AISC is now an ANSI-Accredited Organization

AISC has been recently approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for Accreditation under the Organization Method. This is a broader designation than Accreditation by the Committee Method, which AISC has had since July 2000.

The new designation gives AISC the flexibility to establish additional consensus bodies for the purpose of writing ANSI standards on various aspects of steel design and construction. Currently, AISC has one such committee, the Committee on Specifications, which approves all currently published AISC specifications for steel building design. The first standard to be accredited through the Committee on Specifications will be the 2002 Seismic Provisions for Structural Steel Buildings.

ANSI is a private and non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system. For more information on ANSI or accreditation, visit www.ansi.org.

Supplement No. 1 to the ASD Specification

The first supplement to the Specification for Structural Steel Buildings, Allowable Stress Design and Plastic Design (ASD Specification) dated June 1, 1989, is now available in print and on the AISC web site for free downloading.

This new supplement (approved December 17, 2001) is a limited supplement that updates the 1989 document, focusing on safety-related issues. Some of the revisions included are as follows: updated code and specification references and the inclusion of new materials, such as ASTM A913 and A992; new filler metal toughness and shape material toughness criteria for certain conditions; the deletion of explicit loading requirements, other than by reference to the governing building code and ASCE 7; and reduced design wall thickness for hollow structural sections produced by the electric-resistance-welding method.

The limited nature of this supplement is in anticipation of a complete integration of ASD with LRFD criteria within a single AISC Specification in 2005. For more comprehensive coverage of provisions that have evolved since 1989 for all aspects of the design of structural steel buildings, such as shear lag, stability bracing, evaluation of existing structures, and fatigue criteria, see the 1999 Load and Resistance Factor Design Specification for Structural Steel Buildings.

The new ASD Supplement No. 1 is available as a free download at www.aisc.org/freedownloads or can be purchased for $15 ($10 for AISC members) by calling 800.644.2400.

73rd Shock & Vibration Symposium

The annual Shock and Vibration Symposium is the leading forum for the structural dynamics and vibration community to present and discuss new developments and on-going research. The Symposium was established in 1947 and includes both classified and unclassified sessions. The classified sessions allow critical technology and classified (up to secret level) research to be presented in closed forums of cleared U.S. Government and government-contractor researchers. Topics covered at the symposium include shock-ship testing, water shock, weapons effects (air blast, ground shock, cratering, penetration) shock physics, earthquake engineering, structural dynamics, and shock and vibration instrumentation and experiment techniques. Panel discussions address topics such as new software developments or accelerometer isolation problems. Tutorials provide up-to-date technology overviews by leading specialists.

The symposium is scheduled for the week of November 18-22, 2002 at The Viking Hotel in Newport, RI. The featured government agency is the Naval Sea Systems Command Underwater Warfare Center (NUWC). General Dynamics Electric Boat Corporation (EB) is the featured company. For more information, visit www.saviac.org/upcoming_events.htm.

FHWA Steel Bridge Conference and AASHTO LRFD Short Course

The 2002 FHWA Steel Bridge Conference for the Western United States will be held on December 12-13, 2002 at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center, Salt Lake City, UT. The theme of this year’s conference is “Emerging Technologies in Steel Bridge Design and Construction with Emphasis on High Performance Steel (HPS).” A short-course on the Design of Steel Bridges using AASHTO LRFD will be held on December 11, 2002.

Advance registration fees are $200. Discount registration is available for DOT employees. The advance registration deadline is October 30, 2002. For complete program and registration information, visit www.nabro.unl.edu or call 402.472.3472.

Structural Engineers Conference

The National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) will hold its tenth annual conference in Chicago, IL, October 17-19, 2002. This year’s conference themes are “From Tunnels to Towers: Bridging the Centuries” and “A History of Structural Engineering in Chicago.” Held at Chicago’s Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel, registration is $495 per person. Visit www.ncsea.com for more information.

Send press releases and other information for the News and Events section to Keith Grubb at grubb@modernsteel.com
AISC Offers Online Q&A Program

The American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc. (AISC) is offering a new series of on-line chats to help answer designers’ and contractors’ questions about steel design and construction. The chats are held each Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. central time. The second Tuesday of each month features well-known experts on a specific topic, while the chats during the remainder of the month feature representatives from AISC’s Steel Solutions Center who will be available to answer questions on any subject of interest. Upcoming AISC online chats are as follows:

August 13: Low Floor-to-Floor-Height Systems. Whether it’s a staggered truss, girder slab, or an in-wall beam system, steel designers can easily and economically produce projects with less than 9’ floor-to-floor heights. This month’s e-panel will include experts on the most popular systems to answer questions about design, cost, speed, and erection considerations. Panelists include: Robert McNamara from McNamara/Salvia, Inc.; Rimas Veitas from Veitas & Veitas Engineers, Inc.; and Tom Faraone from AISC Marketing.

