

WORLD OF CONCRETE 2017



Silica dust was public enemy number one at this year's World of Concrete. Every tool manufacturer showed new collection systems. Seen here, a Makita user kicks up sawdust with the new twin-battery cordless rear-handle 7 1/4-inch circular saw.

THIS YEAR'S HOT TOPIC — DUST!

Although (as of this writing) it is too soon for official attendance numbers, the 2017 World of Concrete could be summed up with the same words we have used for the economy for the last few years, "cautiously optimistic." The crowds were here, but likely not quite the 60,000 that came in 2016, which was to be expected given that CONEXPO-CON/AGG is coming in March.

Nevertheless, manufacturers were here in force, an estimated 1,500 plus of them, many showcasing new dust collection systems in advance of the new OSHA crystalline silica regulations that become enforceable on June 23, 2017. These rules have been in place since June 2016 but as of this coming June, OSHA will be assessing penalties for noncompliance.

The short-form guideline is that every **dry** cutting, grinding or boring application that generates concrete dust will require a 99-percent efficient auto-cleaning dust collection system. Employers must also train all workers in the dangers of silica dust and in the proper use of the prescribed dust collection systems.

Manufacturers of hand-held grinders and rotary hammers including Makita, DeWalt, Metabo and Hitachi have developed

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Above, Suresh Srinivasan, DeWalt director of marketing, shows off the new OSHA-compliant HEPA dust collection system for rotary hammers. The new system will be available by June.

on-board canister or hose-connected accessory dust collection systems — or both.

Minnich Manufacturing, for example, now offers its dowel pin rigs with onboard dust collection systems for its machines, including dowel

Below, Merit Engineering & Equipment vice president Greg Ferguson displays the industry's first all-wheel drive steerable concrete saw.



pin drills for concrete slabs such as roadways or airport runways.

"We have developed a venturi vacuum system for our dowel pin drills that eliminates clouds and helps keep the contractor in a safe environment," explained Rob Minnich, vice president of marketing. "The vacuum system canister collects all the dust, which then falls into a bucket. You just unclamp the bucket, replace it with an

empty one and you're back up and drilling. You put a lid on the full bucket and can dispose of it properly later."

DeWalt was also showing new dust collection solutions, including onboard HEPA canister filters for hand-held rotary hammers. Director of marketing Suresh Srinivasan demonstrated a new onboard OSHA-compliant HEPA filtration system for its 20V MAX cordless rotary hammer.

OSHA's new Table 1 rules require dust collection systems for dry grinding, cutting and drilling applications," Srinivasan said. "The three key things to remember are that the dust extractor must have 99 percent or greater efficiency, it must be used with a commercially available shroud to avoid leakages and it must have an automatic filter cleaning mechanism."

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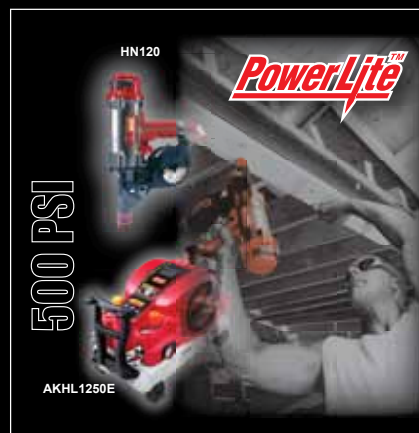
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The new 6.3-Ah CORE18V battery from Bosch delivers 80 percent more power than previous-generation Bosch batteries in a cell that is only 15 percent larger. The new battery is also compatible with existing Bosch 18-volt tools.



At left, Antoine Derche, director of product and marketing for Metabo North America, compares the company's 36-volt cordless rotary hammer to its new model which uses two 18-volt 6.2-Ah batteries.

DeWalt is introducing a new OSHA-compliant onboard dust collection system for rotary hammers such as the 1-inch model DCH273P2 XR Brushless SDS-Plus hammer with SHOCKS anti-vibration system.

"Current owners can simply purchase the new dust collector accessory and attach it to their existing tool and they will be compliant. All new DeWalt dust extractors will come with a HEPA filter as standard equipment," he adds.

New battery technology also starred at the show, namely the new 6.3-Ah Bosch model GBA18V63 CORE18V battery.

