

SPRING 2012

# OFF THE WALL



An Industry Publication by the Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc.

## LaGuardia Terminal Expansion

**Delta Breaks Ground on largest expansion at the LaGuardia Terminal in more than four decades...page 16**

**Photos From the WC&C 2012 Dinner/Dance on pages 12 through 15**



## CALENDAR

June 2012 — December 2012

DATE	TIME & PLACE	TYPE OF MTG.
June 13 (Wed)	7:30 am Assn. Office	Board Meeting
June 18 (Mon)	6:30 am No. Hemp CC	Golf Outing
July 18 (Wed)	7:30 am Assn. Office	Board Meeting
Aug 14 (Tues)	4:00 pm Westbury Manor	Board Meeting
Aug 14 (Tues)	6:00 pm Westbury Manor	Barbecue
Sept 18 (Tues)	4:00 pm Caracalla	Board Meeting
Sept 18 (Tues)	6:00 pm Caracalla	Gen Membership
Oct 16 (Tues)	4:00 pm Valentino's	Board Meeting
Oct 16 (Tues)	6:00 pm Valentino's	Gen Membership
Nov 13 (Tues)	4:00 pm TBD	Board Meeting
Nov 13 (Tues)	6:00 pm TBD	Gen Membership
Dec 11 (Tues)	4:00 pm No. Hemp CC	Board Meeting
Dec 11 (Tues)	6:00 pm No. Hemp CC	Christmas Party

## OFF THE WALL

*Off The Wall* is published through the Promotional Fund by the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York for the benefit of the membership. It is distributed to members, associate members, union affiliates, and legislators. Editorial contributions, including pictures and story ideas, are welcome and should be forwarded to the WC&C office, 125 Jericho Tpke., Suite 301, Jericho, NY, 11753.

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## Off The Wall

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## From the Executive Director John DeLollis

### WE ARE PUTTING OUR HEADS TOGETHER AND USING COMMON SENSE

The reality of the bleak future facing union labor in New York City unless labor- management cooperation wins out finally hit home with the ironworker's union agreeing to an unprecedented wage and benefit rollback that is shaking up development in the city.

Reacting to the possible loss of lucrative work at Hudson Yards followed by the Tappan Zee Bridge, members of Metallic Lathers and Reinforcing Ironworkers Local 46 voted to cut their compensation and work-rule changes that could slash total project costs by a significant amount. It seems that the iron workers finally realized that the Tappan Zee Bridge could be rebuilt without them, saving the state money, and that Related Cos. is aggressively seeking cost savings at Hudson Yards that may result in their using a combination of union *and* nonunion workers. Those projects are typical; just part of the potential problems faced by union construction right now, right here in New York City.

Reported by Crain's New York Business, Michael Locker, a construction industry expert who consults for Local 46, said, "When labor and management really want to put their heads together and solve problems, they can."

I promise *we are putting our heads together* and using common sense to solve the problems of mobility and

compensation that we face at WC&C. And I can assure you that your representatives will succeed in negotiating contracts that will bring more profitable work to our contractor members.

Meanwhile, while our eyes have been on negotiations, our warm winter slipped by hardly noticed at all and spring has begun to feel like early summer. Safety now takes on a new dimension on hot construction projects and it behooves us to ensure our people on the job take proper measures to protect against heat prostration.

OSHA has kicked off a national outreach initiative to educate workers and their employers about the hazards of working outdoors in hot weather. The outreach effort builds on last year's successful summer campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of too much sun and heat. For outdoor workers, 'water, rest and shade' are three words that can make the difference between life and death," Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis said. "If employers take reasonable precautions, and look out for their workers, we can beat the heat." This is an important issue. Vital as our labor/ management deliberations are, they pale in importance when measured against fatalities in the workplace. Let's not forget safety on the job. — *John DeLollis*



*From the  
PRESIDENT  
Michael Weber*

## Back to Square One

**W**ith a paltry 13% of eligible New York City District Council of Carpenter's (NYCDCC) members voting, the voice of the UBC has been heard, rejecting a five year Collective Bargaining Agreement we began negotiating 18 months ago. Discouraged at the low turnout at the ballot box and not surprised of the outcome, we are **back to square one**.

Mobilization and compensation appear to be two major issues to overcome. Mobility affords the contractor to employ any NYCDCC member possessing the qualifications and skills for the tasks requested (ie: framing, sheetrocking, ACT Ceilings, millwork, etc.). Regulating mobility severely hampers the contractor's ability to compete in the ever shrinking market share of union construction.

Compensation always becomes a spirited conversation during negotiations and I'm confident we can find some common ground to agree on. We have reopened negotiations, had a few meetings and are committed to finding common ground on an agreement before June 30<sup>th</sup> when the one year evergreen extension expires.

On the international front, we have been granted a sixty day extension on the AWCI International Agreement. One meeting was held in Washington on April 20th, 2012 and another is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. We have circulated a survey to our membership requesting feedback of the importance of the two man international agreement is to our association. I would like to thank you in advance for your feedback. Again I am confident we can find a common ground to finalize that agreement.

In closing I would like to thank Lee Zaretsky for his services on the AWCI Board of Directors. His three year term expires this coming fall. WCC Chairman Brian Gordon has gracefully accepted to fill the vacated seat. I look forward to working with Brian on the international level with our AWCI partners. Enjoy your summer.

— *Mike Weber*



## It's The Law

By Mark A. Rosen

Mark A. Rosen is legal counsel to the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc. He is a partner in the firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP. Mark practices in the areas of construction and contract law, public contract law, arbitration, surety, and general commercial litigation. He can be reached at [mrosen@mdmc-law.com](mailto:mrosen@mdmc-law.com).

### Court Strikes Down PLA As Violating Competitive Bidding Laws

A New York state court struck down a highway construction contract issued by the New York State Department of Transportation finding that it violated state competitive bidding laws by requiring the inclusion of a project labor agreement ("PLA") in the contract.

The low bidder on the project was an open shop contractor that did not include a PLA with its bid. The DOT did not award the contract to that low bidder and instead awarded it to the next low bidder who included a PLA with its bid. The low bidder then challenged the award.

The court found that on the record before it the DOT did not produce a proper basis or information upon which to require the inclusion of a PLA in the contract. An initial due diligence impact study conducted by DOT found that there was insufficient evidence to recommend a PLA. One month later a new revised impact study was issued with different findings. However, the new study did not explain the basis for departing from the prior study. The DOT claimed that it relied on the second study. The court found that without new and different information distinguishing the two reports' conclusions, the revised study

could not be relied upon to support the requirement of a PLA.

The court ordered the DOT to rebid the project.

### Two Firms Owned By Single Employer Jointly Liable For Pension Fund Contributions

The federal court found that two construction companies owned by the same individual were jointly liable as a single employer for unpaid contributions to various multi-employer benefit funds.

Only one of the companies had a collective bargaining agreement that required it to make contributions to several fringe benefit funds. When that company failed to make its required contributions to the funds, the funds sued that company, its owner and another company owned by the same owner contending that they were all jointly liable for the unpaid contributions. In response, the owner argued that no contributions were owed by the company that was not a party to the collective bargaining agreement requiring such payments.

The court found that the two companies were a single employer that were jointly liable for the unpaid contributions and that the owner was personally liable for the

contributions. The court found that the companies were both owned by the same individual who signed various collective bargaining and trust agreements on behalf of one of the companies, shared the same workforce and had "highly interrelated" operations. The court found that the owner had centralized control over labor relations and was the common manager and owner of both businesses. The same employees worked for both companies and received one W-2 form that included income earned from both companies.

### Federal Court Allows Antitrust Claims By Ironworkers Union To Proceed Against Carpenters Union

A federal court has held that the ironworkers union, as well as certain construction employers, could challenge a collective bargaining agreement provision in carpenters' agreements as violating antitrust laws.

The clause in question allegedly broadened the scope of work that must be assigned to carpenters in a way that excludes ironworkers from competing for that work. The clause shifted work normally performed by ironworkers into the category of "general trades," a category typically performed by carpenters. The clause at issue was a subcontracting clause that dictated that only members of the carpenters union could complete the listed tasks regardless of who did the work. The particular work at issue was exterior building enclosure systems, work that the ironworkers claimed typically fell within their jurisdiction.

The carpenters union argued that the claim was nothing more than a jurisdictional dispute and fell within the labor exemption to the antitrust laws. The court found that the clause in question, although incorporated into a collective bargaining agreement, did not bear any of the hallmarks of collective bargaining and its only purpose was to freeze others out of the market. As such, the labor exemption did not apply and the antitrust claims could proceed. •

# Use of wood for bigger construction projects may be possible

Wood may take on a bigger role in construction as some in the industry are reinventing the use of engineered wood for large-scale buildings. Canadian architect Michael Green says laminated wood beams and slabs can often replace concrete and steel because they have similar properties — and a wooden building is more environmentally friendly. Green has plans for a 30-story wood building, and in British Columbia, qualified firms will be sought to design a 10-story Wood Innovation and Design Centre in Prince George.



