

LTU Dedicates the Center for Innovative Materials Research to Nabil Grace

An infrastructure laboratory on the campus of Lawrence Technological University (LTU) in Southfield, MI, USA, was dedicated to ACI member Nabil Grace, Dean of the LTU College of Engineering, and is now named the Nabil Grace Center for Innovative Materials Research. This center has been developed and overseen by Grace—who was instrumental in its construction and operation—and who has spent a lifetime researching advanced construction materials. Completed in 2008, LTU's Center for Innovative Materials Research is a 7200 ft² (670 m²) research facility with a 30 ft (9 m) interior height. Grace joined the LTU faculty in 1988 and was named the Dean of the College of Engineering in 2012. He has received numerous industry awards; holds four U.S. patents; and has received dozens of federal, state, and private research grants and contracts totaling nearly \$28 million.

Martin Marietta Acquires Lehigh Hanson's West Region Business

Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. completed its acquisition of Lehigh Hanson, Inc.'s West Region business for \$2.3 billion. Consistent with the company's Strategic Operating Analysis and Review (SOAR) 2025 Plan, the acquisition adds 17 active aggregates facilities, two cement plants, and related distribution terminals, and targeted downstream operations serving key California, USA, and Arizona, USA, regions, including the Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Phoenix. Integration of the acquired business is anticipated to proceed as planned.

STACK and Followup CRM Help Contractors Grow by Streamlining Processes

STACK Construction Technologies, a cloud-based preconstruction collaboration software, announced an integration with Followup CRM, an all-in-one construction customer relationship management (CRM) program that allows contractors to easily store and keep data on a cloud-based platform. The integration combines STACK's preconstruction software with Followup CRM's relationship management tool designed for contractors. The partnership makes it easier for STACK clients to communicate with team members and leads by allowing access to important data on a singular platform.

In addition to saving contractors time, the integration provides information that allows construction companies to make strategic business decisions. For STACK users, Followup CRM will enable contractors to streamline the sales process while providing lists of all activities and due dates

that can be easily tracked. By leveraging reports and analytics, the integration empowers contractors to think strategically by providing data that better equips them to make business decisions. The partnership uses preconstruction data with actual numbers to help contractors highlight differences in projects to better understand successes and potential problem areas for future projects.

Leica Geosystems and Huddig Launch 3-D Machine Control Solution

Leica Geosystems, part of Hexagon, announced a new collaboration with Huddig AB, a Swedish manufacturer, to offer a three-dimensional (3-D) machine control solution for Huddig backhoe loaders. For over 60 years, Huddig has supplied versatile and agile backhoes specialized for city, cable, and rail projects. Adding 3-D machine controls from Leica Geosystems to the Huddig backhoes can ensure even higher productivity when working on individual projects or with a fleet of machines that use 3-D machine control and digital workflows.

Minnich A-4SCW Named to *Equipment Today's* 2021 Contractors' Top 50 New Products

The Minnich Manufacturing A-4SCW on-slab self-propelled wireless dowel pin drill featuring the first I-QAN remote communication system for dowel drills was listed in *Equipment Today's* 2021 list of Contractors' Top 50 New Products, which were chosen by readers. To select the 11th annual list for its September 2021 issue, readers of the equipment magazine—such as construction equipment owners and end users—were the judges, and winners were determined based on reader inquiries about new products featured. Winning products represent the leading edge of innovation, quality, efficiency, and productivity in the construction equipment field today. The I-QAN system offers A-4SCW operators maximum drilling efficiency and uptime via drill monitoring, diagnostics, and remote access to Minnich Manufacturing field support through an iPad tablet, iPhone, or Android device on the jobsite. The I-QAN system runs on 24-volt power for compatibility with most large air compressors.

The A-4SCW features several more updates that enhance safety and productivity on the jobsite. An all-new remote control includes a joystick that controls speed, steering, direction of travel, and a dust collection on/off switch. The remote comes with two batteries and will communicate to the operator if the connection with the drill is lost. A magnetic feed sensor prevents the drill from traveling if the slider is not completely retracted due to the drill steel becoming stuck in the concrete.

CROM Recognized for Commitment to Employee Experience

The National Business Research Institute (NBRI) welcomed specialty contractor CROM to the NBRI Circle of Excellence. The NBRI Circle of Excellence Award recognizes organizations with high levels of employee experience. To qualify for this honor, the organization must score at or above stretch performance, which is at the 75th percentile of its industry, or the organization must improve a statistically significant five or more percentiles at the total company level. Benchmarked against millions of industry scores, CROM is performing at the 82nd percentile of its industry. Best-in-class organizations like CROM continually assess employee experience and target for improvement variables such as job satisfaction, management style, culture, and fairness. CROM demonstrates its dedication to its employees by continuously researching with best-in-class provider NBRI and taking targeted action based upon the scientific data.

B2W Software Streamlines Construction Equipment Inspection and Repair Process

B2W Software, a provider of heavy construction management software, has introduced new capabilities within its ONE Platform that enable contractors to identify equipment defects and make repairs faster and more cost-effective. The ONE Platform can generate repair requests automatically based on data from electronic forms used for completing equipment inspections. The enhanced process relays detailed information from equipment inspections to the maintenance team immediately. By eliminating lag time and manual steps for transferring this data, contractors can identify and complete equipment repair work more efficiently to minimize maintenance costs while improving

equipment uptime and safety. The B2W Inform application enables contractors to customize and manage electronic forms for any requirement, including equipment inspections. Form fields can be mapped to the format of equipment repair requests, which are managed in the B2W Maintain application. This connection allows inspection forms to trigger repair requests automatically in the maintenance software and for

information from forms—including descriptions and photos—to flow directly to the requests. B2W Maintain and B2W Inform use a single database for equipment lists, jobs, employees, and other operational data. Linking inspection form fields to this database allows drop-down menus to be populated with valid, up-to-date options, minimizing errors and the effort required to fill out forms.

ACI Specifications



Specifications for Concrete Construction

ACI's 301-20 is a specification that architects and engineers can apply to any construction project involving structural concrete.

Field Reference Manual

ACI's *Field Reference Manual* is a compilation of ACI 301-20, "Specifications for Structural Concrete," and additional ACI documents.



American Concrete Institute
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