

## Software Solutions

In response to your editorial in the April 2004 issue of *MSC* regarding the lack of software solutions for AISC *Design Guide 11*, I would just like to let you know what RAM International is doing to help engineers investigate vibration issues for steel and steel joist floor systems.

RAM International and Thomas Murray, Ph.D., P.E. have recently announced our agreement to integrate the RAM Structural System with Murray's newly developed FloorVibe software. FloorVibe is the only program I am aware of that accurately implements the AISC *Design Guide 11* for floor vibrations.

The programs will be linked so that the floor geometry and loading in a RAM Structural System model can be

transferred directly and seamlessly to FloorVibe, allowing the design engineer to thoroughly investigate vibration issues and to ensure that floors are designed per AISC *Design Guide 11* guidelines. Advanced features will be added to the RAM Structural System to idealize a floor system to conform to the limitations of the design guide, unlike competing products that provide results for configurations even if they do not conform to the limitations of the *Guide*.

We are extremely pleased to be working with Tom, who is recognized as one of the leading experts on floor vibration issues in North America. Through this partnership our clients will not only be provided with the only product that truly conforms to AISC *Design Guide 11*, they will also be gaining access to Mur-

ray's future developments in this emerging technology that is so critical to serviceability issues.

All of our North American users of the RAM Structural System under a current annual support and maintenance agreement at the time of release will be given a free copy of FloorVibe along with their RAM Structural System v9.0 upgrade. The fully integrated system is scheduled for a January 2005 release.

I am confident that this collaboration will finally provide engineers with a reliable and accurate tool to help make sure their designs conform to the AISC *Design Guide 11*.

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