Architect Michael Green says wood buildings could safely reach 30 stories.

By Jeff Lee  
postmedia news/canada.com

**BRITISH COLOMBIA IS MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO BUILD WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE THE TALLEST WOOD BUILDING IN NORTH AMERICA AND POSSIBLY THE WORLD.**

The proposed 10-story Wood Innovation and Design Centre in Prince George will become a test case for creating a value-added forest products industry around tall wood building construction methods that would differ radically from the way traditional mid-rise and even highrise buildings are constructed.

Jobs Minister Pat Bell said this week that within 30 days, the province will seek qualified firms to design and construct the building out of engineered wood beam products instead of traditional concrete and steel beams. The province has already received 34 expressions of interest.

The wood building would be the tallest in B.C., “likely North America and possibly the world,” Bell said.

The plan comes at the same time a new study produced for the Wood Enterprise Coalition by Vancouver architect Michael Green and several others suggests engineered wood skyscrapers of up to 30 stories can be safely built using this new wood technology.

In an interview, Green said he expects that within five years, buildings between 10 and 20 stories will be built in B.C. using any one of a number of laminated engineered wood products. But for that to happen, the province needs to change its building code. The code now limits wood buildings to six stories, but that is based on wood-frame construction methods using studs and wood cladding.

Green’s study says laminated wood beams and slabs — which can range up to 1.2 metres (four feet) wide, 18 centimetres (seven inches) thick and 19.5 metres (64 feet) long — have similar properties to concrete and steel and can be used to replace them in many cases. The resulting building would be lighter, comparable in cost and far more environmentally friendly than steel and concrete.

The buildings would be more fire-resistant than wood-frame buildings, meeting the same requirements as concrete and steel buildings.

“There are a lot of people and nations starting to look at these ideas. But right now our report is the first to show how to do it in a predominantly wood way at the scale we are talking about,” Green said. “It is an extremely unique moment where Canada is really leading the world in this conversation.”

Green said he was motivated to propose tall wood buildings as a way to tackle climate change. Wood acts as a carbon sink, locking in carbon dioxide as long as it doesn’t rot or burn.

“Concrete production is responsible for five to eight per cent of the world’s carbon emissions. Steel production eats up four per cent of the world’s energy.”

Manufacturing engineered wood products does require some energy, but the carbon footprint is less than other forms of production.

“We have been looking at solutions to make our buildings perform better, and that is important. But we really haven’t stepped back and said, ‘Are we building our buildings with the right material in the first place?’ “

He said the cost of building a

12-story wood building in Vancouver would be the same as for concrete, at about \$283 per square foot. A 20-story wood tower would cost marginally more than concrete, at \$300 per square foot versus \$294.

But Bell sees another major silver lining in developing tall buildings out of engineered wood products.

“All governments have talked over the years about a value-added forest products industry but I don’t think anyone has really ever delivered that,” the minister said. “I think the opportunities around non-residential tall building construction as it relates to softwood is the first really good value-added industry opportunity I’ve seen.”

He said for the engineered wood building industry to be successful, it has to develop the technical expertise, create production capacity and change outdated building codes that don’t contemplate using wood beams instead of steel or concrete.

As a result, Bell said the province is pushing ahead with the Prince George tower as a demonstration project, which will either be given a ministerial exemption or qualify under an “alternative materials” section of the building code.

In either case, the design would have to meet current engineering standards around structural, fire and safety limits, he said.

The building would be used as a teaching and research centre for developing innovative wood products.

Bell wouldn’t give an estimate of the cost, but media in Prince George reported it may cost upwards of \$75 million.

Green’s report can be viewed at [www.wecbc.ca](http://www.wecbc.ca) •



## Study Says Women Need More Sponsors in Construction

By Janice L. Tuchman/ENR.com

**S**PONSORSHIP, PARTICULARLY THE SUPPORT OF MEN IN POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE WHO ARE WILLING TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF FEMALE COLLEAGUES, is critical to propel high-potential women up the corporate ladder, according to a study presented at the Groundbreaking Women in Construction conference, held in New York City on May 7.

Ann Waeger, board member of the Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Network, said the group's benchmark study, "Women in Commercial Real Estate 2010," found that women expressed far more dissatisfaction with their careers than men. "To better understand the difference in men's and women's feelings, we interviewed 20 CEOs and others," said Waeger, a partner in the New Jersey law

firm Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis. "We wanted to encourage the industry to find new ways to keep women on a successful track, to get them to achieve financial parity and to help women who are exceptionally talented to advance to the C-suite."

CREW's white paper finds a lack of sponsorship to be a factor holding women in the "talent-rich level of management just below the C-suite." Often, men have sponsors, and women have mentors. Waeger adds, "It's critical for high-potential women to have a sponsor to provide them access to people at the highest echelons."

Women also need to take an active role in their careers. Waeger said, "Understand the value of your skills. Stay connected. Communicate your wants and needs. Toot your own horn and network, network,

network."

The conference, which drew about 250 women, also explored differences among the three generations of women present. For example, baby boomer Gayle Grady of PCL Civil Constructors Inc. said, "Sharing tough situations provides us a platform to learn from each other." Representing Gen X, Allison Klein, from the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, said, "Everybody has a different point of view, but we all want to talk about it."

Speaking as a millennial, Lizzy Straus, Turner Construction, added, "Talking to others here from my generation, we were astonished at some of the experiences women from other generations shared. I don't feel that way, and neither do most of the others I was talking to. I think the industry has changed a lot." •

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## Hudson Yards Update 509 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street

A 200-unit rental building will begin rising later this year at 509 West 38th Street west of 10th Avenue, one of dozens of developments that are being planned in the Hudson Yards district over the next several years.



According to The New York Times, Iliad Development hopes to break ground in the fourth quarter on the building on 38th Street, which will have 200 rental apartments, mostly studios and one-bedrooms. Ismael Leyva Architects is the architect of record and is responsible for the layouts, while BKSK Architects is designing the brick and glass facade. AvroKO, the firm that

has designed restaurants like Beauty & Essex on the Lower East Side, is designing the lobby and apartment interiors. The 30-story building will also include an outdoor roof garden, a screening room, a party room and a gym.

The building will front the Hudson Yards Boulevard, a parklike thoroughfare that is planned to bisect the area, and will have views of the next phase of Hudson River Park, if it is built. •

Illustration: Dan Black/Archtagon

## Report: NY Metro Sees 13.3 Percent Increase in Q1 Commercial Construction Projects

Citybizlist.com

The first quarter of 2012 showed 13.3 percent year-over-year growth in new commercial construction projects, according to data released by the BidClerk Construction Index.

During the first quarter of 2012, there were 899 public and private projects put out to bid in the New York Metro Area, an increase of 106 projects over the same period last year, and a 13.3 percent year-on-year rise in activity. The counties included in the BidClerk Construction Index study were Bronx, Essex (NJ), Hudson (NJ), Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, and Westchester.

As an indicator of the overall health of the New York Metro Area market, the BidClerk Construction Index reports that project value in New York County jumped for both public and private new construction valued at over \$1 million, climbing 14% overall. For private construction projects valued at over \$1 million, New York County saw a rise in value of 49%.

BidClerk is a provider of construction project data and marketing tools. •

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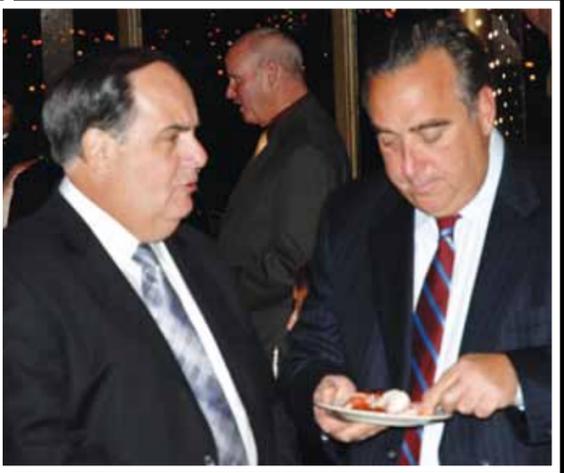
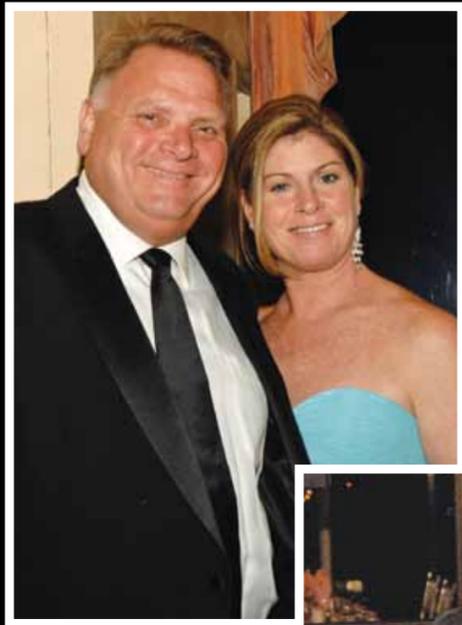
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# WC&C 15th Annual Spring Dinner Dance

Saturday, April 14, 2012

Terrace On The Park





# Delta Breaks Ground on LaGuardia Terminal Expansion

*New terminal bridge, Delta Sky Club highlight largest expansion at the airport in more than four decades*

**D**elta Air Lines has broken ground on a \$160 million renovation and expansion of its facilities at New York LaGuardia Airport.

