Welcome to the summer edition of the SEAOt Journal. This year has been quite a roller-coaster ride for everyone with the COVID-19 pandemic, shelter-at-home orders, and the general uncertainty the future holds. The current chaos has ushered in new lifestyles with some for the better and some worse. I know many people, including engineers, are working from home which may turn out to be a good direction for society.

State Board Meetings:

Our last two board meetings have been held virtually and this may become the "new norm" for the state board. However, meeting in person is typically more productive, so I do not foresee all future board meetings being virtual. SEAOt did purchase the professional version of GoToMeetings that several of the chapters have used during the past couple of months for chapter meetings.

The board sent out a survey with respect to the state meeting and received feedback from 247 members. Unfortunately, only 77 stated they would be willing to attend the state conference. Additionally, several of our sponsors have also stated they would not participate this year. Therefore, the board has decided to postpone the El Paso conference until 2021 but we are working towards having a virtual conference this year and look to have more information soon. Our hope is to provide the continuing education credits for our members at a reasonable price.

Legislative Affairs:

Our new lobbyist (CSG Capitol Solutions Group, LLC ) has been working with our Legislative Affairs Committee on language for a title act. They have been working with CASE and ASCE on language that would be acceptable and will contact the State Board of Professional Engineers to get their input shortly. We have also been in contact with Representative Dennis Paul to put a plan into action when the Texas Congress meets in 2021.
NCSEA:

The NCSEA May retreat was canceled due to COVID-19, but a series of virtual meetings have taken place. Our NCSEA delegate, Michael Lee has attended most of the meetings and most states are having similar issues with respect to COVID-19. NCSEA has also been helping the Legislative Affairs Committee with the title act. This year’s NCSEA national meeting has not been canceled, but they are working on having both a virtual and in-person summit this year. The event is usually the 2nd week in November and will be at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, NV.

Stay Safe,

Robert L. Nicholas, P.E.
President
The Structural Engineers Association of Texas
Renovated APA Laboratory Expands Testing Capabilities

APA – The Engineered Wood Association recently expanded the research capabilities at its laboratory in Tacoma, Washington. The significant upgrades to APA's research and testing facilities will support innovative design and construction of timber structures using wood structural panels, engineered wood products and mass timber assemblies. Built in 1969, the 42,000-square-foot lab has long been recognized as one of the leading wood research facilities in North America. While the lab had been well maintained and updated over the years, the $4.5 million expansion raised a portion of the roof to 40 feet high and added a 4-foot-thick reinforced strong floor, 10 strong wall blocks with anchors, twin 5-ton cranes and new equipment to accommodate full-scale structural assembly testing.

The building itself is a demonstration of wood’s strength, built with laminated veneer lumber studs and purlins and glulam columns supporting a roof structure framed with curved glulam beams. Wood structural panel sheathing was used on the walls and roof. OSB lap siding was used as the exterior cladding.

**APA LABORATORY AND EQUIPMENT UPGRADES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical and Equipment Limits</th>
<th>Previous Facilities</th>
<th>New Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ceiling Height (ft.)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Test Assembly Height (ft.)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong Floor Area (sq. ft.)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>70x75 = 5,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load Actuator (lbf)</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>220,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydraulic Stroke (in.)</td>
<td>±10</td>
<td>±15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump Capacity (gal./min.)</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead Crane(s) (tons)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2x5 = 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Testing Capabilities Address Market Opportunities

The following marketplace opportunities and research initiatives are likely to be among the first undertaken with the new testing capabilities:

- Larger dimension structural member testing for innovative floor and roof assemblies. This could include high-strength frame construction or the development of high-load shear wall assemblies. The first tests will also include full-scale floor diaphragms with wood I-joist framing sheathed with wood structural panel sheathing.

- For cross-laminated timber (CLT), evaluation of shear wall capacities for fundamental design tables applicable to both shear walls and diaphragms. Tests would evaluate product thickness and varying aspect ratios.

- Evaluation of hybrid construction of portal frames with engineered wood and other structural materials for multi-story non-residential buildings.

- Testing that accounts for the benefit of wood structural panels and engineered wood products in multi-story buildings, such as the use of tall wall sheathing and engineered wood framing.

- Interior shear wall testing to accommodate cantilevered diaphragms in multi-story buildings.
IMEG Corp. acquires Cardno Structural Eng

QUAD-CITIES, IL – IMEG Corp., a leading full-service engineering firm, has acquired the structural engineering group of Cardno.

