

The International Association of Concrete Drillers and Sawers, IACDS proudly announced the winners of the Diamond Award competition at a press conference on 4th February during the World of Concrete 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada. President of IACDS, Patrick O'Brien presented the gold, silver and bronze awards to the winners from Germany, Italy and Mexico.

Gold Award to Braun

The gold award in this competition was awarded to Braun of Germany for the company's outstanding work dismantling a highly-contaminated steam dryer at a nuclear power plant. The project involved putting the steam dryer in a steel formwork for radiation shielding, encasing it with concrete, and cutting it into pieces via remote control using diamond wire sawing techniques. The cut parts were dismantled using the wire saw and packed in Type IV Konrad containers suitable for final disposal.

Silver to Tondin

Taking the silver award was Tondin srl, for their work on the project to consolidate the foundation of the Loggia Palace in Brescia, Italy. Tondin was able to devise a high speed drilling system with micro bits to fit into confined spaces to restore the foundation.

Bronze to Mexico and Germany

The bronze award was won jointly by ADRA Tecnologia en Servicio of Mexico and by Germany's BWW. ADRA's job on a crucible Mittal Steel repair project where diamond tools were required to cut graphite without the use of water. BWW's job involved a large roll mill replacement project with severe time constraints to finish the job in only 120 hours.

Entries from all corners of the world

The Diamond Award competition allows concrete sawing and drilling industry professionals to present their most complex and innovative projects. Entries were judged on the degree of difficulty, planning, complexity, innovation and the quality



Peter White delegate of the GB-association DSA; Patrick O'Brien, president IACDS; Georg Rachor, representative of Norbert Braun GmbH, Germany (First Prize); Tiziano Tondin, Tondin Srl from Italy (Second Prize); Rupert Marko, Bohrtechnik Westerwald GmbH from Germany (Third prize tie); Raul Bracamontes, ADRA tecnologia en Servicios S.A. de C.V., Mexico (Third prize tie).

of the work produced to ensure project success. Following a detailed review of each entry, the judging panel representing members of various country-wide sawing and drilling association, chose the winning projects.

Entries for the award came from all four corners of the globe, including sawing and drilling projects from Japan, Egypt, Russia, Canada, the UK and the US among others. This was the first time the awards were presented outside Germany, where the competition began in 2000. Future award competitions will be rotated around the globe in conjunction with major exhibitions.

Valuable sponsors

The 2009 Diamond Award was only possible because of the many sponsors who supported the competition. The award was sponsored by Cedima, Germany, Diamond Products, USA, Hilti, Liechtenstein, Husqvarna Construction Products,



The Diamond Award ceremony attracted a large audience.

Belgium, Hydro-Tec, Germany, Nestag, Switzerland, Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Luxembourg, Tyrolit, Austria and World of Concrete, USA. For more information about the 2009 Diamond Award please visit the www.iacds.org web site.

A detailed presentation you find at the link <http://www.iacds.org/diamondaward/index.html>. Here you can also study all the entries for 2009.

www.iacds.org

CSDA Contractor Survey Results Offer Real Insight

The results of a CSDA contractor member survey in the US conducted by an independent research firm have proven to be very enlightening. The survey, which was completed at the end of 2008 by MemberScope, was conducted to collect operating and financial data from contractor members to provide a profile of the membership. "The survey is a great tool for CSDA contractors to gauge how their business is doing compared to the industry," said Patrick O'Brien

The survey is very comprehensive and includes information about operations including company background, personnel, accounting and finance, and sales and operations, and with a response rate of almost 40%, the findings are

solid. Most respondents are S-Corporations and 25.6% have one or more branch locations. Nearly one third of the members who responded are located in the Midwest. More than half of their work is performed in building renovation with 23% in new construction and 20% in infrastructure, highway, airport, bridge, dams and power plants.

With regards to personnel, there are an average of 25 full-time-equivalent employees at members' companies with 12.6 of these employees being sawing and drilling operators. The hourly wage for a typical operator who works 40.9 hours per week is US\$20.29. Dispatchers make an average hourly wage of

US\$22.53 and estimators make US\$26.33. A typical manager works an average of 49.8 hours a week. An impressive nine out of ten companies responded that they have a safety supervisor and written safety and environmental health programs in place.

The average estimated sales volume for respondents' companies in 2008 is US\$2,663,690, up from an average of US\$2,394,578 reported by these companies for 2005, the first year reported in this survey. The average amount of a company's sales per truck was US\$201,155 with a median of US\$199,000. Flat sawing accounts for 27.8% of total sales with core drilling close behind at 25.8%. Additional services being

offered include selective demolition, decorative cutting, ground penetrating radar and surface preparation.

Operating statement information showed direct operating costs which ranged from an average of US\$987,634 for operator/labour costs to US\$194,631 for diamond tools. Selling expenses including salaries, advertising and travel expenses averaged US\$163,171 while general and administrative expenses, including managers, office and dispatch wages, averaged US\$617,468. The average profit among all companies combined was US\$209,388 with a median of US\$80,000.

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