The project, which includes a 630-foot connector bridge linking Terminals C and D, a new Delta Sky Club in Terminal C and expanded security lanes in both terminals, comes as Delta creates a new domestic hub at LaGuardia, with service to 26 new cities by July 11. It represents the largest expansion project at LaGuardia in more than 40 years.

The new bridge will allow Delta customers to walk between terminals behind security, providing easy access to departure and arrival gates and facilitating convenient connecting flights. Delta has operated out of both terminals since March 25, when it began expanded service at LaGuardia.

Delta's renovations at LaGuardia will support 700 new jobs along with additional jobs for construction.

Work is also underway on a \$1.2 billion enhancement and expansion of Delta's facilities at New York John F. Kennedy Airport, where Delta operates an international hub.

All together, with our expansion projects at JFK and LaGuardia, Delta is investing nearly \$1.4 billion in our New York airport facilities," said Delta Chief Executive Officer Richard Anderson. "No other airline is approaching that level of commitment to New York in the next 12 months."

The expansion includes a new Delta Sky Club in Terminal C that is expected to open this summer. Additionally the Delta Sky Club in Terminal D will undergo an expansion.

"This investment will support a major expansion by Delta in the most competitive aviation market in the world," said Gail Grimmett, Delta's senior vice president – New York. "Our goal is to become the preferred carrier for the business traveler in New York."

New York Lt. Gov. Robert J. Duffy called the project "a great partnership" between city and state officials and Delta.

"Today's groundbreaking demonstrates how by partnering with businesses we can create hundreds of good jobs for New Yorkers," Duffy

said. "This announcement gives travelers more options for flying across our state and provides a significant boost to our local economy. I want to thank Delta for investing in its operations here in Queens, creating jobs and for making key air service improvements that benefit

business travelers across the entire Empire State."

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is pleased with what the project means for the city in terms of economic growth.

"When our administration joined with Delta to support its

application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for permission to expand service here at LaGuardia Airport, we were excited at the prospect of better air service and 700 new permanent jobs for New Yorkers, as well as more than 100 new construction jobs," Bloomberg said. "Working with the Governor's team and with the leadership of Queens' own Congressman Joe Crowley, today we see the fruits of our labor."

"While we are breaking ground on the construction project, I am happy to say that Delta has already started the hiring process for the 700 new jobs associated with this \$160 million expansion," Bloomberg said. "This is the largest expansion by any air carrier at LaGuardia in decades, and coupled with Delta's \$1.2 billion Terminal 4 expansion project at JFK, it's a great sign of confidence in our city's future. I want to thank Delta CEO Richard Anderson for making investments in Queens and New York City that will help us continue creating new jobs and building the first-class infrastructure we need to remain the world's greatest city."

Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Queens, the Bronx) said the project will be of great benefit to Queens. "Today marks a significant milestone in a project that will bring many benefits to Queens and New York, including the creation of thousands of new jobs, increased economic activity in and around LaGuardia, improved air service and reduced noise pollution," Crowley said. "Putting New Yorkers back to work is my No. 1 priority, and we should do all we can to encourage private sector employers, like Delta, to create jobs. I thank Delta for investing in LaGuardia Airport and investing in the future of Queens."

Patrick Foye, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, pointed out that "investment in aviation infrastructure is one of the major ways to position the New York metropolitan region for the projected growth in passengers in the coming decades. We welcome

and applaud Delta's plans to link and improve these important terminals at LaGuardia Airport, as the airline consolidates and expands operations for business and other travelers. Combined with its ongoing expansion of Terminal 4 at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Delta is helping both our New York airports lay the critical groundwork for the region's future economic growth."

The airline will increase service at LaGuardia with 100 new flights in spring and summer 2012. When its full schedule is implemented, Delta will operate more than 260 daily flights between LaGuardia and more than 60 cities, exceeding any other carrier. Delta expanded its operations to Terminal C after reaching an agreement with US Airways to exchange takeoff and landing rights in New York and Washington, D.C.

Delta will operate many of the new LaGuardia routes with regional jets that offer two-class service and in-flight Wi-Fi, amenities that other carriers don't offer. Previously, these routes were served with smaller, turboprop aircraft.

Besides modernizing facilities at LaGuardia, Delta also is part of a \$1.2 billion expansion project at JFK to add nine additional gates to Terminal 4. That terminal, which will become Delta's international gateway, will include a state-of-the-art baggage handling system, additional Customs and security lanes and one of the largest Delta Sky Clubs in the airline's system.

Delta's three metropolitan area airports carried 20.8 million domestic and international passengers in 2011. The preferred airline for New York travelers expects that number will rise to 24.6 million in 2012, mostly due to the increase at LaGuardia. The airline has 7,000 New York-based employees.

Delta is investing more than \$2 billion through 2013 in airport facilities and global products, services and technology to enhance the customer experience in the air and on the ground. Customers can check in for flights, print boarding passes, check bags and review flight status at delta.com.

SOURCE Delta Air Lines

## Other Growth Plans For Local Major Airports

Port Authority officials are focused on long-term efforts to improve infrastructure at all three local airports to meet the growing numbers of fliers expected in the coming decades.

At LaGuardia, the agency is pursuing a public-private partnership for a \$3.6 billion project to replace the nearly half-century-old Central Terminal Building with a state-of-the-art 21st century terminal, with related infrastructure improvements to handle bigger planes and more travelers. The current CTB was designed to accommodate only 8 million passengers annually when it opened in 1964. Last year, the terminal handled 11.5 million passengers, a figure expected to grow to 17.5 million travelers by 2030.

At Newark Liberty, the agency is finishing a \$348 million modernization of Terminal B. Plans also are in the works to issue a Request for Information to aviation industry firms by year's end for a public-private initiative to replace outmoded Terminal A, which dates to the early 1970s.

At JFK, Delta Air Lines and the Port Authority are partnering on a \$1.2 billion expansion of Terminal 4 that will take the outmoded Terminal 3 – which opened in 1960 and fares most poorly on the agency's customer surveys – out of service. The Terminal 4 expansion project is expected to be completed in May 2013. JetBlue Airways, another of the Port Authority's major aviation partners at JFK, opened that hub's most recent state-of-the-art facility in 2008, with its highly acclaimed Terminal 5. — Port Authority of NY and NJ

## INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

### Contractors Adopt RFID

The next-generation jobsite is coming. Are you ready? For years, the benefits of RFID (radio-frequency identification) have been discussed in the construction industry, but few contractors actually took the leap to adopt. But, now, this is beginning to change, as recent announcements showcase how construction companies are using RFID in the field today.

RFID technology allows construction companies to track and manage resources at the jobsite, which includes everything from materials to workforce. With a tag placed on the resource, data is gathered and sent to the office so supplies and workers at the jobsite can be tracked to better maintain the job and comply with government regulations.

Contractors such as Kiewit, [www.kiewit.com](http://www.kiewit.com), Omaha, Neb., Twin Contracting, [www.twincc.com](http://www.twincc.com), Alexandria, Va., HITT Contracting, [www.hitt-gc.com](http://www.hitt-gc.com), Falls Church, Va., and Turner Construction, [www.turnerconstruction.com](http://www.turnerconstruction.com), New York, N.Y., are such companies using tracking technology today.

Recently, ADR Software, [www.softwareadr.com](http://www.softwareadr.com), Reston, Va., announced all four of these large general contractors are now using technology specifically to monitor the workforce.

Picture this: Tags attached to hardhats send data about workers' whereabouts for reporting and tracking, eliminating the need for manual data entry. From Web-based devices, including smartphones and tablets, project managers can track realtime workforce information. The data gathered from the technology can also integrate with daily reports, work schedules, and accounting.

For construction companies, this helps make better decisions, improve workforce documentation, and manage risk on a job, which provides a competitive advantage during the bidding process. Some organizations even use the technology to insure compliance with local economic development and hiring objectives.

Beyond tracking the workforce, the technology can also be used to track materials and supplies on a job. Leighton Contractor, [www.leightoncontractors.com.au](http://www.leightoncontractors.com.au), Chatswood, Australia, is a recent example. This construction company is using technology to track materials and fabrication for a SMP (structural, mechanical, and piping) contract on an iron ore mining project in Western Australia.

The technology it is using comes from Saleem Technologies, [www.saleem.com.au](http://www.saleem.com.au), Perth, Wash., which provides Web-based, GPS, barcode, and RFID material-tracking technology, and recently upgraded its fabrication module to monitor fabricated structural steel.

