

Precast Concrete Computes for Mission Critical | Data Centers

The increase of the Internet and extensive use of desktop systems, smartphones, social media, wearable devices, and connected devices is propelling the demand in the global data center construction market. Leading business organizations are embracing innovative technologies such as big data and cloud services to stay competitive in the global market and boost revenues.

In mission critical infrastructures, all components must operate each and every day, without exception or incident. Speed to market, increased efficiency, sustainability and reliability are crucial. Precast concrete structural and envelope systems meet the highly specialized demands of mission critical / data centers by providing cost-effective open spans, passive fire resistance, and durable, high-efficiency, low maintenance building envelopes.

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Does being a quality subcontractor in today's economic boom still mean anything?

We have all seen and experienced it. When the economy is good, the number of available subcontractors increases dramatically due to new 'start-up companies' wanting to get a piece of the pie. The subcontractors who have been in business for many years are typically set up as full-service companies with multiple departments – such as business development, marketing, sales, estimating, engineering, drafting and project management. These internal resources allow subcontractors to help improve the overall process and quality of the construction project for everyone involved. These intangible values consistently get lost when the only factor considered for determining success is the low bid. Again, in one way or another, we all have experienced that old adage 'You get what you pay for'. Unfortunately not all customers appreciate the long term value provided by a quality subcontractor because their only focus is on the initial cost – without much thought in regards to what happens after bid day.

So, how are these experienced subcontractors able to help educate customers about the added value that they bring to a project? Best value procurement has been successfully used in both the private and public sectors to show how "Value Added" bids provide the best solution, and ultimately at a lower cost.

Best value procurement (BVP) is a procurement system that looks at factors other than price when selecting vendors (contractors/subcontractors). BVP makes the selection process clear and simple through the use of specific assessments, and clearly identifies the BVP vendor through a series of metrics like expertise, past proven performance, risk mitigation plans, value added plans, schedule, and price. The expert vendors are also able to prove that they are uniquely qualified for the specific project being requested by providing how many times they have done this specific type of project. If a client is looking to build a multi-million dollar building within a set budget and schedule, it is important to see if potential vendors have completed past projects on such a scale and what the outcome was – final budget, schedule, and customer satisfaction.

Lowest-Bid Procurement does not consider the quality and the reliability of the services provided by the lowest bidder. This has the potential to result in higher risk, which will lead to bigger losses for not only the General Contractor but the Design Team and Owner as well.

Winning projects as a designer / contractor has become increasingly challenging. You not only have to acquire in-depth knowledge about the project and the owner's intentions so you can accurately bid, but you also have to come up with creative solutions that will set you apart. So, why not engage with expert partners like Wells Concrete?

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Project Showcase

New Wells Office & Plant - Brighton, CO: The office building is in the final phase of construction. Paint is currently being applied to the ceilings and walls to be followed by flooring and trim work in the next couple of weeks. The concrete floors in the operations buildings will be complete this week which will allow for final electrical and mechanical activities to complete in the ceilings. The four overhead cranes are on site and will be installed in the indoor casting bay the first week of March. Site concrete and the outdoor casting bed foundations are continuing. Wells has started the installation of structural forms along with making connections to the steam lines needed for heat. The batch plant has completed all major erection activities and electrical wiring has started.



Pioneer Hall - University of Minnesota - Minneapolis, MN: **WINNER WINNER CHICKEN DINNER.** The Pioneer Hall project is the winning project in the Renovation, Expansion or Tenant Improvement Project category for the 2020 MCA Awards of Excellence. In addition, a panel of jurors selected this project for the 2020 PCI Design Awards Program in the category HE - Higher Education / University. The project required a very unique and detailed look at the window openings. Framing this unique look in traditional framing materials, such as wood, would have been very time-consuming and costly due to the fact that they would have to be replaced after every pour. The sheer amount of daily form-detailing work required would have caused Wells to miss the delivery schedule. To overcome this, a 3D printed mold was used to create this custom look, allowing for a great amount of detail in a durable, reusable material.



#BUILDWITHSTRENGTH

Don't be fooled by all the sustainability messaging you hear about cross-laminated timber (CLT). The wood industry claims that CLT is better for the environment than precast concrete. Proponents tout wood's capacity to sequester carbon, but the reality is an eye opener: the wood industry is the largest sector contributing to carbon pollution.

To build an 18-story, 180,000 sq ft CLT building, you need lots of wood - over 17 acres of it. In the process, you'll release 11,533 metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. It's one of the reasons why clear-cutting trees is behind 12% of the world's gas emissions, more than all of the cars and trucks on earth.

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Education Opportunities

Wells is developing a new quarterly webinar series coming to you soon. We are currently working on topics and speakers for these webinars; if you have topic ideas you would like to see, please share them with us.

In the meantime, schedule your next Plant Tour or Lunch & Learn today by [clicking here](#).

Blogs

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