New AISC Specification Receives ANSI Accreditation

The completion of the new 2005 AISC *Specification for Structural Steel Buildings* (ANSI/AISC 360-05) is a landmark for AISC in more ways than one. Not only is it the first AISC specification to combine both Allowable Stress Design (ASD) and Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) into one document, it is also the first time that the main AISC specification has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The AISC Committee on Specifications was accredited by ANSI in 2000, and AISC was accredited as an organization in 2002. Standards such as the *Specification for the Design, Fabrication, and Erection of Steel Safety-Related Structures for Nuclear Facilities* (ANSI/AISC N690) and the *Seismic Provisions for Structural Steel Buildings* (ANSI/AISC 341) already carry the ANSI stamp of approval.

In order to acquire and maintain ANSI accreditation, AISC must agree to follow a specific set of operating procedures that include committee membership requirements, voting procedures, public review, and an appeals process. ANSI/AISC 360-05 was balloted and approved by the AISC Committee on Specifications (COS), which is a balanced committee consisting of approximately equal numbers of participants from three interest categories: industry (e.g. fabricators and steel producers), consultants, and general interest (e.g. educators and researchers).

The 12 task committees that fall under the COS perform the work of developing provisions and preparing the document for ballot by the COS. The task committees are made up of COS members, as well as other outside participants from the interest categories defined above.

The scope of work for ten of the task committees is defined by the various chapters in the main specification. There are also two task committees dedicated to two separate AISC specifications covering specialized topics, the seismic provisions, and the nuclear specification.

Once the provisions have been prepared by the task committees, the document undergoes rigorous balloting by the COS. All negative votes must be resolved and any resulting changes are re-circulated to the committee. The general public has at least one opportunity to review the document for a 45-day period when it is announced both in the ANSI *Standards Action* publication and on the AISC web site.

All negative comments submitted in response to the public review must be resolved if possible. Any outstanding negative voters are notified of their right to appeal, based on the operating procedures. Lastly, the committee roster and final ballot results are submitted to ANSI for their approval. The ANSI process leads to the development of a true consensus document for all to use.

AISC committee rosters are evaluated on a two-year cycle. There may be limited openings available, depending on the balance and representation on the existing committees at the end of the cycle. If you are interested in learning more about AISC committee membership, please contact Cynthia Duncan at duncan@aisc.org. ★

Educator Session for New AISC Specification and Manual

AISC's Department of University Relations will hold a session for educators entitled "First Look: The 2005 AISC Specification and Manual" on October 20, 2005 at the Hyatt Rosemont hotel in Chicago.

The session, presented by members of AISC's Engineering and Research staff, will review new and revised provisions of the forthcoming AISC *Specification for Structural Steel Buildings* and the accompanying *Manual of Steel Construction*. Most significantly, the incorporation of the ASD and LRFD design methods into the single new *Specification* will be discussed in detail. Order forms for the new *Manual* and *Specification* will be provided for educators to prepare for upcoming steel design courses.

AISC will provide reimbursement up to $350 for attendees. If you have questions or would like to be registered for the workshop, please contact Fromy Rosenberg, P.E., Director of University Relations at rosenberg@aisc.org, or by phone at 312.670.5408; or contact Megan Maurer, University Relations Coordinator at maurer@aisc.org or by phone at 312.670.5418. ★

Steel Joist Institute Introduces Associate Memberships

The Steel Joist Institute announced that associate membership is now available to individuals, partnerships, or corporations associated with the steel joist industry.

Those eligible for associate membership may include equipment manufacturers, coatings suppliers, material suppliers, joist specifiers, and other entities and individuals allied with the industry.

Membership information is available by contacting Robert R. Hackworth at the Steel Joist Institute by phone at 843.626.1995 or through e-mail at rhackworth@steeljoist.org. Visit SJI's web site at **www.steeljoist.org** for more information. ★

AISC Seminars

Be sure to check out the remaining 2005 AISC seminars and mark your calendar to attend the next seminar in your area.

AISC continues to offer its popular seminars, "Field Fixes" and "Steel Design After College," and has introduced one new seminar, "Seismic Braced Frames—Design Concepts and Connections." As always, leading industry experts will serve as featured speakers for each of the seminars.

Continuing a long tradition of providing cutting-edge education courses at reasonable prices, AISC continues to offer the successful Bring a Buddy program—each paid registrant can bring one colleague for only $100 more. New in 2005 is the ability to register online and save $5 off the registration fee.

For detailed information regarding each of the seminars or to sign up, visit the Continuing Education area of the AISC web site at **www.aisc.org/seminars**. ★

Concrete Prices Rise

After a period of steady price increases, concrete producers raised costs July 1 in response to a period of sustained shortages. A May 2005 survey of the Portland Cement Association reported that 23 states were experiencing tight cement supplies. At the same time, concrete prices had risen 10% since a year before, according to the Associated General Contractors of America (*AGC News and Views*, Volume 2, Issue 11, June 23, 2005). The July 1 price hike yielded an additional 15% increase (*South Florida Business Journal*, June 24, 2005), amounting to an approximate 25% increase in concrete costs since early 2004.

As concrete prices continue to rise, structural steel supplies are high and costs are falling. According to the American Institute of Steel Construction, structural steel material costs have dropped more than $100 per ton since the beginning of 2005, reflecting a 20% decrease in the cost of material. The current inventory of structural steel exceeds one million tons and delivery to fabricators from warehouses can be accomplished in a matter of days. ★

Hobart Institute of Welding Technology 2006 Technical Course Schedule

The Hobart Institute of Welding Technology has released its schedule of technical courses for 2006, which includes an American Welding Society Certified Welding Inspector (AWS-CWI) exam preparation course and a refresher course for welding instructors.

Complete course descriptions and dates are available on the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology's web site at **www.welding.org/technical/courselist.html**. ★

Correction

The June 2005 issue of *Modern Steel Construction* (2005 I.D.E.A.S. Awards coverage) incorrectly stated the length of the glass curtain wall of the Colorado Convention Center's lobby. The lobby's curtain wall is approximately 600′ long. We regret the error. ★

NCCER Careers in Construction Week and Career Site

The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) will present the first annual National Careers in Construction Week October 17-21, 2005.

To help create community awareness, NCCER will provide an array of promotional materials and suggestions, including a comprehensive DVD of career image videos and career resources such as promotional posters, media tips, sample press releases, ad slicks, and a "Careers in Construction" planning guide. Materials will be distributed free of charge to contractors, schools, and association chapters. Select materials will also be available for download in August from the NCCER web site at **www.nccer.org**.

NCCER also announced the formation of an alliance with Monster®, the global online careers property and flagship brand of Monster Worldwide, Inc., to provide a one-stop online career resource center for the construction industry. The resource center is accessible via both the NCCER (**www.nccer.org**) and Monster (**www.monster.com**) web sites.

The site will focus on the vast employment opportunities available in the construction industry. Visitors can search Monster's database of local and national construction jobs, build a resume, create a job search agent that automatically retrieves relevant job listings, access up-to-date information about the construction profession, and find useful links for teachers, students, and parents researching careers in construction. ★