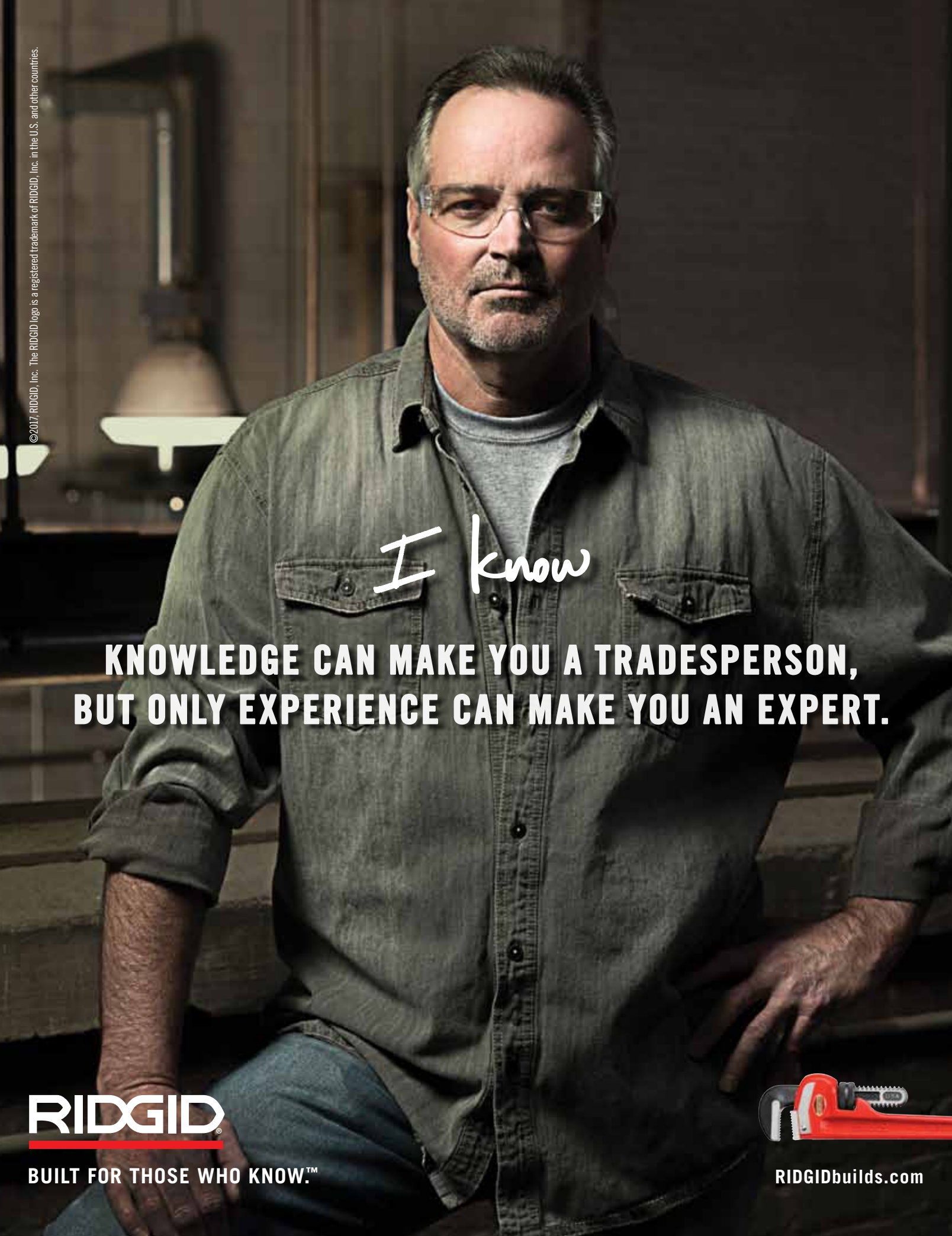
"There are three ways to improve the performance of a battery and Bosch has incorporated all three into the CORE18V," said Bosch product manager Theron Sherrod.

"First, we enlarged the cell. By increasing its size by just 15 percent

and utilizing next generation Lithium-ion technology, we are able to deliver 80 percent more power from it. Next, our CoolPack 2.0 system transfers more heat to the outer surface, resulting in up to 35 percent better cooling than previous CoolPack batteries and up to 135 percent longer life than standard batteries. Finally, the cells are laser-welded and rail-connected for higher efficiency. Based on increased power and runtime, plus backward compatibility across the full Bosch power tool lineup, this is a step beyond battery power systems that are currently available."

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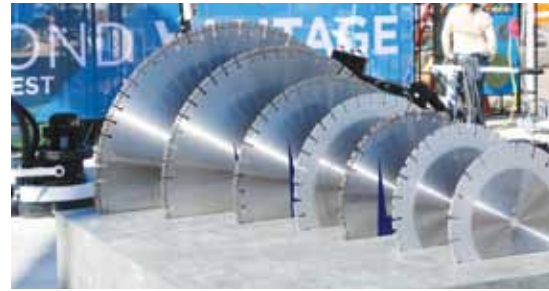
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At Left, Minnich Manufacturing's Rob Minnich displays the company's new OSHA-compliant venturi vacuum dust collection systems for dowel pin drills. Dust is collected into pails that can be quickly swapped out and disposed of properly later.

Right, the Diamond Vantage outdoor exhibit showcased its extensive line of large-diameter diamond saw blades, core bits, floor prep cup wheels, grinding heads and concrete and stone cutting and polishing equipment.



