

AISC NEWS

AISC Expands Florida Operations

To support a growing Florida construction market, the American Institute of Steel Construction has expanded its marketing and technical support efforts throughout the Sunshine State. In addition to new staff in Florida, AISC has also added staff in the Southeast and at its Chicago headquarters in an effort to better serve architects, general contractors, engineers and project owners on their building projects.

Working with steel fabricators and erectors throughout Florida, AISC hopes to raise awareness of the many advantages—from design flexibility to cost savings—that structural steel brings to multi-story residential and commercial building projects. As part of the endeavor, AISC will also provide technical assistance, research, and education services to Florida's building design and construction community through its Steel Solutions Center.

“Expanding our efforts in Florida makes sense from a number of perspectives,” said Roger Ferch, AISC president. “Our member fabricators, erectors, and steel service centers are seeing a growing interest in the use of structural steel on residential and commercial projects. This initiative will enable us to better support their efforts to serve their clients. And, with Florida [being] one of the fastest growing construction markets in the U.S., it will also help us in expanding structural steel's share of that market.”

Leading the initiative is Walt Primer, whom AISC has recently hired as its new Florida area marketing director. Primer has more than 24 years of experience working with contractors, architects, engineers, and owners. Most recently, he served more than six years as director of business development and marketing for geotechnical/environmental firm Universal Engineering Sciences, whose

Sarasota office he established in 1999.

Said Primer, “The state of Florida alone accounts for nearly 10% of the country's construction volume. By working with our fabricators, erectors and service centers to expand their services throughout the state, AISC will help continue the growth in the use of steel already being seen in both the residential and commercial building markets.”

Primer, working out of Sarasota, Fla., will coordinate with AISC member fabricators, erectors, and service centers in reaching out to existing clients and potential new users of structural steel. He will also work closely with Gene Martin, AISC's senior regional engineer for the Southeast, and Chris Moor, AISC's industry mobilization director.

For more information about using structural steel on your next project, contact AISC's Steel Solutions Center at 866.ASK.AISC.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

AISC Announces Spring 2007 Seminars

AISC's Continuing Education Department will once again offer “Design Steel *Your Way* with the 2005 AISC Specification.” This seminar will accelerate your ability to design steel buildings according to the 2005 AISC specification, whether you design in ASD or LRFD. Presentation topics will include proper material selection, design philosophies and analysis requirements, member and structure stability provisions, member design, and connection design. Each attendee will receive a copy of the course notes and design examples, the AISC *Design Examples* CD, and a copy of the 13th Edition AISC *Steel Construction Manual*, which includes the 2005 AISC specification, the 2004 *RCSC Steel Construction Manual*, which includes the 2005 AISC specification, the 2004 *RCSC Specification*, and the 2005 *Code of Standard Practice for Steel Buildings and Bridges*.

AISC also continues to offer the “Bring a Buddy” program. If eligible, paid registrants may add one person to their registration at a reduced rate. And, as always, AISC members attend at discounted rates. To become a member and receive the AISC member discount, please visit www.aisc.org/membership. Call 800.809.2364 or visit www.aisc.org/2007seminars for more information or to register. Spring 2007 dates are listed below:

1/23	Baltimore	3/6	Pittsburgh	5/1	Boston
1/24	Little Rock	3/8	Philadelphia	5/3	Tucson
1/25	Raleigh, N.C.	3/13	Las Vegas	5/3	Richmond
2/6	Los Angeles	3/14	Louisville, Ky.	5/9	Baton Rouge
2/6	Edison, N.J.	3/15	San Jose, Calif.	5/10	San Diego
2/7	Austin, Texas	3/15	Chicago	5/10	Houston
2/8	Portland, Ore.	3/20	Syracuse	5/15	Los Angeles
2/8	El Paso, Texas	3/27	Denver	5/15	Miami
2/8	Hartford	3/27	Atlanta	5/17	Columbia, S.C.
2/21	Des Moines	3/28	Columbus	5/23	Tulsa
2/22	New York City	3/29	Santa Fe	5/24	Reno
2/22	Seattle	3/29	St. Louis	5/24	Kansas City, Mo.
2/27	San Francisco	3/29	Charleston, W.Va.		

