#### "Crack-Free" Repair Materials ... Are We There Yet ?

#### Minnesota Concrete Council

Frank Apicella BASF Corp - Construction Chemicals February 16, 2012





- Articulate the challenges that lead to premature failure of concrete repairs
- Understand the repair industry's strategy to improve quality and durability of concrete repairs
- Use performance based specifications to generate better repairs
- Properly assess the benefits of the newest ASTM test method for determining crack resistance in repair materials

# **The Challenge with Repairs**

A little more than 50% of repairs performed on the Corps structures are performing satisfactorily, which is an unacceptable rate.



# US Army Corps of Engineers®

Most repairs don't last

### **Most Repairs Don't Last**

- BRE Studies (UK)
- Survey of 215 structures
- 20% or repairs unsatisfactory within six years
- 70% of repairs unsatisfactory within 10 years



Is this acceptable performance?

http://projects.bre.co.uk/conrepnet/pages/default.htm



# Why Do Repairs Fail?



Material performance

#### Performance of Repairs

Causes: Design, Installation, Materials



Source: US Army Corps. of Engineers REMR-CS2 Report

# The #1 Problem with Repairs

"Three certainties in life: death, taxes, and concrete will crack"



#### Modes of Repair Failure

### **Design Challenges for Engineers**



- Project assessment
- Product selection
- Product comparison
- Specifications
- Project control

### **Installation Challenges for Contractors**



- Correct product selection
- Surface preparation
- Mixing
- Placement
- Finishing
- Skilled labor

### **Material Challenges for Manufacturers**

- R&D expertise
- R&D cost recovery
- Formulation design balancing physical & handling properties
- Competitive environment



# **The Industry Responds**

#### **Cross industry cooperation**

- Every discipline in restoration
  - Engineers, researchers
  - Contractors, owners
  - Manufacturers, academics

#### Establish goals to improve

- Concrete repair & protection
  - Efficiency
  - Safety
  - Quality

Vision 2020 A Vision for the Concrete Repair, Protection and Strengthening Industry



### **Blue Print for the Industry**

- 1. Mechanism for industry cooperation
- 2. Speed process of document creation
- 3. Create repair code

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- Performance based specifications
- Improve cracking resistance
- 6. Worker friendly materials and methods
- 7. Performance modeling system
- 8. Industry strategic research plan
- 9. Increase industry professionals
- 10. Better contract documents
- 11. Owner education tools
- 12. Condition assessment standards
- 13. Special repair systems

Vision 2020 A Vision for the Concrete Repair, Protection and Strengthening Industry



### **ICRI Data Sheet Protocol**

#### **Data Sheet Protocol provides:**

- Logical
- Standardized
- Reporting of repair material information

#### To avoid:

- Design errors
- Improper material selection
- Installation errors
- Failed repairs





#### ACI / ICRI Data Sheet Protocol Physical & Durability Properties



INTERNATIONAL CONCRETE REPAIR INSTITUTE



- Bond strength
- Compressive strength
- Direct tensile strength
- Length change (shrinkage)
- Modulus of elasticity
- Compressive creep
- Cracking resistance
- Flexural strength

- Freezing and thawing resistance
- Scaling resistance
- Rapid chloride permeability

If repairs crack all other properties are compromised

oride ponding

fate resistance

emical resistance

- Splitting tensile strength
- Coefficient of thermal expansion

# **Performance Requirements**



- Guide for all types of repair materials
- Different tests & properties
- Range of values
- State-of-the-art

What should be reported

ACI 364.3R-09

State-of-the-art

# **Solving the Problem of Cracking**



#### **Shrinkage vs Tendency to Crack**



#### ASTM C 157 "Standard Test Method for Length Change of Hardened Hydraulic-Cement Mortar and Concrete"









#### **Autogenous Shrinkage**

**Plastic Shrinkage** 



**Fresh Mortar** 

Initial Set

Final Set







**TENSILE STRAIN/Time** 



#### **The Answer**



- Its more than shrinkage
- Materials with low shrinkage can and do crack
- The answer is balance



