

#### Director's Notes

Over the Memorial Day weekend, I attended a meeting in Doha, Qatar. The trip was sponsored by Q-Coat, a major supplier of epoxy-coated reinforcing steel in the region that is a joint venture between Qatar Steel Company and Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Company.



The trip had several purposes. On May 26, 2014, I presented a paper on research supporting the continued use of epoxy-coated reinforcing steel to a meeting of approximately 80 people, representing Ministry, University and Consulting organizations. Also presenting at the meeting was Paul Krauss from WJE and Matt O'Reilly from Kansas University. Concerns still exist in the Middle East based upon the reports from the 1990s regarding corrosion of structures in the Florida Keys. The seminar was actively discussed in the Qatar newspapers the next morning.

The second purpose was to visit the Q-Coat manufacturing facility to discuss CRSI Epoxy Plant Certification. The production plant utilizes three 12-bar coating lines with a capacity of 100,000 tonnes pa. Senior management of Q-Coat has provided the go-ahead for the Certification and we expect to initiate the Certification process in 2014.



The visit reminded me of how far our industry has progressed with quality over the past 22 years. Our industry uses continuous holiday detection, conducts contamination and steel roughness measurements, and uses appropriate documentation to provide data that is

used to verify high quality control. Introduction of the CRSI program to the Middle East will lead to improved quality of coated reinforcing in the region.



#### Certification

During May, EIG sent EIG members a template that may assist in plants developing a Quality Control Manual that meets the new CRSI Standards for Epoxy Plant and Epoxy Fabrication. If you are unfamiliar with the development of quality manuals, then these templates should save significant time in the development of plant documentation.

Please let EIG know if you have any questions regarding the programs and EIG will try to assist as best we can.

#### ASTM

EIG attended the ASTM A1.05 meeting, held in Toronto, Ontario, along with several EIG members. At the Coated Reinforcing Section meeting, a negative from Dr. David Darwin was extensively discussed related to increasing the allowable thickness of coatings for large bar diameters coated according to ASTM A934. At the Section meeting the negative was found non-persuasive, but at the Subcommittee level, the negative was found to be persuasive. No changes in the A934 will occur.



ASTM A775 was balloted to permit republication and the A775-07b (2014) edition is now available. Further modification to this specification will be balloted during 2014, primarily updating the ordering and inspection requirements.

At the Section meeting, the zinc industry proposed a continuous galvanizing work item that will be balloted later in 2014. EIG has provided initial comments to the zinc industry. Additional information is later in this newsletter.

#### FHWA CRRB Seminar, Topeka, KS

Due to plane delays at O'Hare, EIG was unable to attend the Corrosion Resistant Bar seminar in Topeka, Kansas; however, EIG was able to provide the presentation via phone to the 20 KDOT employees. I was later informed

by KDOT members that the presentation was well received.



### NTPEP, Greenville, SC

EIG attended the NTPEP meeting in Greenville South Carolina that was attended by 43 state agencies and several AASHTO representatives. In 2014, 36 bar plants and 20 welded wire reinforcing plants will participate in the NTPEP certification programs.

EIG provided the Steel Reinforcing Committee an update on activities in ASTM, AASHTO, and CRSI including a ballot proposed for M254/T253, and the finalization of CRSI Epoxy Plant and Fabrication standards. No discussion was held on epoxy certification by NTPEP.

Please let EIG know if you have any questions.



### Minnesota Department of Transportation

EIG visited Maria Masten from Minnesota Department of Transportation to discuss dowel products. Maria is a leader in the pavements community on this subject and MnDOT does not permit epoxy-coated reinforcing steel dowels to be used in the Minneapolis/St. Paul areas. The meeting was also attended by Matt Zeller from the Concrete Paving Association of Minnesota (CPAM).

MnDOT is open to our industry's suggestions for improved dowel products and trial locations would be made available for suitable products.

### Competitive Products

The International Zinc Association recently reported that galvanizing reinforcing steel has 400,000 ton market potential. IZA official Stephen Wilkinson said the group is doing outreach to the steel industry and to governments in charge of spending on infrastructure such as bridges and parking garages that a new process known as continuous galvanizing rebar is safer and more cost-effective than the current

industry standard, epoxy.

"It's an educational issue," Wilkinson told Platts. "It's up to us to educate people that epoxy doesn't work over the long term."

Wilkinson told the conference that epoxy's disadvantages include cosmetic staining initially and structural weakening over time, as it can eventually crack, allowing for corrosion. What's more, epoxy has been banned in some parts of the US. Another option, stainless steel, can be costly, he said.

Wilkinson said two companies in North America, two more in Brazil and another two in India are "very interested in putting in these [galvanizing] lines." He said that approximately seven companies currently have CGR operations.

EIG will continue to monitor the progress of this industry.

### Quote

*The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress*  
- Charles Kettering

Date	Event
June 8 – 12	IBC, Pittsburgh, PA
June 22 – 26	AASHTO Bridge, Columbus, OH
July 21 – 25	PCA Professors Seminar, Skokie, IL
July 27 – Aug 1	AASHTO Materials, Minneapolis, MN
Sept 5 – 9	PCI Bridge Convention, Washington DC
October 26 – 29	ACI, Washington DC
October 27 – 29	ASBI, Hartford, CT
November 2 – 6	CRSI, Chicago, IL