CONFERENCES

Register Now for The Steel Conference!

Register now for the 2007 North American Steel Construction Conference! More than 3,000 engineers, fabricators, erectors, and detailers are expected to register for The Steel Conference, which will take place April 18-21 in New Orleans, La. Visit www.aisc.org/nascc for a complete schedule of conference events and instructions for pre-registration.

With nearly 90 technical sessions, The Steel Conference is the industry's premier education event. It provides structural engineers, steel fabricators, erectors, and detailers with practical information and the latest design and construction techniques. The conference is a key networking opportunity. Its extensive trade show features products and services ranging from fabrication machinery, galvanizing, and connection products to detailing and engineering software. The conference also incorporates the Structural Stability Research Council's Annual Stability Conference. New this year is a series of presentations from seven of the nation's best-known engineering professors.

Online registration is available through April 12, 2007. After April 12, registrations will be taken on-site, but at higher rates.

AWARDS

AISC Competition Seeks Innovative Projects

Engineers, architects, fabricators, and all other building team members are invited to submit their best recent building projects to AISC's IDEAS² Awards. The Awards recognize those projects where structural steel has been used in an innovative manner. The judges will consider:

- a creative solution to the project's requirements.
- application of innovative design approaches.
- aesthetic and visual impact of steel on the project.
- innovative use of architecturally exposed structural steel.
- advances in the use of structural steel either technically or in architectural expression.
- innovative design and construction methods.
- sustainable design.

To be eligible, the building must be predominantly steel-framed (either wide-flange or hollow structural steel sections) and must have been completed between Jan. 1, 2004 and Dec. 31, 2006. Projects

must be located in North America, and both new and renovated buildings are eligible. Firms may, of course, submit multiple projects.

While the awards are given for a project, all members of the project's team (including the architectural firm, structural engineering firm of record, general contractor, detailer, fabricator, and erector) will be recognized and honored.

There is an entry fee of \$150; however, the fee is waived for all AISC members. Both National and Merit honors will be awarded. In addition, a Presidential Award of Excellence for Structural Engineering or for Architectural Expression may be awarded at the judges' discretion. All awards will be announced at the 2007 NASCC: The Steel Conference, and awards will be presented at the project location with all members of the project team and local media representatives invited.

For more information on the awards program, and a list of last year's winning projects, please visit www.aisc.org/ideas2.

letters**Another Look at Office Space**

I enjoyed the article "Office Space" in your November 2006 issue. I do need to offer a correction to the calculation of allowable building size for unprotected steel office buildings. The article is correct in that the International Building Code (IBC) allows five-story (75-ft) sprinklered buildings to have a 200-percent increase in allowable floor area. But while the article does not mention it, the IBC also allows up to a 75-percent increase in allowable floor area for buildings with 30 ft of open frontage space on the entire perimeter of the building.

As the article notes, a sprinklered unprotected office building without any perimeter frontage can have a maximum allowable per-floor area of 69,000 sq. ft (23,000 ft × 3). For a sprinklered unprotected office building with full open frontage, the maximum allowable area per floor can be as high as 86,250 sq. ft (23,000 ft × 3.75). However, what the article misses is the impact of IBC Section 506.4. That section limits the total allowable building area for structures with more than three stories to the maximum allowable per-story area, multiplied by three.

As a result, a five-story unprotected steel office building with sprinklers can only have a total building area of 207,000 sq. ft (69,000 ft × 3) rather than the 345,000 sq. ft noted in the article. This results in a five-story building with 41,400 sq. ft per floor. The absolute maximum allowable area that an unprotected steel office building can have (assuming sprinklers and full open frontage) is 258,750 sq. ft (86,250 ft × 3). For a five-story building, that would be 51,750 sq. ft per floor.

Robert J. Wills, P.E.

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Editor's note: an updated version of the November 2006 article "Office Space" is available online at www.modernsteel.com.