September 10: AWS D1.1:2002. The latest version of the welding code features numerous changes that affect the design of welded connections. This month’s e-panel includes: Donald D. Rager, president of Rager Consulting Inc., and current chair of the AWS D1.1 Committee; Dave McQuaid, president of D.L. McQuaid Consultants and immediate past chair of the AWS D1.1 Committee; Duane Miller, manager of The Lincoln Electric Company’s Welding Technology Center; and Robert E. Shaw, president of the Steel Structures Technology Center.

October 8: HSS Connections. The skyrocketing use of Hollow Structural Sections has led to an inevitable growth in questions about how to connect tubular sections to other HSS members as well as to wide flange members. This month’s e-panel includes: James M. Fisher, vice president of Computerized Structural Design; Donald R. Sherman, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Lawrence A. Kloiber, vice president of engineering at LeJeune Steel.

November 12: Steel Plate Shear Walls. One of the newest techniques for improving the seismic response of steel high-rise buildings is the use of steel plate shear walls. In addition, SPSW has the potential for use in blast resistance. This month’s e-panel includes Abolhasan Astanen-Asl, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of California-Berkeley, Peter Timler, a Canadian consultant on several steel plate shear wall projects, and a lead engineer from Skilling Ward Magnusson Birkshire.

December 10: FEMA 350/AISC Seismic Provisions. The updated AISC Seismic Provisions incorporates a number of the recommendations that were generated by the SAC Steel Project.

All AISC online chats will take place the at 2:00 p.m. central time. To participate in the chat, please visit www.aisc.org/chat.html.

Kansas City Steel Software Expo


This year’s show will also have representatives from the AISC available to answer questions about EDI and AISC membership.

Additional information and photos from past shows are on the Steel-Link web site located at www.steel-link.com, or contact Paul McGuire at coastdetl@aol.com or 785.286.4548 for more information.

Shop Painting Publication

New from SSPC: The Society for Protective Coatings, Shop Painting of Steel identifies and describes various types of industrial and light industrial/commercial paint shops, their methods of operation, and the relative advantages and limitations of shop painting vs. painting in the field. The publication includes over 15 SSPC standards in their entirety. Also included is a glossary of nearly 100 terms and acronyms, a description of SSPC standards referenced throughout the text, a select bibliography and a complete subject index.

Complete ordering information is available at www.sspc.org, or you may call toll-free 877.281.7772 in the United States (412.281.2331 internationally). The publication costs $66.50 for SSPC members and $95.00 for non-members. Orders placed before August 31 receive additional discounts.
SSTC Offers Design Seminars

The Steel Structures Technology Center (SSTC) has scheduled a series of two one-day seminars in several cities this fall. Seminars run on consecutive days in each location, and attendees may register for one or both seminars.

Structural Welding: Design and Specification is a seminar that incorporates the latest AWS D1.1 Structural Welding Code, the latest AISC specifications and recent research. Course topics include weld design rules and restrictions, weld economics and constructability, as well as welding procedures, prequalified joints, fabrication criteria, inspection and acceptance criteria, non-destructive testing, welding symbols for drawings, and retrofitting existing structures.

Steel Connections: Seismic Applications focuses on the design and details for welded connections classified as prequalified under the recently-published FEMA 350 document. The presentation will include coverage of the specifications and quality-assurance provisions of FEMA 353.

The welding seminar on day one runs from 1:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm. in Las Vegas) and the connections seminar on day two runs 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Seminar locations and dates are:

San Francisco (Concord) 9/24-25
Los Angeles (Buena Park) 10/1-2
Laurel, MD (D.C. area) 10/9-10
Houston 10/15-16
Dallas (Irving) 10/17-18
Portland, OR 11/6-7
Chicago (Elk Grove Village) 11/19-20
Phoenix (Tempe) 12/2-3
Las Vegas 12/5-6

The fee for each seminar is $185 per person, or $340 for both seminars. Group discounts are available, and each seminar is worth 0.65 CEUs. For complete schedule and registration information, visit www.steelstructures.com or call 248.893.0132.

How Big is the Earth?

Modern Steel Construction thanks the following teams for participating in the experiment to measure the circumference of the earth described in the June 2002 “Notes from the Editor” column:

Steven A. Morgan of Alamo Iron Works, San Antonio, TX, and Mike Smith of Bendco Bending and Rolling, Pasadena, TX.

Tim Trokey of Midland, MI, and Barbara Trokey of Grosse Pointe Farms, MI.

Because it’s summer and we’re feeling particularly generous, these four participants will each receive a free registration to the 2003 North American Steel Construction Conference (Baltimore, MD, April 2-5) as well as “Steel Fanatic” baseball caps.