This is not Leighton's first foray into the technology. In 2011, the construction company used similar software to track and manage materials for a civil and underground construction project.

More contractors are turning to RFID, GPS, and barcodes to keep track of materials, people, and even vehicles on construction projects. Want to see more case studies and an

in-depth dive into what this technology will mean for the construction industry going forward? Check out Jobsite: The Next Generation in the Jan/Feb issue of *Constructech*.

### Construction Apps Detect the Environment

Apps can be fun. But sometimes they can also serve a business purpose. In the world of construction where devices like smartphones and tablets continue to permeate the jobsite, having useful apps that help site personnel perform mission-critical tasks can be imperative for success.



Using built-in GPS chips and accelerometers within smartphones, app developers are coming up with new and unique ways to lend a helping hand. In some cases, such functionality can be live saving.

Take Cell-All, for example. This is an initiative spearheaded by the Dept. of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov), Washington, D.C., with an aim to equip cellphones with personal-safety sensors capable of detecting deadly chemicals and sending warnings when appropriate. The company is focusing on detecting airborne chemicals a person could encounter. This includes common substances, such as carbon monoxide and anhydrous ammonia, to more deadly substances, such as sarin gas.

Looking specifically at the construction jobsite, one of the latest is the PsycIt app for iPhone and BlackBerry. It comes from Polygon, [www.polygongroup.us](http://www.polygongroup.us), North Andover, Mass., a global provider of property damage restoration, temporary humidity control and property performance services, a billed as a valuable time-saving tool for site managers, quantity surveyors, architects, and technicians.

The app can help assess psychometric calculations, including wet and dry bulb, vapor pressure, enthalpy, relative humidity, dew point, and humidity ratio. By being able to calculate the amount of relative humidity on site, construction professionals will be able to compute the time needed to efficiently dry an area for inspection.

By replacing a manual psychometric chart that some use in the field, the app is capable of calculating complex air-moisture combinations.

"For the construction industry, delays in completing building projects lead to financial penalties, a loss of reputation and, ultimately, a loss of business in the long term. That's why 'PsycIt' is an extremely valuable tool," said Alex Kiffen, vice president of sales and marketing at Polygon. "It quickly delivers a precise calculation of the climatic conditions so the user can be confident of the accuracy of the measurements and determine if they are keeping their building dry." — *Constructech*

# Collaborate on Contracts in the Cloud

**A** growing number of construction projects are coming together under contracts that require unique partnership agreements to assemble all parties as early as possible and even share risks and rewards. Being able to manage the specifics in the contracts becomes vital for every member of the project, and now there is a collaborative Web-based system specifically dedicated to managing contracts in the cloud.

For today's construction team, standard contract agreements are available that address IPD (integrated project delivery), BIM (building information modeling), green construction, and other new methods of collaborative project delivery. ConsensusDocs, [www.consensusdocs.org](http://www.consensusdocs.org), Arlington, Va., which consists of a coalition of 35 associations, including AWCI, representing varying interests in design and construction, continues to deliver these new types of contracts, offering more than 90 different templates.

Keeping in line with the rising contractual trend to address synergy and communication among all parties while aligning interests, ConsensusDocs recently announced a new Web-based platform to share contracts in the cloud.

Brian Perlberg, executive director and senior counsel, ConsensusDocs, says the new cloud-based technology platform transforms how contracts are delivered, allowing users to collaborate and negotiate contracts more efficiently.

Through a secure portal, users simply log into a personalized dashboard and locate projects, edit

contracts, review changes, or start a new contract using one of the ConsensusDocs templates. The platform can be accessed while the user is either online or offline.

With the technology, teams can work on standard construction contracts using Microsoft Word. One of the biggest draws of the system is users can collaborate and easily see changes between different document versions.

In addition, users can organize contacts, projects, and negotiations in the central dashboard; create favorite templates for future projects; convert scanned paper and PDF documents into text; and access new and updated standard contracts.

The platform is available at no additional cost and contains embedded instructions to help teams get started. Users will still have access to ConsensusDocs' on-premise system, DocuBuilder, for projects that may have contracts in process, but the organization does not plan to update any new or revised contracts in DocuBuilder.

ConsensusDocs is continually updating standard contract agreements for BIM and IPD, among others, and is now giving the construction community an easier way to manage those contracts.

For the industry, being able to use Microsoft Word and a collaboration platform to facilitate contract negotiations is the next step in enabling teams to become more connected from the onset of a project.

—*Constructech*

# Construction Industry's Workforce Shortage Brings Concerns, but Green Jobs Bring Promise, According to New McGraw-Hill Construction Report

The construction industry is concerned about skilled worker shortages, according to a new SmartMarket Report from McGraw-Hill Construction entitled "Construction Industry Workforce Shortages: Role of Certification, Training and Green Jobs in Filling the Gaps." It is the first study to focus exclusively on design and construction professionals and trade workers. Skilled workers have left the industry as a result of the economic downturn, an aging workforce and an insufficient pipeline of younger workers, according to the new study released at the AIA 2012 National Convention and Design Exposition in Washington, DC. The study shows that 69% of architect, engineer, and contractor (AEC) professionals expect skilled workforce shortages in next three years; 32% of AEC are concerned about a shortage of specialty trade contractors by 2014; 49% of the general contractors are concerned about finding skilled craft workers by 2017, and 37% of architect and engineering firms are concerned about finding experienced workers. Skilled green workers are in even more demand; 86% of architects and engineers and 91% of contractors are finding too few green skilled employees.

Facing the loss of employees in the construction professions, industry professionals are worried they may have lost those skills, and uncertainty about interest by the next generation raises concerns about being able to fill gaps in the future. In a separate but related survey McGraw-Hill Construction conducted for the American Institute of Architects (AIA), 79% of architecture firms are not sure the U.S. student pipeline will be sufficient to replace those leaving the profession, a problem exacerbated by the 76% of U.S. architecture students/recent graduates who would consider working abroad.

"The downturn in construction activity may be masking a serious problem in the construction industry workforce," said Harvey Bernstein, vice president, Industry Insights and Alliances for McGraw-Hill Construction. "But the rise of green jobs and

more availability of training and professional certifications can help to attract interest in the professions and make firms more competitive."

Green jobs, in particular, represent a transformational shift in the construction industry. McGraw-Hill Construction found that 35% of architects, engineers and contractors report having green jobs today, representing nearly 650,000 jobs. That share is expected to increase over the next three years, with 45% of all design and construction jobs being green by 2014.

McGraw-Hill Construction defines "green jobs" as those involving more than 50% of work on green projects (defined by McGraw-Hill Construction as projects meeting LEED or another credible green building certification program, or one that is energy- and water-efficient and also addresses indoor air quality and/or resource efficiency) or designing and installing uniquely green systems. Focusing on the construction professions exclusively, this definition excludes support or administrative professionals and manufacturing, production or transportation-related services.

This growth of green may help draw more young professionals into the industry. For example, the study also reveals that 62% of trade firms are concerned their profession does not appeal to the younger generation and 42% of architects report the same. However, the younger generation reports a strong commitment to sustainability, with 63% of architecture students saying they would engage in sustainable design out of a personal responsibility. This suggests that as green rises, so too may interest by young professionals in the design and construction fields of practice.

"Green buildings are a clear-cut smart investment in the current economic climate because they create financial returns, have environmental benefits and positively impact job creation. USGBC is excited to be releasing this new report with McGraw Hill Construction and the AIA that directly addresses these

findings," says Roger Platt, senior vice president of global policy and law at USGBC. "Job creation and economic stability are crucial to supporting resilient and strong communities, and green buildings support the jobs of the future."

The survey also demonstrates that by requiring professional certifications of employees for different skills, firms are more apt to maintain a competitive advantage while also benefiting individual workers. 71% of firms find that having certified employees increases the competitiveness of their firms to win contracts; 68% believe certified employees help them grow their green business; 77% of individuals feel certification helps them gain valuable knowledge they can use on the job, and 75% believe it brings them more job opportunities, which are key in this time of high unemployment.

"These findings should serve as a huge wakeup call for the entire design and construction industry," said AIA EVP/Chief Executive Officer, Robert Ivy, FAIA. "But they also present an opportunity to showcase the tremendous opportunity for architecture students and emerging professionals since there will be such a heavy demand for architects in the coming years."

The premier partners on the project include the American Institute of Architects and the U.S. Green Building Council. Other contributing partners include the Society for Marketing

Professional Services, National Association of the Remodeling Industry, Building & Construction Trades Department of the AFL/CIO, ACE Mentor Program, American Institute of Constructors & Constructor Certification Commission, and National Center for Construction Education and Research.

A copy of the McGraw-Hill Construction SmartMarket Report "Construction Industry Workforce Shortages: Role of Certification, Training and Green Jobs in Filling the Gaps" can be downloaded at <http://analyticsstore.construction.com/index.php/smartmarket-report-construction-industry-workforce-shortages-2012.html>.

