

## editor's note



**MY WIFE CLAIMS I SPEND WAY TOO MUCH TIME ON THE PHONE.** But I'm not making calls; rather, I'm reading or playing games or watching videos. And frankly, I don't think I'm alone.

But while cell phone apps have become ubiquitous, there are unfortunately few aimed at the steel design and construction community. As a result, AISC is sponsoring a new contest for the creation of Steel Apps. The goal is to have more apps available that help with the design, fabrication or erection of structural steel buildings and/or bridges. And the winning developers get more than fame and applause; they'll receive cash prizes—\$5,000 for the top app, followed by awards of \$3,000 and \$1,000.

The genesis of the competition was with Erin Criste, a staff engineer in the AISC Steel Solutions Center, who, as a proof of concept, created a nifty little app to help identify basic aspects of high-strength structural steel bolts. The new Build-A-Bolt app can be downloaded for free at [www.aisc.org/boltapp](http://www.aisc.org/boltapp) and is available for both iOS and Android devices. The app is a bolt selector that helps identify the appropriate bolt, nut and washer combination for any given application. It also can be used in the field to determine which combinations are available on the job site.

The Steel Apps competition is open to all U.S. residents. For complete rules and guidelines (as well as details on Build-A-Bolt) see this month's SteelWise. If you have any questions, contact the AISC Steel Solutions Center at [solutions@aisc.org](mailto:solutions@aisc.org) or 866.ASK.AISC.

For those of you who don't feel comfortable with programming but who still have great ideas, AISC has another competition for you. As Carly Hurd, AISC's director of membership explains: "Do you have the next great idea for a groundbreaking technology, model shop or building that could potentially revolutionize the future of the steel design and construction industry? Enter AISC's first-ever Future of Steel competition!"

"The competition rewards and celebrates innovative ideas for the future of

structural steel fabrication, erection, engineering, design and construction," she adds. "And you have the opportunity to win one of three cash prizes, totaling \$2,000. AISC is looking for design concepts for innovations that haven't been realized yet by the steel design and construction industry. We believe the future of the industry lies in the areas of innovation, which is driven by great ideas. Let your inner visionary and inventor shine; the sky's the limit!"

The only requirement is that designs and graphics be sent electronically. All images should be 300-dpi JPEG, TIFF or EPS files, preferably 4 in. by 6 in. or larger. Please do not embed photographs or figures in a Microsoft Word document (or any other type) unless you have also included separate image files. AutoCAD files cannot be used; submit structural details as line drawings or high-resolution PDFs.

Competition entries can be submitted by an individual or a team. Please also include a title for your innovation and a brief description with your entry, as well as the entrant's name(s) and/or company. All submissions represent that the entrant grants AISC an irrevocable, worldwide, paid-in-full license to publish (in both print and electronic form) all of the designs, images, drawings, graphics or electronic files provided by the entrant.

Email your entries (as well as any questions) to [hurd@aisc.org](mailto:hurd@aisc.org) by October 1, 2013, and label the subject line: "Future of Steel Competition." All of the entries will then be posted publicly to AISC's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/AISCdotORG](http://www.facebook.com/AISCdotORG), where they'll be voted on by fans. The three entries that receive the most votes will be crowned the winners.

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