### **How is Cracking Performance Defined?**



- Measures 4-forces of cracking
- Comparative test for materials
  - Accelerated Days in the ring do not equal days in the field
  - Shows relationship between materials

Ring dimensions				
Diameter, mm (in.)		Thickness		Researchers and
External a	Internal b	mm (in.)	a/b	country (reference)
175 (6.9)	125 (4.9)	34 (1.3)	140	Carlson and Reading, U.S. (16)
405 (15.9) 125 (4.9)	325 (12.8) 100 (3.9)	80 (3.1) 25 (1.0)	1.23 1.25	Coutinho, Portugal (17)
70 (2.8)	50 (2.0)	20 (0.8)	1.40	Popov, Opentliker, and Derugin, USSR (18)
40 (1.6)	30 (1.2)	—	1.33	Stolnikov and Litvinova, USSR (18)
57 (2.2)	27 (1.1)	20 (0.8)	2.11	Lermit, France (18)
100 (3.9)	68 (2.7)	32 (1.3)	1.47	Kondo, Japan (18)
660 (25.9)	508 (20.0)	102 (4.0)	1.3	Swarmy, Banduopadhyay, and Stavrides, UK (19)
374 (14.7)	304 (12.0)	140 (5.5)	1.23	Shah, Karagulor, and Sarigaphuti, U.S. (20)
155 (6.1)	115 (4.5)	50 (2.0)	1.35	Technical research center, Finland (21)
175 (6.9)	112.5 (4.4)	50 (2.0)	1.55	Fosroc, UK (22)
72 (2.8)	37 (1.5)	35 (1.4)	1.95	Golubkov, USSR (18)
190 (7.5)	90 (3.5)	100 (3.9)	2.11	Guidelines for Production of Lightweight Concrete Structures, USSR (23)
318 (12.5)	254 (10.0)	102 (4.0)	1.25	WDP/SPS, U.S. (24)

# **AASHTO Restrained Ring Method**



Work done by B. Pease, A. Hossain and J. Weiss (Purdue University)

- AASHTO ring is not sensitive enough for rapid comparative evaluation of materials due to degree of restraint
  - AASHTO PP34-99  $\rightarrow$  55 60%
  - ASTM C1581  $\rightarrow$  70 75%
- Stress distribution peaks at the outer and inner surfaces due to thickness of mortar



#### **ASTM C1581 - Cracking Classification**



<sup>2003.</sup> 

### **ASTM C 1581 Cracking Potential**



- Measures 4-forces of cracking
- ASTM requires test run for 28 days or until specimen cracks
- ICRI and ACI DSP requires test run for 60 days or until specimen cracks

# How ASTM C1581 Works



#### What About "Regular Concrete"?



### **ASTM C1581 Results**



# **Industry Ring Test Performance**



#### State of the industry cracking potential testing

- ASTM C1581 requirements driving innovation
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party testing provides validation, assurance and credibility

#### **Review**



- Concrete is a versatile, durable material
- Maintenance and restoration increases the useful life of concrete
- The repair industry's has a blue print to improve quality and durability of concrete repairs
- Performance based specifications like the ICRI and ACI DSP can lead to better repairs
- ASTM C1581 is the most reliable method for determining crack resistance in repair materials

# **Predicting Cracking Performance**

#### Material Design and Selection ... Compromise and Balance



### **Repairs that Don't Crack Last Longer**



#### DSP can keep you in control

- Reduce cracking
- Clear performance based specifications
- Quality control on site

#### How to improve your repairs

- Implement DSP guidelines
- Require 60 day crack free performance in Ring Test
- Educate and follow industry guidelines

# "Crack-Free" Repair Materials ... Are We There Yet ?

- Design errors
- Installation problems
- Material performance
- Loading effects
- Environmental effects
- ... and other issues can STILL cause cracking.....



#### **Raise the Bar and Drive Innovation**

#### ... Cracking is not acceptable in concrete repair either



#### **Thank You!**

# Any Questions?

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