

## CONSTRUCTION MARKET

### Fabricated Structural Steel Considered for Section 301 Tariff List

This past June, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) released a list of products imported from China that will be subject to additional tariffs as part of the U.S. response to China's unfair trade practices related to the forced transfer of American technology and intellectual property. Fabricated structural steel was added for consideration to the Section 301 tariff list due in part to AISC's advocacy and testimony at last month's USTR Section 301 public hearing in Washington, D.C.

The list of products covers more than 1,000 separate U.S. tariff lines valued at approximately \$50 billion in 2018 trade values.

The tariff list is separated into two separate groups:

1. USTR has determined to impose an additional duty of 25% on the first list of products valued at approximately \$34 billion after having sought and received views from the public and advice from the appropriate trade advisory committees. Customs and Border Protection was scheduled to begin collecting the additional duties on July 6.
2. The second set of proposed tariff lines, including those related to fabricated structural steel, have been identified by the interagency Section 301 Committee as benefiting from Chinese industrial policies, including the "Made in China 2025" industrial policy. The second set, which covers approximately \$16 billion worth of imports from China, will undergo further review in a public notice and comment process, including a public hearing. After completion of this process, USTR will issue a final determination on the products from this list that would be subject to the additional duties.

On May 15, Jeffrey Sterner, president and chief operating officer of High Industries, Lancaster, Pa. (an AISC member and certified fabricator and erector) and a member of the AISC board of directors, testified on behalf of AISC in front of the USTR Section 301 committee and asked that the administration add fabricated structural steel to the Section 301 tariff list.

In his testimony, Sterner said, "Steel assemblies that fall under these two [tariff] codes represented \$831 million of imports in 2017, or nearly 2% of the Section 301 target value. Adding these codes is critically important because the U.S. structural steel supply chain currently suffers from the effects of unfair Chinese industrial policies related to steel production and fabrication."

The originally proposed Section 301 schedule already included 132 HTS codes related to steel, many of which represented products used in the construction industry. However, the original list did not close the circumvention loophole left open by the Section 232 order, which does not currently include the codes for fabricated steel assemblies.

"Adding fabricated steel assemblies under HTS codes 730810 and 730890 would be a logical extension of other tariffs already in the proposed Section 301 schedule in addition to those in the Section 232 Order," said Brian Raff, AISC's director of government affairs. "It will add real teeth to the effort to curb China's policies and practices that adversely impact domestic steel fabrication and production."

Charlie Carter, AISC's president, remarked, "Adding fabricated structural steel to the 301 tariff list is a step in the right direction, and we hope that the Department of Commerce follows suit and closes the circumvention loophole that currently exists in the administration's signature trade policy by allowing foreign fabricated structural steel into the U.S. without penalty."

AISC has also been an active participant in the 232 investigation on steel imports, testifying at a Commerce Department hearing, submitting post-hearing information to Commerce and writing letters to the president. Our primary argument has been that the critical tie between steel imports and national security is in America's Critical Infrastructure—an argument that was adopted by and featured prominently in the Commerce Department Report. However, as the implementing Order was being finalized, we urged one critically important modification to the Commerce report: Include fabricated structural steel in the products covered by the tariff.

## People and Companies

- The **LiRo Group (LiRo)**, a national, multidisciplinary structural, civil, environmental and MEP engineering; project and construction management; architecture; and technology firm, recently acquired three affiliated New England-area companies: DiGiorgio Associates Inc., DAI, Inc., and Monitor Builders, Inc. The acquired companies, which collectively specialize in design and construction management, are headquartered in Boston and share a satellite office in Portland, Maine.
- Seattle-based structural engineering firm **Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA)** has announced five senior associate promotions: **Danny Currit, SE, PE**, is focused on designing residential, high-rise projects and is heavily involved with MKA's Performance-Based Design and Earthquake Technical Specialty Teams. **Amy Haaland, SE, PE**, is focused on mixed-use projects and is involved with MKA's High-Rise and Masonry Technical Specialty Teams. **Janet Ranf, SE, PE**, is focused on cultural projects and leads MKA's Continuing Education program. **Tyler Ranf, SE, PE, PhD**, is focused on resilient aviation facilities and leads MKA's Vibration Technical Specialty Team. **Matt Streid, SE**, is focused on office developments and is in MKA's Chicago office.
- The **Steel Erectors Association of America (SEAA)** has bestowed longtime volunteer **John (Jack) Metcalfe** with its 2017 William Davis Service Award. Metcalfe's accomplishments and positions include being past president of the **National Institute of Steel Detailing (NISD)**, volunteering for the SEAA Board of Directors, acting as NISD's liaison to SEAA and being the impetus behind the SEAA/NISD *Detailing Guide*.

## PROJECTS

## Three World Trade Center Skyscraper Opens

After years of disputes over whether the site of 9/11 should be preserved as a memorial or reconstructed as a skyscraper, 3 World Trade Center (WTC) opened recently with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in its three-story glass lobby. The 1,079-ft.-tall, 80-story office building tower was designed by Richard Rogers of Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and features 2.5 million sq.-ft of rentable space.