—SOURCE McGraw-Hill Construction •

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# Jacob K. Javits Convention Center

## Straying from Convention

*Despite declining attendance and revenue, many cities are expanding convention centers or building new ones.*

By Fred A. Bernstein  
*Architectural Record*



Illustrations: FXFOWLE'S rendering of the renovated javits transformed, transparent, and integrated into the west side.



**A**FTER DECADES OF BEING DISSED, NEW YORK'S JACOB K. JAVITS CONVENTION CENTER IS FINALLY GETTING SOME RESPECT: A \$463 million renovation, designed by the Manhattan firm FXFOWLE, will play to the building's strengths (preserving its once-revolutionary space frame) while bringing massive aesthetic, organizational, and environmental improvements. And with a subway line being extended to its front door—dramatically improving access to the Far West Side location—the 25-year-old facility by James Ingo Freed (of

the firm now known as Pei Cobb Freed & Partners) may finally live up to its potential. Unless it is torn down. In January, New York governor Andrew Cuomo announced that because the 600,000-square-foot Javits Center is too small for the biggest conventions, he wants to replace it with a 3 million-plus square-foot facility at Aqueduct Racetrack, in southeastern Queens. Genting, the vast Malaysian company that already runs a gambling operation at the Queens site, has reportedly offered to underwrite the new facility, at a cost of

\$3 billion or more. The Javits property would then be sold for residential or commercial development. Spending \$463 million to renovate a building slated to be torn down? In the world of convention centers, stranger things have happened. In the last decade, the number of national conventions—as well as attendance at those conventions—has declined, in some cases precipitously, according to Heywood Sanders, a public policy professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. (One example is the AIA convention; its registration has dropped

from 23,916 in 2008 to 13,369 in 2011.) At the same time, dozens of cities have been building new centers or enlarging old ones. In the last year alone, Indianapolis and Philadelphia have opened sprawling new centers, while plans for such facilities are being floated in Baltimore, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and Boston. Miami Beach recently solicited proposals for a mixed-use development of up to 6 million square feet on the site of its existing, 640,000-square-foot convention center. In San Diego, hoteliers are being asked to accept a new hotel tax to cover the \$520 million cost of a convention center expansion, with a rooftop park, by Fentress Architects of Denver. It's much the same in smaller cities: Spokane's convention center, enlarged only six years ago, is being readied for a new, \$60 million expansion.

The good news for architects: The money is being spent not just on bigger centers, but also better ones. According to Rob Svedberg, an associate principal at Atlanta-based Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates (TVSA), the last few years have seen a pronounced shift from convention centers as giant, hangarlike buildings—"box with docks," as they are known—to buildings with finishes comparable to those of concert halls and hotel lobbies. His firm is building a convention center in Nashville with so much woodwork, "you'll feel like you're inside a Stradivarius violin," he says. People who travel to attend conventions, he says, "are looking for authentic experiences. They want to be in a real building."

Svedberg's firm also designed the Walter E. Washington Convention Center (2003), site of this year's AIA convention. If any center deserves to

be a financial success, it is this one: an attractive building that seems to invite people in (unlike so many older convention centers), at the heart of the bustling Penn Quarter neighborhood, in a city that is already popular with conventioners. And yet the center lost \$18 million in 2011. Chinyere J. Hubbard, vice president of communications and marketing for the building's owner, Events DC, says most convention centers show losses and deserve to be judged by how much economic activity they bring to the community. But, she adds, "we have increased our business development effort." (The goal, she explains, is to land more conventions that make use of food and beverage, audiovisual, and other revenue-producing services.) Events DC has also arranged more than \$200 million in city financing for the developer of a Marriott Marquis hotel, now under construction across the street from the convention center.

Washington is following the lead of many other cities in using new hotels to prime the convention-center pump. In Austin, Gensler has designed a 1,000-plus-room, 47-story hotel—the Grand Hotel Austin at Waller Creek—attached to the convention center by an "open-air garden bridge." Todd Runkle, the managing director of Gensler's Austin office, says that, in his experience, "the adjacency of a large hotel, usually with meeting space of its own, makes a big difference" to the success of a convention center. Gensler has also designed a master plan for the area around Houston's convention center, which would be anchored by three new hotels at the center's corners.

Runkle, who has been involved in numerous convention center projects, says of the enlarged buildings, "The

revenue they generate when they are full makes up for the time they sit empty." And Loren G. Edelstein, editor of Meetings and Conventions magazine, says that "while a convention center itself might not be making money," it may be paying for itself with revenue the facility brings to the city in other ways.

But such claims are difficult to prove. Critics like Professor Sanders believe the convention center boosters are making a buyer's market—in which supply now far outstrips demand—even more unbalanced. Though the decline in attendance began before 2008, he says, "the recession worsened an already bad situation."

Back in New York, Robert Yaro, of the nonprofit Regional Plan Association, favors the Queens convention center plan, which will free up land on the West Side of Manhattan for development and (if all goes well) revitalize an outer-borough neighborhood. But meeting planners, according to the New York Times, are skeptical; people looking for a New York experience, they say, will not be lured to a facility an hour from Midtown.

One thing is clear: The governor's big plan for Queens has cast a pall over the Javits Center renovation. While the first phase of the project is proceeding, what would have been important parts of the next phase—including a complete revamping of the plaza in front of the building—are on hold. "We're not allowed to dream," says Bruce Fowle, founding principal of FXFOWLE.

But Fowle hopes that the completion of phase one, some of it by the end of this year, will help demonstrate that the Javits Center is far from a white elephant. "It's still going to be a major transformation," Fowle says. "When the scaffolding comes down, people will be very surprised." •

## 3M LeadCheck Swabs Gain EPA Recognition for Drywall and Plaster

*Newest recognition gives contractors a simple, inexpensive choice to test for lead and help win bids under the EPA RRP rule*

3M LeadCheck Swabs, the simple way to test for lead and assist in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP), are now recognized by the EPA for use on drywall and plaster.

3M LeadCheck Swabs were the first commercially available lead test



3M LeadCheck Swabs Gain EPA Recognition for Drywall and Plaster (Photo: 3M)

kit recognized by the EPA for use on painted wood and metal. Now with EPA recognition on surfaces including wood, metal, plaster and drywall, 3M LeadCheck Swabs provide a quick and simple way for certified renovators to test for lead and take steps to RRP compliance, all with one easy test kit.

"We are hearing from contractors that they are pleased to have an easy, low-cost option that's now recognized for use on drywall and plaster," said Wade Bowman, brand manager, 3M Construction and Home Improvement Markets. "In just 30 seconds, the 3M LeadCheck Swabs turn red if lead is present. Now contractors can choose to do their testing with one simple test kit."

To achieve the latest EPA recognition for drywall and plaster, 3M LeadCheck Swabs underwent a rigorous testing process. The testing process and results were reviewed and approved by the EPA and took into account factors such as ease of use, toxicity of chemicals used, average cost and average time of kit operation as well as overall performance.

"We worked hard with the EPA to produce a reliable test with steps that are easy to follow," said Bowman. "We want to help take some of the burden off the contractor."

Since April 22, 2010, contractors performing renovation, repair and painting (RRP) projects in pre-1978 homes, schools and daycare facilities are required to be certified and follow lead-safe work practices. This EPA-issued RRP Rule is aimed at preventing lead poisoning.

When used by a certified renovator, 3M LeadCheck Swabs are EPA-recognized to determine that lead-based paint is not present on wood, metal, plaster and drywall, making them an important tool when following the RRP Rule.

3M LeadCheck Swabs are widely recognized as the fastest, easiest, most cost-effective lead detection product on the market. The LeadCheck brand has been at the forefront of lead detection and awareness since 1992. At less than \$5 a swab, it's a tool to help RRP-certified contractors win jobs.

3M LeadCheck Swabs are available nationwide at home centers, hardware and paint stores as well as online and are sold in 2-packs, 8-packs, and contractor packs of 48 swabs.

For more information about 3M LeadCheck Swabs visit [www.3MLeadCheck.com](http://www.3MLeadCheck.com). For more on how to use LeadCheck on drywall and plaster visit <http://leadcheck.com/using-leadcheck-on-plaster-and-drywall>.

## Wind-lock Unveils New 2012 Product Catalog

Wind-lock is proud to announce the release of its 2012 all-inclusive product

catalog.

The new catalog features EIFS/Stucco, ICF/SIP, Weatherization and Stealth Access Panels sections, as well as an all-encompassing Drywall Tools & Accessories section.



"We're very excited to have a combined catalog with a full representation of all of our product lines," explains Carter Benjamin, Executive Vice President at Wind-lock. "We like to practice what we preach, and this new catalog fully represents our mantra of 'what you need, when you need it'."

The electronic version of the 2012 catalog is already available on Wind-lock's website for download and quick browsing. The hard-copy version can be expected by their customers in mid-March.

To request your catalog, call Wind-lock's toll free number at 800-872-5625 or visit their website for more information.

