortage in the industry. Fresh recruitment strategies are essential as retirements outpace new hires and fewer students enter engineering and construction fields. A promising yet underused talent pipeline is the 150,000 to 200,000 service members transitioning from the military each year. Veterans excel in problem-solving, teamwork, leadership, and high-pressure environments—qualities essential to the built environment. VWB is hosted by Adam Stark, a military veteran who worked in construction for a decade before founding Jet.Build, a technology company focused on streamlining construction management. Since its launch, the show has gained momentum, surpassing 100,000 YouTube views. VWB is working to reshape the conversation around workforce development and highlights veterans as future leaders of the construction industry. Listeners can tune in to YouTube, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify for new episodes of VWB every other Monday.

International Grooving & Grinding Association Annual Awards

The International Grooving & Grinding Association (IGGA) announced the winners of its annual awards program. Presented at the association's annual meeting, held in Phoenix, AZ, USA, the program honors individuals and companies/organizations for lasting contributions made to the grooving, grinding, and concrete pavement preservation/restoration industry. Four awards were announced: The Operator of the Year (Iron Man) Award (presented to three individuals) and the Lester F. Kuzmick Award.

The 2024 Operator of the Year (Iron Man) Award was presented to Stuart Tschakert, Interstate Improvement, Inc.; Bernd Cerncic, Otto Alte-Teigeler GmbH; and Jerry Lowes, Emery Sapp and Sons, Inc. This award recognizes individuals for their leadership in the field, with a special emphasis on dedication to quality and getting the job done right.

The 2024 Lester F. Kuzmick Award, presented to Jeff Arnswald, Diamond Products, is the most esteemed award presented by IGGA. The award recognizes individuals, companies, and organizations for excellence in the grooving, grinding, and concrete pavement preservation/restoration industry. This award, first presented in 2002, is named in honor of Lester F. Kuzmick, who demonstrated leadership and tireless dedication, helping shape IGGA and the industry it serves.

Cemex Receives Funding for Lower-Emission Vehicle Replacements

Cemex announced its participation in multiple government-sponsored sustainability initiatives, securing funding from state and federal programs to deploy several lower-emission vehicles across its U.S. footprint. Through the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP), Cemex was awarded 13 million USD to obtain four lower-emission locomotives and two haul trucks for its cement and aggregate sites in New Braunfels and Katy, TX, USA. Cemex will continue its commitment by deploying additional equipment in 2025. A 2 million USD grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program will allow for two lower-emission locomotives to enter Cemex's service in Jacksonville and Miami, FL, USA, in summer 2025. Upon placing these emissions-reducing vehicles into service, Cemex decommissions the conventional vehicles they replaced. This initiative continues Cemex's efforts at other locations, particularly in Victorville, CA, USA, where multiple lower-emission locomotives were added to the fleet.

Cemex lower-emission locomotive in New Braunfels, TX

Walter P Moore Receives Golden State Award

Walter P Moore received the American Council of Engineering Companies of California's (ACEC California's) Golden State Award for work on the Intuit Dome arena in Inglewood, CA, USA. The 18,000-seat arena is a 1,140,000 ft^2 (105,910 m^2) facility that includes practice and training

facilities, team offices, fan gathering spaces, and indoor and outdoor basketball courts open to the public. The distinctive diagrid shell roof, covered in diamond-shaped ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE) and polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) fabric panels, is designed to resemble a basketball net. Walter P Moore's team created a solution that allows the light diagrid shell to behave independently from the much stiffer main arena structure that supports it during a seismic event. The team connected the diagrid shell to the arena roof at its top and laterally supported it at node points down its height with toggle-brace connections. Intuit Dome also features a 1,000,000 lb (453,592 kg), 360-degree, double-sided video board with retractable end pieces that are suspended from the roof, along with rigging and catwalk systems that enhance the venue's capabilities. Intuit Dome is a fully electric facility with sufficient solar panels and batteries to power the arena for an entire concert or basketball game. It has achieved LEED Platinum certification.

Heidelberg Materials and EnviCore Collaborate to Turn Waste into SCMs

Heidelberg Materials and EnviCore Inc., a clean-tech company developing low-carbon solutions, are collaborating to repurpose waste and mineral byproducts into supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs). As part of this collaboration, Heidelberg Materials has acquired a minority stake in EnviCore. The collaboration will see EnviCore's proprietary technology repurposing mineral-rich streams into SCMs. These materials can supplement traditional portland cement in concrete mixtures, resulting in up to 25% cement replacement. Based on an upcoming feasibility study, the companies will decide whether to deployg a pilot SCM production facility close to one of Heidelberg Materials' recycling hubs. The pilot facility would validate EnviCore's technology under near-commercial conditions and optimize SCM production at scale. Heidelberg Materials and EnviCore aim to contribute toward strengthening the circular economy within the sector.

Fortera and Sumitomo Corporation Partner to Bring ReCarb Technology to Asia

Fortera Corporation is partnering with Sumitomo Corporation to bring Fortera's low-to-zero-carbon cement plants to Asia and position the market for adoption of Fortera's carbon-reducing ReCarb® technology that turns industrial carbon dioxide (CO_2) into ReAct® green cement. The two companies have agreed to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to focus on deploying Fortera's bolt-on low-to-zero-carbon cement plants with some of Asia's largest cement manufacturers. The Japanese market will be the initial focus, with multiple sites of interest identified. In addition to the MOU, Sumitomo Corporation's venture capital arm, Presidio Ventures, Inc., participated in Fortera's Series C fundraise. Fortera's ReCarb process converts industrial CO_2 directly from cement production into cement that is third-party verified as having 70% less embodied carbon ton-for-ton than ordinary cement. When paired with renewable energy, Fortera can achieve zero-CO_2 cement production. ReAct green cement meets ASTM International standards and aligns with current regulations. It can be used independently as a clinker-free cement or blended with ordinary cement to improve strength and workability.

Fortera ReCarb Plant