

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Scott L. Melnick

Until fairly recently, *Modern Steel Construction*—and many other magazines—offered a “reader service card,” where readers could circle a number to indicate their desire to receive information from a specific advertiser. We discontinued the practice when it became clear that most readers preferred to directly contact advertisers for information. In fact, in our most recent reader survey, we learned that almost two-thirds of our readers prefer to use the Internet to access information about products—not surprising considering that more than 70% of our readers have access to a high-speed connection.

We also learned that while readers like project stories, they want more technical features too—stories that provide information they can use in their everyday business. We’ve already started implementing this request (for example, we’ve added the very popular *SteelWise* series to go along with *Steel Interchange*). This month, I thought I’d highlight my top five newly available technical tidbits—some from AISC, and some from other sources.

1. **AESS.** Hopefully, everyone saw the special Architecturally Exposed Structural Steel supplement in last month’s *MSC*. This section provided information on what designers expect when they specify a variety of conditions, presented a sample specification, and provided cost data. If you missed the supplement, you can download a copy at www.aisc.org/aess.
2. **Bi-Steel.** Corus (formerly British Steel) has developed a steel-concrete composite modular system that offers reduced construction depth and intriguing blast protection. In addition, the modular construction system speeds erection. Surefast Structures recently introduced the system in this country with a demonstration at the Quantico Marine Corps Base in Quantico, VA that included erecting a building and then holding daily blast testing. For more information on this system, visit www.bi-steel.com.
3. **LEED.** Last month *MSC* included a report on the structural considerations of sustain-

able design. In addition to an explanation of the LEED rating system, the full report includes a LEED scorecard, recycled content letter templates, and a listing of LEED certified projects. All of this information can be accessed at www.aisc.org/sustainability.

4. **Innovative Steel Connections.** The Steel Construction Institute in the U.K. has developed a new simple beam/column and beam/beam connection (Quicon) comprising a T-piece with two or more spaced slots in its web. The slots are shaped to allow the heads of studs, which are attached to the beam ends, to pass through them. The system apparently doesn’t require any tighter tolerances, yet is supposed to drastically cut erection time. Information on this system is available at www.e-core.org.uk/pubs/cas-eSC.pdf.
5. **On-line continuing education.** As I mentioned earlier, a growing percentage of *MSC* readers now have high-speed access to the Internet. AISC has long been a leader in providing quality seminars. Now you can take advantage of one of the best of these programs without leaving your office. For just \$100 (\$150 for non-members of AISC), you can take the four-hour *Fundamentals of Connection Design* course. Taught by Tom Murray, one of the industry’s leading experts on connection design, the program provides useful information on bolting, welding and connecting elements. It also will give you insight into the design of shear, moment, bracing, and other connections used in steel structures. To access this course, visit www.aisc.org/online-seminars.htm.

Let me know what you think of these tidbits—and let me know of any other technical issues you’d like to see more coverage of in *MSC*.

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