Serving the construction industry for more than 25 years, Wind-lock has expanded its offering beyond tools and accessories for the EIFS industry. The company has grown to serve other segments of the residential and commercial construction industries including air sealing, drywall, exterior wall systems, insulation, moisture management and weatherization. Delivering "What You Need, When You Need It", Wind-lock ships its products nationally and internationally from five warehouses located across the country.

## ClarkDietrich™ Building Systems Opens New Research And Design

In a move that supports ClarkDietrich™ Building Systems' commitment to quality-designed products

for the building industry, the company is pleased to announce the opening of its new research and design facility in West Chester, Ohio. Three engineers and four technicians will operate ClarkDietrich Research, LLC, a laboratory accredited to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC American National Standards Institute 17025 by the International Accreditation Service (IAS).

"The opening of the new research and design facility helps maintain ClarkDietrich's position as an innovation and design leader within the steel framing industry," said Bill Courtney, President and CEO at ClarkDietrich Building Systems. "We look forward to using this facility to expand our design capabilities and identify areas to improve and build upon safety, efficiencies and innovation within the building industry."

The facility provides ClarkDietrich with analytical and physical testing capabilities to evaluate the mechanical and structural properties of cold-formed steel building components. In addition, the engineering evaluation of assemblies ranging from structural connectors to modular framing systems used to support photovoltaic modules, are within the scope of its IAS accreditation.

The facility follows the International Code Conference (ICC) for the construction of sustainable, safe and affordable buildings.

## USG Introduces Industry's Lightest-Weight Ready Mixed Joint Compound: SHEETROCK® Brand

USG Corporation a leading building products company, announced that it has introduced SHEETROCK® Brand UltraLightweight All Purpose Joint Compound. This product weighs up to 40

percent less than traditional all purpose joint compounds, making it the lightest-weight ready mixed joint compound on the market. The new product also performs better than traditional all purpose

compounds in such key areas as ease of application and finish appearance, while creating a

USG

durable surface and a strong bond when used with SHEETROCK® Brand Paper Joint Tape.

"With Sheetrock Brand UltraLightweight All Purpose Joint Compound, USG is extending its leadership in lightweight innovation," said Kevin Moyer, Director, Marketing - Surfaces, United States Gypsum Company.

A 4.5-gallon pail of the new product weighs about 35 pounds, compared with 62 pounds for a pail of conventional all purpose ready mixed compound. "To a contractor who moves pails around all day or uses an automatic taping tool, this weight difference matters," Moyer said.

In addition to weighing less, SHEETROCK Brand UltraLightweight All Purpose Joint Compound offers superior performance and ease of use. It slips off the trowel and glides on the wall surface easier than traditional compounds. It also produces less cratering in the finish and is easier to sand. In addition to these advantages, SHEETROCK Brand UltraLightweight All Purpose Joint Compound produces a finish that is as durable as traditional all purpose compound. It is ideal for embedding paper tape and offers an excellent bond over bead, trim and fasteners.

"This product takes out the weight without sacrificing performance," Moyer said. SHEETROCK Brand UltraLightweight All Purpose Joint Compound is now available at L&W Supply Corporation branches and retail home improvement centers in selected markets. It will be distributed nationwide by the second quarter of this year.

USG is the leader in lightweight technology™ and the new joint compound is the latest addition to USG's portfolio of lightweight construction materials,

which includes: SHEETROCK® Brand UltraLight Panels, the industry's first lightweight gypsum wallboard; SHEETROCK® UltraLight Panels FIRECODE® 30; SHEETROCK® Brand UltraLight Panels FIRECODE® X; and DUROCK® cement board Next Gen.

For additional information, visit the USG Web site at [www.usg.com](http://www.usg.com).

## Introducing A New Breed Of Glass Scrapers From Hyde Tools

*Hyde Tools has introduced three new HYDE® glass scrapers with a new look and new functionality.*

The high end of these offerings is a retractable, softgrip glass scraper with built-in storage that is ideal for removing coatings, paint and stickers from glass, mirrors or windshields. The rubberized body provides a safe, sure grip as well as comfort – and tucked into

the tool is convenient storage for up to five razor blades. For more information, see item #13040 at [hydertools.com](http://hydertools.com).

Two additional scrapers being introduced also feature blade storage. These include:

- A new mini-scraper with easy blade change and storage for five blades. See item #13030 at [hydertools.com](http://hydertools.com) for details.
- A new 4" glass and wall scraper with quick blade change feature and in-handle blade storage for five blades. This item includes a reversible blade: One side scrapes, the other shaves. See item #33250 at [hydertools.com](http://hydertools.com) for details.

For more information on Hyde glass tools, visit [hydertools.com](http://hydertools.com), contact your Hyde Tools sales representative, email [custrelations@hydertools.com](mailto:custrelations@hydertools.com) or call (800) 872-4933.

more PRODUCT NEWS on following page

## Sauder Woodworking Hits The Ceiling With Woodtrac



*Sauder Woodworking Co.'s WoodTrac Ceiling System, which uses laminate panels that attach to standard drop ceiling frames, provides the look of solid-wood paneling, a local dealer says.*

was merely a furniture company.

"We had a lot of conversations about that," Mr. Sauder said.

"When we burn it down to our core, we are a manufacturer of laminate products -- and more than just a furniture company."

It was decided that the Fulton County firm should look toward other businesses where wood is used but where laminates could be substituted, he explained.

Ceilings were the first idea.

WoodTrac is offered by 45 dealers, mostly lumber yards or home design stores.

The large home-improvement chains such as Home Depot or Lowe's -- which carry Sauder furniture -- have been unwilling to carry the new Sauder ceiling system.

"They want a product that's proven with a track record," Mr. Sauder said. The new product made is on the company's ready-to-assemble furniture lines which make cabinets, dressers, tables, and other furniture.

It has two full-time employees.

By comparison, Sauder Woodworking's funeral casket division, which has been around for five years, had sales of \$500,000. The furniture division has annual sales of \$310 million, with 1,600 employees. Overall, Sauder Woodworking has \$450 million in annual sales and 2,000 employees.

Wood-Trac sells for \$3.50 to \$4 a square foot, compared with \$15 to \$30 for real wood ceilings and with \$2 to \$5 for traditional drop-ceiling metal, plastic, or mineral fibres panels.

sales, but 2011 is on pace for \$100,000 sales.

Sauder officials say they recognize their fledgling product isn't likely to take off for five years until word of mouth and other endorsements give it more exposure and credibility.

"It's a new market, and what we've learned through our sale of [funeral] caskets is it takes five to seven years to develop a new market like this. So it's going to be a while before it develops, but it's going to go," said Dan Sauder, company vice president of engineering and new markets.

"It's fun and a little scary. As you get into these markets you don't know what you don't know," he said.

The Archbold company decided to diversify its products after an internal debate over whether Sauder Woodworking

By Jon Chavez  
Blade Business Writer

After 71 years of making furniture, things are finally starting to look up for Sauder Woodworking Co. in Archbold.

That's up as in a ceiling overhead.

Two years ago, the nation's largest manufacturer of ready-to-assemble furniture began brainstorming other ways to use its expertise at making wood laminates.

The result was Sauder's patented WoodTrac Ceiling System -- inexpensive laminate panels that attach to standard drop ceiling frames.

"They make it look like a real wood-beamed ceiling is installed. It looks real sharp," said John Waterbury, a sales associate at Gordon Design Center in Perrysburg, one of three area dealers carrying the WoodTrac system.

Since it was launched two years ago, WoodTrac has generated just \$65,000 in

## Parex USA Launches New Branding Campaign - Envision

*The Envision Campaign Communicates the Design Flexibility of Parex USA's EIFS and Stucco Solutions*

Parex USA, Inc. the parent company of leading building material brands; Parex, Teifs, LaHabra, El Rey, and Merkrete begins the second quarter with a new approach to designing with Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS) and Stucco as outlined in its new Envision Campaign.



Parex USA embarked on the new Envision Campaign to communicate the unlimited design flexibility of the company's EIFS and Stucco Solutions. The new campaign conveys Parex USA's leadership position within the EIFS and stucco industry and clearly expresses the company's commitment to being design and aesthetic focused.

"Generally, architects and building owners understand the technical advantages that EIFS and Stucco provide such as continuous insulation and unique application techniques," said Rodrigo Lacerda, Parex USA president. "But what other exterior cladding provides limitless shapes, limitless colors and limitless textures? Our new Envision Campaign encourages the building community to reach outside the box and look at the broad range of possibilities that can be achieved with Parex USA EIFS and Stucco Solutions. As our campaign boldly states 'If you can imagine it, Parex USA can bring it to life.'"

The campaign focuses around three main design elements: Shape; Color and Texture.

Parex USA EIFS and Stucco solutions

can accommodate nearly any exterior building shape imaginable. From ultra modern to traditional architecture, virtually "Any Shape" is achievable.

When it comes to color, Parex USA has the entire spectrum covered. The right color is an essential element of any building design. With Parex USA EIFS and Stucco, "Any Color" is possible.