Not to be outdone in the battery department, Metabo's new KHA36-18 LTX rotary hammer is now available in a version that utilizes two 6.2-Ah 18-volt Metabo batteries for 36-volt power. Another novel tool is

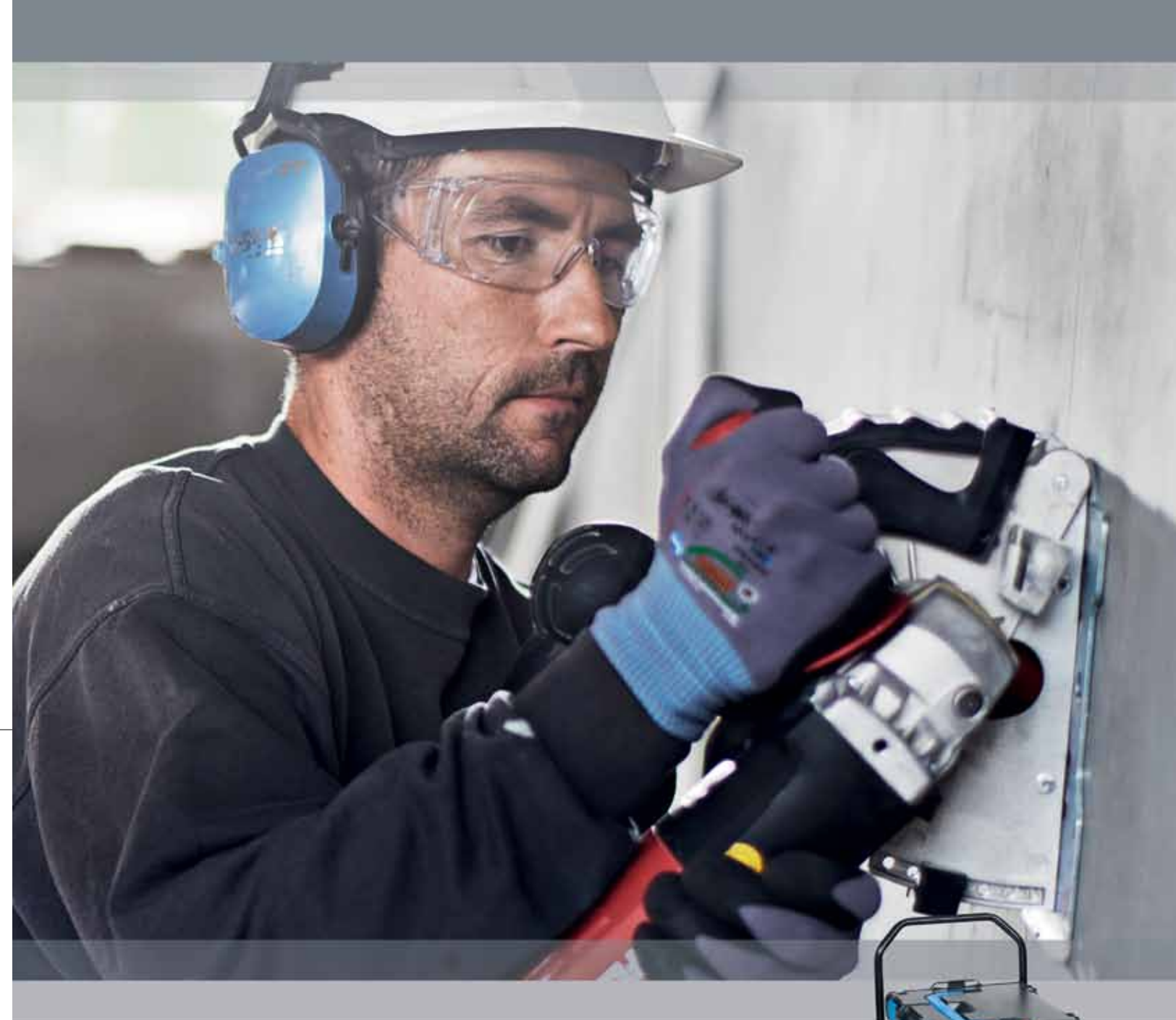
a collaboration with U.S. Saws that converts a Metabo cordless grinder into a concrete core drilling rig.

Makita makes a splash at every World of Concrete and this year

center stage was occupied by the new 18V X2 LXT Lithium-ion (36V) model XSR01Z brushless rear-handle 7 1/4-inch circular saw. Contractors were literally lining up to rip through lengths of 2x10 SPF. It is the world's first cordless rear-handle 7 1/4-inch circular saw powered by two 18-volt Lithium-ion batteries.

New Makita dust extraction systems included two new 18V X2 LXT Lithium-ion cordless vacuums powered by two 18-volt batteries.

There were many more sights to be seen and you can read about more of them in our extended coverage of the show on our website. Next year's World of Concrete is set for Jan. 23-26, 2018, again in Las Vegas. Learn more at www.worldofconcrete.com. **CS**



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