

World of Concrete 2010

Concrete Openings Walks You Through the Show



The 2010 World of Concrete trade show and exhibition took place at the Las Vegas Convention Center in February, marking the 36th year of the show's history. Since the first exhibition took place in 1975, the show has experienced a substantial increase in exhibit space and attendees, and this year's event drew a better-than-expected attendance of over 55,000 industry professionals.

Manufacturer and distributor companies, including 32 Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association (CSDA) members, were out in force to prove that even in a down economy, advancements in product performance and efficiency are being made to help sawing and drilling contractors in the long-term. *Concrete Openings* toured the World of Concrete show floor to discover what innovations will be introduced to the industry in 2010, and here are some of the highlights.

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

First stop was the South Hall of the convention center, which had a healthy complement of CSDA members eager to present their products and services. Reimann & Georger Corporation displayed its new 13- or 15-inch bar Minisaw. The saw has a lightweight aluminum frame, can be used in confined work areas and comes with a choice of two diamond segmented chains. Also in the South Hall was Dixie Diamond Manufacturing, which introduced its new laser-welded green core bit, named the Beaver Bit, with 1-inch-long segments, while James Instruments displayed the latest features of its Mini R-Meter rebar locator that can detect materials up to 8 inches deep in reinforced concrete and has a four-hour battery life.

The hall was also the location of the CSDA exhibit booth. As part of the Alliance partnership between the two organizations, representatives from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) were also present at the CSDA booth. This represented the fourth straight year that OSHA and CSDA have joined forces to raise awareness of health and safety issues in

the industry and in the general workplace. The association's affiliation with OSHA has been a tremendous advantage for CSDA contractor members wishing to set up or maintain a reputable business. Best Practice documents continue to be produced in English and Spanish to encourage safe working practices, and were distributed during World of Concrete. At a time when it is becoming increasingly important for businesses to be compliant with federal standards, the OSHA / CSDA Alliance continues its work to address potential safety issues.

CENTER OF THE WORLD

Heading out from the South Hall, the Central Hall also had several CSDA manufacturer member representatives ready to show attendees what advancements they have made over the last year. Husqvarna Construction Products introduced new sawing equipment and blades, including the new K760 power cutter. The hand saw features an X-Torq® dual intake engine, reducing emissions up to 75 percent. Husqvarna's range of DiagriP™ diamond blades have been also been refined for the concrete industry, and include the HG3 high speed blade and the R1220 and R1245 ring saw blades. Segments are specifically designed for efficient cutting and cooling, with coarse diamonds that are larger than traditional diamonds for longer life.

The show also introduced new 14-inch SpeediCut-XL cut-off saws from Diamond Products, with larger initial foam filters to prolong filter life and enhanced catalytic mufflers to keep emissions and saw temperatures down. The company also unveiled its new 7.5-horsepower CC1575XL basement saw with 20-inch blade capacity. Stihl Inc. has come up with a useful tool to aid operators while core drilling. The BT 45 core drill adapter allows the unit to be converted into a handheld drill for use on concrete and other materials, and comes with a standard water attachment. An optional 1.25-inch adapter is available for mounting core bits up to 6 inches in diameter.

The Central Hall also contained exhibitors of ground penetrating radar (GPR) equipment for concrete scanning. Geophysical Survey



Francis Dougherty and Danezza Quintero of OSHA, with CSDA Executive Director Patrick O'Brien

Systems, Inc. attracted interest with its recently released StructureScan Mini. The compact unit is designed to locate rebar, post-tension cables and conduits, and can reach up to 12 inches in depth. A 5.7-inch display assists operators to scan and mark. Meanwhile, MALA Geoscience exhibited the capabilities of its new CX-11 interface for concrete imaging, including the instantaneous migration of 2-D imaging into clear and defined scans, and Sensors & Software introduced new EKKO Interp software for enhanced interpretation of its Conquest system data.

THE NORTHERN (HIGH)LIGHTS

A brief walk through the Grand Concourse of the convention center connects the Central Hall to the North Hall, where the association was represented on two levels. Some exhibitors highlighted how their products can provide contractors with a tool for the recycling and reclamation of waste water, slurry and other materials. Liebherr Concrete Technology is a new member of CSDA, and showcased the LRS 606, a portable or static unit which separates waste concrete material from slurry water before extracting out the fines so that this water can be reused. The containment and recycling of slurry, rocks and chips from saw cutting and grinding is becoming an increasingly important element of many jobs.

Besides the exhibits, the North Hall was also the main hub for seminars and certification classes at the show. Training and education was a focal point of this year's World of Concrete, and CSDA played its part in ensuring that the industry continues to produce professional workers that are equipped with sound knowledge and new ideas to maintain the success of their businesses. As one of the cosponsor associations of the show, CSDA has been keen to see the World of Concrete education program evolve and incorporate certification classes, particularly in concrete sawing and drilling disciplines. For the first time, CSDA held its Wall Sawing 101 class at the show. In addition to training given in the classroom, the outdoor exhibit booths of several CSDA manufacturer members provided hands-on training to the 16 registered students.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

After the journey through the three exhibit halls, it was time for some fresh air. The outdoor exhibit area is always a hub of activity at the event, and this is where the majority of CSDA manufacturer and distributor members in attendance get to show off their equipment. Hilti increased its presence at the show with a 1,600 square foot booth, which included its new range of diamond professional contractor tools from the recent purchase of Diamond B. This segment of the business

is being showcased by the release of the new 77-pound, 15-kilowatt DS TS20 wall saw and its 10-speed, 1,000-hertz DD 350 and 500 core drills. Hilti also plans to introduce a new diamond wire saw to the U.S. market later in the year.

Well known for its range of demolition robots, Brokk Inc. was also pleased to exhibit some of its most popular demolition robots at the show. The updated Brokk 260 is the company's latest offering, weighing in at 6,724 pounds. The 260 is run by a 22 kilowatt motor and has a maximum reach of around 19 feet. In what seems to have been a busy year of development for Husqvarna Construction Products, the company has released another demolition robot for 2010. One year after unveiling the DXR 310, the company has released the DXR 250. With a 15-foot reach and weight under 3,600 pounds, the 25-horsepower unit may well prove to be as popular as the DXR 310 was in 2009. A remote control unit with a 3.5-inch color display sends commands to the robot by Bluetooth technology.

Expert Equipment displayed its new line of CARDI 480-volt Freccia Rossa, meaning "red arrow," core drill motors at its outdoor booth, together with a new line of brazing magnets for the re-tipping of core bits. Also outdoors, Slurry Solutions explained how the air-powered Slurry Fox filter press from Golz is used for separating water from solid waste material. From there, both the water and the waste material can then be recycled at the job site by this portable unit for safe disposal. On the back of its recent release, the CWS-200 track-mounted chain wall saw from ICS, Blount was displayed at the company's booth. The saw uses a Force 4 chain chassis and weighs 75 pounds.

There are reasons for the concrete sawing and drilling industry to be optimistic about what the rest of 2010 holds. A walk around the show to view the multitude of exhibits and the varied training classes available, provided confidence that the industry is looking forward, not back. Many exhibitors commented that although attendance was lower than previous years, the right combination of business owners, buyers and decision-makers were in attendance, and orders were taken.

Furthermore, the wide range of seminars and training programs held at the show strengthens the industry and helps prepare many operators, supervisors and company owners for a prosperous future. It's not always about how many people show up, it's about who they are and what they are looking to achieve for their businesses.

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