With a broad range of innovative products, Parex USA makes it possible for applicators to create nearly any textured surface. From smooth, surfaces to heavy aggregate, rugged textures, Parex USA makes "Any Texture" attainable. And, with Parex USA Specialty finishes you can achieve the look of natural stone, brick or metallic panels.

If you can Envision a design, Parex USA can bring it to life with Any Shape, Any Color, Any Texture.

## Gold Bond® BRAND GridMarX® Gypsum Board

In response to contractor requests, National Gypsum is excited to introduce a major innovation in gypsum board - Gold Bond® BRAND GridMarX®. GridMarX

gypsum board comes with its own guide marks, printed right on the paper surface. Contractors can now instantly find the fastener line for studs and make accurate cuts without having to draw any lines

GridMarX increases productivity and profitability every step of the way. When fastening for

code, the guide marks help to quickly identify nail/screw patterns, virtually eliminating the need to measure between fasteners. Plus, cleaner nail/screw patterns provide a visual benefit for inspectors, which makes inspections much faster and smoother. Contractors save time and money every step of the way.

With GridMarX, guide marks run

the machine direction of the board at five points in four-inch increments so the installer always has a reference point. Marks run along the edge in both tapers and at 16", 24" and 32". The marks cover easily with no bleed-through using standard paint products.

Save time and labor costs with Gold Bond GridMarX Gypsum Board.

For more information go to <http://nationalgypsum.com/products/product.aspx?page=GridMarXGypsumBoard>

## The De Wall Mudmaster Takes Work Out Of Mixing Mud

The De Wall Mudmaster is "One of a Kind" taking the work out of mixing mud. It was designed by a skilled craftsman with years of



experience in drywall construction.

The product mixes by slowly folding the mud without aerating. Drywall mud is near perfect every time. The De Wall Mudmaster does the mixing while you keep working, so it cuts labor costs.

The De Wall Mudmaster has a *continued on following page*

# PRODUCT NEWS

*MUDMASTER from previous page*

covered tank, no messy splashing while mixing and no dirty buckets to clean. The covered tank prevents the mud from drying out; mud can stay in the tank for long periods of time without drying up.

The De Wall Mudmaster mixer avoids the back and shoulder problems associated with mixing mud with a

drill or stomper, hauling mud buckets and manual pumping. Mixing and pumping mud is hard work. To apply 20, (500 foot) rolls of tape, 1000 strokes of a manual pump are required and about 20 boxes of mud have to be mixed. The Mudmaster drywall mixer eliminates that time consuming labor. It can also reduce the likelihood of repetitive action/strain injuries from

mixing tasks.

The mixer makes work more pleasant by eliminating boring, labor intense, repetitive tasks. Add the Washmaster for even more labor savings and faster, easier drywall clean up.

For more information go to [www.mudmaster.com](http://www.mudmaster.com).

## Milwaukee® Continues to FUEL Innovation with M18 FUEL™ 1/4" Hex Impact Driver

Milwaukee Electric Tool continues to expand the fastest growing 18V platform in the industry with the introduction of the new M18 FUEL™ 1/4" Hex Impact Driver. As part of the new M18 FUEL™ family, a new breed of cordless power tools within the M18™ System, the new 1/4" Hex Impact Driver features Milwaukee's exclusive combination of the POWERSTATE™ Brushless Motor, REDLITHIUM™ Battery Pack and REDLINK PLUS™ Electronic Intelligence to deliver up to 3X longer motor life, up to 50% more runtime, and a proprietary 3-Mode DRIVE CONTROL™ feature.



"The 3-Mode DRIVE CONTROL™ feature gives users better control over the power and speed required for specific applications," says Tom Simeone, Sr. Product Manager for Milwaukee Tool Corporation. "With the touch of a button, they can go from a precise application such as fastening small machine screws to an application that requires maximum performance such as driving lag screws."

The new POWERSTATE™ Brushless Motor works harder, lives longer, and converts energy into power and torque more efficiently than leading competitors. The POWERSTATE™ Motor is completely designed, engineered and built by Milwaukee Tool, providing up to 1600 in-lbs of torque and 0-2900 RPM to make the M18 FUEL™ 1/4" Hex Impact Driver the most powerful tool in its class. The POWERSTATE™ Motor also reduces noise and cools more rapidly, delivering years of maintenance-free performance.



Milwaukee REDLITHIUM™ Batteries provide significantly more run-time, power and recharges than any other Lithium product on the market. REDLITHIUM™ also delivers best-in-class performance in extreme job-site conditions. With Milwaukee® durability built into each pack, the REDLITHIUM™ Battery operates cooler and performs in climates as low as 0°F/-18°C with fade free power. A battery fuel gauge also displays remaining charge for less down time on the job.

REDLINK PLUS™ Intelligence hardware and software, the most advanced electronic system on the market, allows the user to choose between three fastening modes with the DRIVE CONTROL™ feature. Mode #1 is for precision work (0-850 RPM, 200 in-lbs of torque), Mode #2 helps prevent damage to fasteners and material (0-2,100 RPM, 700 in-lbs of torque) and Mode #3 delivers maximum performance for the toughest applications (0-2,900 RPM, 1600 in-lbs of torque).

In addition, all M18 FUEL™ products include the new multi-voltage charger to allow users to charge all M12™ and M18™ batteries with one charger.

Available in June of 2012, the new M18 FUEL™ 1/4" Hex Impact Driver is a true testament to Milwaukee's focus on the user and investing in game changing technology. For more information on M18 FUEL™, please visit [www.milwaukeetool.com/fuel](http://www.milwaukeetool.com/fuel).

# PRODUCT NEWS

## Marino\WARE® and StructSoft to Deliver BIM-Compliant Framed Walls and Ceilings in Revit®

StrucSoft MWF Professional customers will soon be able to specify Marino\



WARE's cold-formed steel framing products inside Autodesk Revit®, the industry-leading Building Information Modeling (BIM) solution.

This capability, which is included in the MWF subscription program, made its debut at the Intex Expo April 18-19, 2012 at the Charlotte Convention Center.

MWF's 'smart placement' capability helps contractors optimize the best framing solution for a given situation, saving time and eliminating material waste while ensuring that they are meeting building codes and BIM compliancy. Supported Marino\WARE® products will include ViperStud® Drywall Framing, the QuickFrame™ Header System, FrameRite® Connectors, and our slotted track products.

"BIM usage is growing rapidly among commercial walls and ceilings contractors," said Jim DesLaurier, Vice President of Marketing for Marino\WARE: "As a leader in the steel framing industry, we want to be sure we're anticipating our customers' needs and providing them with the tools they need every day. We are thrilled to partner with StrucSoft Solutions to provide the best BIM framing solution to our customers."

Marino\WARE®, a division of Ware Industries, Inc. is a long-standing manufacturer of steel-framing products, and is committed to leading the industry in innovation, quality materials and customer service. Headquartered in South Plainfield, N.J., it has produced steel framing

solutions for more than 70 years, and offers a wide choice of framing components and connectors that save their customers time, labor and cost. Marino\WARE® operates state-of-the-

art production facilities in New Jersey, Georgia, Indiana and Texas, as well as a sales office in New York. More information can be found at [www.marinoware.com](http://www.marinoware.com).

## New CertainTeed® Restoration Millwork® J-Pocket Eases Installation of Corner Trim



CertainTeed is making installation much easier with the introduction of a J-Pocket trimboard with Cut-out in its Restoration Millwork® PVC line. The cut-out allows the trimboard to lie flush with the siding around windows and doors with built-in nail flanges, allowing for more perfect miter cuts at the corners.

"Before, contractors had to spend valuable jobsite time on window and door trim carpentry," says Patti Pellock, senior marketing manager for CertainTeed Restoration Millwork. "Now there is no worrying about imprecise and expensive do-overs. The new J-Pocket with Cut-out creates an instant, perfect and flat installation."

The Restoration Millwork J-Pocket with Cut-out is available in a 4-inch width with nominal 5/4-inch thickness with either Smooth or TrueTexture™ woodgrain. It joins the existing standard J-Pocket trimboard line, which includes smooth or woodgrain finishes in 4- and 6-inch widths. J-Pocket trimboards come with FinishedEdge™, a smooth finish created by a proprietary heat-sealing process that prevents dirt from collecting on the surface.

Made from cellular polyvinyl chloride (PVC), the Restoration Millwork full line of trim, beadboard and accessories is engineered to look, feel and work like top-grade lumber. Unlike wood, however, it is made with a long-lasting, low-maintenance material that is resistant to rotting, warping, moisture and insects. Offered in Natural White finish, Restoration Millwork can also be painted to complement exterior colors. It can be cut using ordinary woodworking tools and fastened with nails or screws.

In addition, Restoration Millwork complements all siding materials — including vinyl, fiber cement, wood, stucco and brick — and is ideal for single- and multi-family housing, light commercial developments and remodeling projects. It is highly resistant to yellowing caused by UV rays, resists freezing during winter months, features a Class A (Class 1) flame spread classification and is backed by a 25-year limited warranty.

For more information, visit [www.certainteed.com](http://www.certainteed.com).