Located at 175 Greenwich Street, 3 WTC's steel framing system encircles a reinforced concrete core and is defined by its load-sharing system of K-shaped bracing. The tower's gravity system has few interior columns and no perimeter columns, creating unobstructed 360° views. Owen Steel Company (an AISC member and certified fabricator) fabricated 27,000 tons of structural steel for the tower's gravity system.



## correction

In June's Prize Bridge Awards coverage ([www.modernsteel.com](http://www.modernsteel.com)) the fabricators and structural engineer were erroneously left off the team list for the Neponset Bridge, which won a Sustainability Commendation. The steel was fabricated by **STS Steel, Inc.**, and **M C IronWorks, Inc.** (both AISC member and certified fabricators) and the engineer was **AECOM Crosby Schlessinger Smallridge**, listed as the engineer, was actually the prime design consultant.

## NASCC

## 2018 NASCC: The Steel Conference Proceedings Now Available

If you missed sessions from the 2018 NASCC: The Steel Conference in Baltimore (or you want to rewatch your favorites) you can catch up online! More than 130 session recordings from this year's conference, which include a synchronization of the speakers' voices along with their visual presentations, are now available for free at [www.aisc.org/2018nascconline](http://www.aisc.org/2018nascconline).

AISC makes much of its conference material available at no charge as part of its mission to disseminate information for building and designing with structural steel.

"We strongly believe that providing free access to high-quality educational material benefits everyone in the industry," said Scott Melnick, senior vice president at AISC and editor of *Modern Steel Construction*.

You can search for conference proceedings from the past 10 years at [www.aisc.org/educationarchives](http://www.aisc.org/educationarchives). The page also contains a collection of recorded webinars and articles that can be accessed at any time.

Next year's conference will take place in St. Louis, April 3-5. For more information, visit [www.aisc.org/nascc](http://www.aisc.org/nascc).

## AWARDS

## 2019 IDEAS<sup>2</sup> Awards Call for Entries Now Open

Show the great work your firm does in steel by entering the 2019 Innovative Design in Engineering and Architecture with Structural Steel (IDEAS<sup>2</sup>) Awards competition! Architectural and engineering firms, structural steel companies, general contractors and owners are encouraged to enter steel-framed building projects in the competition. Conducted annually by AISC, this awards program recognizes excellence and innovation in the use of structural steel on building projects across the country. The award is the highest honor bestowed on building projects by the U.S. structural steel industry.

"The IDEAS<sup>2</sup> Awards is how we recognize the innovative and progressive ways that you use the versatility, utility and beauty of structural steel in your projects," said Charles J. Carter, SE, PE, PhD, AISC's president. "You amaze us every year and we look forward to another year of your incredible work."

Winning projects receive their awards at the project sites during special pre-

sentations to which the project team and local dignitaries are invited. The winning projects will also be recognized at NASCC: The Steel Conference in St. Louis, April 3-5, 2019.

The IDEAS<sup>2</sup> jury represents a cross-section of the structural steel design, fabrication and construction industries. Including a diverse panel helps the jury highlight steel solutions to the challenges designers and constructors face in all building types and sizes. Entries are judged in three categories according to constructed value: less than \$15 million; \$15 million to \$75 million; and greater than \$75 million. There is also a category for sculptures, art installations and nonbuilding structures.

The IDEAS<sup>2</sup> entry process is conducted online. For the full eligibility requirements, instructions on how to enter and access to the entry form, visit [www.aisc.org/ideas2](http://www.aisc.org/ideas2). The deadline for entries is SteelDay, September 28, 2018 ([www.aisc.org/steelday](http://www.aisc.org/steelday)).



## EDUCATION

### UT Tyler Home of Latest AISC Steel Sculpture



Planted outside of the Ratliff Building, home of the University of Texas at Tyler's College of Engineering, a brown steel sculpture juxtaposes tan brick buildings and open green spaces. The sculpture seamlessly appears to have always been a part of the college's landscape. However, it was only recently erected (on June 9).

J. Torey Nalbone, PhD, an associate professor at UT Tyler, contemplated the sculpture's creation for quite some time. Initially, he didn't have a specific idea of how it would be used or where it would be located. Would the sculpture have a positive impact on the engineering students' education? How could the physical structure be used as a teaching tool for visual and experiential learners?

Then there was the problem of aesthetics; he thought the sculpture might be seen as "ugly." Nevertheless, he proceeded, following AISC's steel sculpture plans and specifying an 8-ft × 8-ft × 8-ft model. Then, a fabricator partner was identified—Tyler Steel Company (an AISC member) to fabricate the steel.

Locating the sculpture outside of the engineering classrooms was paramount to establishing a more hands-on approach to learning. "It provides a unique opportunity to engage students with a real-life demonstration of the connections and steel structural appearances," Nalbone said.

Learn more about AISC's steel sculpture program and how to erect a sculpture on your campus at [www.aisc.org/steelsculpture](http://www.aisc.org/steelsculpture).