

# 2016



## WORLD OF CONCRETE

THE LARGEST WOC IN SEVEN YEARS WARMS UP A COOL LAS VEGAS

In spite of unseasonably cool weather that forced even Makita's popular Rock Star girls to wear coats the first day, this year's World of Concrete turned up the heat in every other area to deliver the largest World of Concrete in seven years.

The numbers are telling but hardly tell all: this year's show drew 60,110 professionals, up eight percent from 55,779 in 2015. Vendors featured more than 1,532 companies (up almost 300 companies this year) exhibiting in more than 743,889 square feet (an increase of more than 67,000 square feet from 2015).

### WACKER TROWEL CHALLENGE

Concrete finishers from around the world competed in Wacker Neuson's Trowel Challenge competition. Over 150 of the best finishers from seven countries, four Canadian provinces and 29 states tested their trowel operating skills as they maneuvered around a timed obstacle course.

The contestants with the top 10 fastest times from the qualifying rounds advanced to the finals held Thursday,

February 4. Each finalist got one run through the course and that time was added to his first-run time. This year's grand prize was a custom 48-inch CRT 38-35VX ride-on trowel powered by a special Vanguard BIG BLOCK V-twin engine.

Kevin Suchy of Easy Lay Concrete, Tofield, Alberta, Canada won this year with a combined run time of 62.963 seconds. Suchy came into the finals with the fastest qualifying time of 31.326 seconds. He maintained his lead and took home the grand prize with a final run time of 31.678. His winning score was less than one second faster than Josh Smith of H & M Precision Concrete, Greenville, Ohio, who came in second with a combined run time: 63.549 seconds.

Third place went to Douglas Garber of B Concrete, Brookville, Ohio, with a combined run time: 65.054

*With less than one second separating first from second place, the Wacker Neuson Trowel Challenge winner Brian Suchy of Tofield, Alberta, Canada, had strong competition for his grand-prize of a customized 48-inch Wacker Neuson trowel.*

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Dave Kociemba, a third generation Machinist, knows from a lifetime of experience the importance of a fierce work ethic and the dedication needed to master one's craft. Dave's acute attention to detail and reliability ensures that customers are delivered a perfect product. His commitment above passion carries on his family's legacy of hard work.



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seconds. Each of the top three finishers took home a crystal trophy and all top 10 finishers received a special Trowel Challenge shirt.

**SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500**

The World of Concrete's other nail biter this year was the 14th annual SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 World Championship. Aided by his brother, tender Brian Tuttle, Scott Tuttle of Clearfield, Utah outpaced 22 other masons by laying 775 brick in one hour to earn the title "World's Best Bricklayer," a 2016 Ford F-250 4x4 super duty truck, and \$15,000 in cash and prizes. The Tuttle brothers have qualified to compete in 13 of the past World Championship battles, which is a record in itself.

Second place went to two-time World Champion (2008 and 2010) mason Garrett Hood, who laid 716 brick. Garrett and his mason tender Ed Huntley both work for Huntley Brothers Company in Monroe, North Carolina.

**MAGNETS & RESPIRATORS**

During most years, show-goers, especially those from the northern states, like to go outside and bask in the warm desert sun and stroll through the outdoor displays. This year it was decidedly warmer indoors. The show seemed a bit thin on new products at times, but that just added to the thrill of the hunt, and the laser and measurement category proved fruitful again this year. David White is a household name in the laser field and his SitePro brand models ST101 and ST102 Smart Trak Magnetic Locators were launched at the show.

"The difference between them is that the model ST102 has a magnetic cancellation feature," begins Clay Wagner, SitePro customer service rep. "You can use these tools to locate pipe, buried manhole covers, rebar and property markers. It has a large LCD for visual search results, a high-grade waterproof speaker and is ergonomically designed and balanced for one-handed operation."

The tool is also partially waterproofed, so up



David White Site Pro customer service rep Clay Wagner shows off the company's feature-laden new ST101 and ST102 Smart Trak Magnetic Locators with whopping seven-year warranties.

to 24 inches of the locator tube can be dipped into water for readings. The ST101 and ST102 are made in Illinois, run on six "AA" batteries and feature an impressive seven-year warranty.

Safety is another area where innovation never sleeps. GVS North America is the U.S. division GVS Global, which is based in Zola Predosa, outside of Bologna, Italy. Founded in 1979, GVS initially produced medical filters for blood processing. The company now manufactures filtration products for the healthcare and life sciences, automotive, chemical and carbon, commercial and personal protection industries.