## New OSHA Directive Explains Communications With Victims' Families Following A Workplace Fatality

A new Occupational Safety and Health Administration directive guides OSHA representatives in communicating investigation procedures with family members following a workplace fatality. The guidance ensures that OSHA representatives speak to the victim's family early in the inspection process, establish a point of contact, and maintain a working relationship with the family.

"OSHA is committed to working with families to explain the circumstances surrounding the deaths of their loved ones," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Dr. David Michaels. "This directive ensures that OSHA receives the necessary information from the family to assist in the investigation, and keeps the family informed throughout the investigation and settlement processes."

Under the new directive, OSHA representatives will contact the victim's family to explain the investigation process, timeline, and provide the family with updates throughout the investigation. Once the investigation is closed, OSHA will explain findings to the family and address any questions. If an employer has been issued citations, OSHA will provide a copy of the citation(s) to the family.

More information about the new directive is available on OSHA's directive page (PDF\*). Employers must notify OSHA within eight hours of a workplace fatality, including fatal heart attacks that occur at work. These reports may be made by telephone or in person to the nearest area office or by calling OSHA's toll-free number, 1-800-321-OSHA [6742].

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure these conditions for

America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

## OSHA Reaccredited As An Authorized Continuing Education Provider

### OSHA Training Institute Provides High-Quality Safety And Health Programs

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Directorate of Training and Education (DTE) has been reaccredited by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) to continue providing Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for work-related injury and illness prevention training.

DTE, which includes the OSHA Training Institute, offers a wide selection of courses and programs to help workers and employers broaden their knowledge of how to recognize, avoid and prevent safety and health hazards in their workplaces. OSHA also offers training and educational materials to help businesses train their workers and comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

"OSHA education programs train over 850,000 federal and state compliance officers, state consultants, federal employees, employers and workers each year," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health David Michaels. "Our training, in critical job-related skills, ensures that our compliance officers, workers and employers stay on the cutting edge to prevent worker injuries, illnesses and deaths. Our IACET reaccreditation demonstrates OSHA's commitment to lifelong learning and high standards for all of our education and training programs."

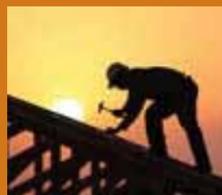
To achieve Authorized Provider accreditation, the OSHA Directorate of Training and Education completed a rigorous application process. IACET is the only standard-setting organization approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for continuing education and training. The ANSI/IACET Standard is the core of thousands of educational programs worldwide.

The IACET accreditation applies only to classes conducted by the OSHA Training Institute in Arlington Heights, IL. It does not apply to classes offered elsewhere by safety and health professionals who have completed an OSHA Outreach Training Program course to conduct occupational safety and health classes for workers or by the OSHA Training Institute Education Centers.

IACET President Francenia Johnson said, "OSHA's Directorate of Training and Education joins nearly 650 organizations around the globe that have had their programs vetted by third-party experts in continuing education to ensure the highest possible standards are met." •

## 4,547 Workers Died On The Job In 2010

Latest Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries



# Navigating and Analyzing Fall Hazards

By Jason Townsell/EHS Today

While much advancement has been made in fall protection equipment and technology, falls remain a serious concern in today's work force.

Falls are second only to motor vehicle accidents in terms of annual injuries and cost. Whether they occur at the same level (trip and falls, stump and falls, step and falls or slip and falls) or from a higher level, falls typically are very unforgiving. Conducting a thorough job analysis is vital to safe operations when navigating fall hazards and attempting to correctly and safely use fall protection equipment.

### Fall Hazard Causes and Analysis

One of the most important components of conducting a job hazard analysis is observing the operation as it is underway. This helps identify potential hazards and also allows supervisors to evaluate workers' frames of mind.

Fall hazards can stem from various situations, including: a foreign object in the walkway, a design flaw in the walking surface, slippery surfaces, an unprotected edge, misuse of fall protection equipment, physical impairments/ailments and falling objects. These and other applicable causes should be taken into account and analyzed. Additionally, these hazards should be sought out during the observation component of the job analysis. Proposed fall protection equipment should be analyzed in order to determine its feasibility and effectiveness.

The accident history of the company and others within the industry also should be analyzed and drawn upon as part of the fall hazard analysis. In addition, the analysis should consider the implementation of existing protocols that can eliminate both foreseen and unforeseen fall hazards.

If the analysis identifies a deficiency in an existing fall protection protocol/equipment, the plan should be amended to

address all of the fall hazards appropriately.

### Addressing Uncontrolled Fall Hazards

Uncontrolled fall hazards are those that are not, or cannot, be controlled. I am of the opinion that most (if not all) fall hazards can be addressed and controlled through a comprehensive analysis accompanied by a detailed work plan, which requires the utilization of a fall protection plan aligned with applicable OSHA regulations.

Most hazards go uncontrolled because they are not identified during the hazard analysis portion of the work plan. Identifying uncontrolled hazards may seem difficult; however, a safety manager who has done his or her due diligence in observing the work in progress and analyzing past accident statistics and other information, as well as analyzing other leading and trailing indicators, stands a good chance of identifying and addressing otherwise uncontrolled or unidentified hazards.

Uncontrolled hazards should be eliminated to the maximum extent possible.

### Analyzing Impact and Acceleration Factors

Impact and acceleration are both very important factors in the identification and analysis of appropriate fall protection plans and equipment. Impact considers the force that will be applied on an employee during the fall arrest process, while the amount of acceleration determines the amount of impact/force that will be placed on the employee.

Acceleration and impact are major factors in the speed and force of falling objects that may strike employees working at lower levels. When analyzing impact and acceleration concerns, be sure to consider, identify and mitigate potential causes. The use and effectiveness of personal protective equipment (e.g. hard hats), toe-boards and overhead protection (e.g. canopies) of workers at lower levels also should play a role in impact and acceleration analysis.

Hazard analysis is vitally important to the overall safety effort as well as to the successful completion of a job hazard analysis. A thorough fall hazard analysis should identify and control most, if not all, occupational fall hazards.

*EHS Today guest blogger Jason Townsell, CSP, was named the 2010 Future Leader in EHS. He works for AECOM as a program safety manager at San Diego International Airport. The postings on this site represent the author's personal opinions and statements and do not represent or reflect the opinions, positions or strategies of AECOM Technology Corp. or its subsidiaries or affiliated entities.* •

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**WINTER** Issue/February  
**SPRING** Issue/May  
**SUMMER** Issue/August  
 Written insertion orders are due on the 5th of the month prior to issue.  
 Materials are due on the 10th of the month prior to issue.



# American Construction Organizations Aim To Create A Drug- And Alcohol-Free Industry

**F**ive of the largest construction trade associations in the United States have teamed up to form the Construction Coalition for a Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace (CCDAFW). The coalition's mission is to create a drug- and alcohol-free construction industry by providing companies and organizations with the resources necessary to implement drug- and alcohol-free policies into their business practices.

CCDAFW has launched a nationwide effort urging construction-related firms and organizations to sign an online pledge signifying they will create and maintain a workplace free from substance abuse. In addition to listing current pledge signatories, the CCDAFW website, <http://www.drugfreeconstruction.org/> includes educational materials and state-by-state policies for substance abuse testing.

The CCDAFW is comprised of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), Construction Users' Roundtable (CURT) and Women Construction Owners & Executives (WCOE).

"We are driving an industry toward world-class safety," said ABC President and CEO Michael D. Bellaman.

"If we want to have an industry that is world class in safety, we have to start with a rock-solid foundation that includes an environment free of drugs and substance abuse. This coalition is a way to help companies build that foundation so we can continue toward our goal of eliminating all fatalities on construction worksites."

"This partnership will build on the significant steps firms across the country

have already taken to make construction safer today than it has ever been," said AGC CEO Stephen E. Sandherr. "Making sure that every construction worker on every construction site is fully in control and absolutely sober is the best way to save lives and prevent injuries."

"As an organization composed of CEOs from both leading design and construction firms, the CIRT Board of Directors views participation in the coalition as extremely critical to reinforcing the importance of safety across the wide range of disciplines involved with construction job sites," noted CIRT President Mark A. Casso.

"To that end, we see the centerpiece of this effort as not only the pledge itself, but also the educational materials, model policies, informational aids and best practices that will be made available and shared."

"At CURT, we believe the road to zero incidents encompasses all facets of effective safety and health programs," said CURT Executive Vice President Gregory

L. Sizemore.

"The Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace initiative is a way to help owners and contractors improve their safety performance — on and off the jobsite — leading to the elimination of accidents and injuries."

"The health and safety of the construction industry workforce is of primary importance to company owners," said WCOE National Executive Director Penny Pompei.

"Drugs and construction sites do not mix. Small businesses often don't have the resources to develop in-depth substance abuse awareness and prevention programs. This coordinated effort by a group of construction industry organizations will provide the tools WCOE's small business owners need to combat this danger to our workers."

The launch of the CCDAFW website and online pledge coincided with North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, held May 6-12. •

—DCN News Services

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