Founded in Houston in 1976 as Haynes Whaley, the structural group joined Cardno, a publicly traded global engineering and environmental consulting firm, in October 2013. The team specializes in structural design and forensic engineering in a variety of market sectors. Its offices in Reston, VA, and Houston and Austin, TX, add to the reach of IMEG’s previously existing 50 offices.

“We are excited to add Cardno’s structural team and deepen our bench of expertise,” said IMEG President/CEO Paul VanDuyne. “Their strong and diverse client base is a testament to their technical skills and customer-based focus – two vital characteristics that match IMEG’s own priorities.” VanDuyne added that the team’s structural capabilities complement IMEG’s existing MEP capabilities in the Texas region and the Reston office is a great first step in expanding east. “This enables us to now offer full engineering building design services in the Texas marketplace and positions IMEG for future growth,” he said.

Bob Pronier, Principal and team leader, said his team is looking forward to being part of IMEG’s growing national presence and breadth of disciplines. “By combining both firms’ structural building expertise, along with IMEG’s building design experience in multiple national markets, we’re creating a strong synergy for future growth,” he said. “This acquisition also enhances the expertise and value we bring to our clients.” Bob will continue to lead the Reston, Houston, and Austin operations.

The team joined IMEG on May 29 and is now doing business as IMEG Corp. It will continue to operate out of its existing locations with the same team and leadership continuity. AEC Advisors, LLC initiated the transaction and advised Cardno.

IMEG is a leading U.S.-based engineering design firm delivering a rare combination of the broad expertise of a national leader with the personal relationships and deep collaboration of a local firm. The firm is employee-owned and results-driven with a passion for transforming environments and communities through high-performance design and infrastructure. With more than 50 offices and 1,500 team members, IMEG serves regions and markets with full-service, in-house engineering design. For more information, visit imegcorp.com.

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Simpson Strong-Tie Launches Titen Turbo™ Concrete and Masonry Screws Designed for Fast Installation and Superior Holding Power

Pleasanton, Calif. — Simpson Strong-Tie, the leader in engineered structural connectors and building solutions, has introduced the Titen Turbo™ line of concrete and masonry screw anchors featuring a patented thread design to deliver smooth driving with less torque and superior holding power.

Easy, fast, and reliable to install, Titen Turbo screw anchors are ideal for attaching all types of fixtures to concrete and masonry, and feature an innovative torque-reduction channel to trap drilling dust where it can't obstruct thread action, significantly reducing binding, stripping, and snapping without compromising strength. The patented reverse thread design also allows more space for dust to help prevent anchors from bottoming out in smaller-diameter screw holes.

Available with either a hex head or a 6-lobe countersunk head for a smoother installed profile, Titen Turbo screw anchors feature a serrated leading edge to cut into concrete or masonry, and a pointed tip for fast, easy installation in wood-to-concrete and wood-to-wood anchoring applications. A matched-tolerance bit is also not required, enabling the use of a standard ANSI drill bit for installation.

“Contractors have been looking for concrete screws that provide consistent, trouble-free installation with fastening strength they can depend on” says Simpson Strong-Tie senior product manager Mike Steiber. “Titen Turbo was designed with installers in mind, helping them set the screw with less torque, less binding, and less stripping.”

In addition to their installation advantages, Titen Turbo anchors have been engineered and tested to provide superior tension load values. Contractor-friendly features of the Titen Turbo line of concrete and masonry screw anchors include:

- Patent pending torque reduction channel to trap dust where it can't obstruct thread action, reducing the likelihood of breaking, stripping, and binding in the hole
- Serrated screw point for easier starts when fastening wood
- Choice of hex head or 6-lobe countersunk head (6-lobe bit included in packaging for flat head version)
• Easier driving and superior load performance than leading competitors Installation using a cordless drill or impact driver with a standard ANSI drill bit

To learn more about the Titen Turbo line of concrete and masonry screw anchors, visit go.strongtie.com/titenturbo.

About Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc.
For more than 60 years, Simpson Strong-Tie has dedicated itself to creating structural solutions and technology to help people design and build safer, stronger homes and buildings. Considered an industry leader in structural systems research, testing and innovation, Simpson Strong-Tie works closely with construction professionals to provide code-listed, field-tested products and value-engineered solutions. Our engineered products and solutions are recognized for helping structures resist high winds, hurricanes and seismic forces. They include structural connectors, fasteners, fastening systems, lateral-force-resisting systems, anchors, software solutions, and product solutions for repairing, protecting and strengthening concrete. From product development and testing to training and engineering and field support, Simpson Strong-Tie is highly committed to customers' success. For more information, visit strongtie.com.
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