Made in British GVS facilities, the new Elipse P100 Nuisance Odor Respirator provides protection against dust particles, metal fumes, mists and vapors and is NIOSH Standard P100 approved.

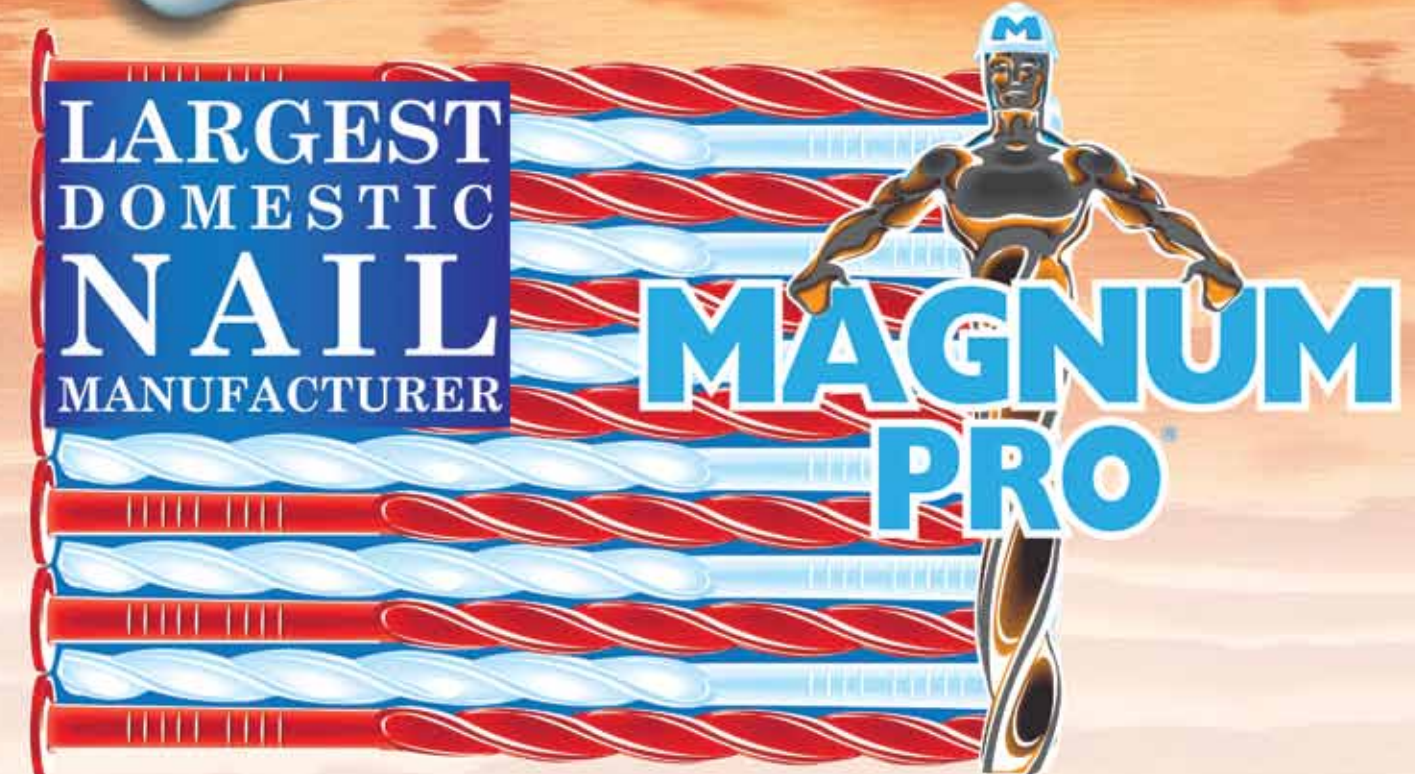
"GVS is a global filter company — we produce approximately about two billion filters every year," began Greg Sesny, national sales manager. "We also make the filter media that goes into our masks. We've recently received our NIOSH P100 approval so we can sell it to the U.S. market. A great feature of our masks is their low-profile

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Greg Sesny, national sales manager for Italian filter maker GVS, touted news that the company's British-made Elipse P100 Nuisance Odor Respirator is now is NIOSH Standard P100 approved for use by contractors in the United States.

# HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD



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**Bartell Morrison** expanded its display space this year and enjoyed record attendee traffic, drawn in by the company's growing lineup and demonstrations of its compaction and shot blasting equipment.

in shirtsleeves with cold drinks in their hands. The unseasonably cool weather for this year's show seemingly had no impact on the crowds enjoying the many outdoor displays of power tools, finishing and demolition equipment.

Manuel "Manny" Rumao, marketing manager, portable products for the Kohler Co. was kept busy talking with contractors about several new Kohler

products, including the Pro 12.3 kW EFI, which he says is the world's first generator with electronic fuel injection, and the enCUBE 1.8 solar generator.

"The new enCUBE 1.8 and it is an engine-less portable generator, without the hassles of the noise, the pollution or the oil changes or fuel," Rumao explained. "This is one of the safest and the greenest portable generators in the world. You can run them indoors, outdoors. It charges with the solar panel you see right here. In case there is no sun, it has the option of charging with a cord that you just plug

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**Manuel "Manny" Rumao**, marketing manager, portable products for the Kohler Co. demonstrates the brand new enCUBE 1.8 solar generator, which comes with its own solar panel.

One interesting feature of this grinder is its industrial pneumatic-tool style trigger.

"A lot of industrial air tools have this kind of a safety latch feature, and we applied it to this electric tool, to give it a more traditional feel to operators who are accustomed to industrial air tools," Liu added. "We built this tool to provide the professional performance of a \$300 major-brand grinder but without the big ticket price."

If attendees felt that Bartell Morrison (BMI) was making a bigger splash in its outdoor space at this year's show, they were right. Strategically perched right on the crosswalk between the outside Gold lot and the convention center's South Hall, BMI enjoyed brisk foot traffic for the entire show.

"We increased the booth space this year and brought hands-on demonstrations back for two product groups, vibratory plates and shot blasting equipment," explained Jeff Durgin, president of Bartell Morrison USA. Not surprisingly, those lines were very popular, and overall we felt the show was a huge success for us."

#### FORECAST: COOL AND SUNNY

You can tell Midwesterners at an event like this because they are the ones walking around in the 50-degree weather

and fall right off, which is really nice. Especially for people in the concrete industry who work in wet environments."

Now that the Eclipse mask has earned its NIOSH approval, GVS already has another version in the works, a one-piece goggle and P100 mask, which will be available later this year.

#### GRINDING AWAY

Hit Tools USA, known for its hand tools, drill bits and pipe tools, has entered the burgeoning cordless market with the new 4.5-to-5-inch cordless angle grinder. Powered by an 18-volt Lithium-ion battery system, this three-amp grinder maintains grinding speed and delivers more power consistency than lesser cordless grinders.

"The beauty of using a cordless grinder out in the field is that when you don't have a power source or a generator, you can really use this bad boy and cut at up to 7,000 rpm," said Hit Tools USA's Richard Liu. "You've got power, longevity with the Lithium-ion battery and it's light weight to reduce fatigue. These are the three main factors we consider when we designed this grinder for our users.

**HIT Tools USA's Richard Liu** shows us HIT's new 4.5-inch 18-volt Lithium-ion cordless angle grinder, which is so new it doesn't even have a model number yet!



design, which allows us to fit underneath other PPE, such as sanding shields, welding hoods and glasses."

Sesny also notes that GVS filters don't obstruct wearer vision, offering an unimpeded view of the work at hand.

"Another nice thing is that these filters are replaceable — they just pop out," he continued. "Plus, this is a P100 HESPA filter, which stands for High Efficiency Synthetic Particulate Air Filter. It's a little different, because it is water resistant. You can spray this with water. It will bubble up



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into a wall. This unit is perfect for construction — or for making margaritas at tailgates — It's got a lot of "juice!"

The enCUBE 1.8 has a modular in design that accepts extra batteries to boost runtime, as well as extra solar panels for faster charging. The unit can charge and discharge at the same time.

The show's cool weather was tailor-made for Werner-Co's new Knaack model 89HD (High Definition) gang box with the new ThermoSteel heating element.

"This unit has the security of a traditional Knaack box, but then we've incorporated a heating element into this product so that when it is zero outside, this drawer will keep its contents at 70 degrees," explained Mark Peters, director of marketing for WernerCo's Knaack and Weather Guard brands. "It is great for storing adhesives or any type of material that needs to stay a certain temperature on the job site."



Mark Peters, director of marketing for WernerCo, enjoyed the cool weather's cooperation in showing off the new Knaack model 89HD High Definition box. Its integrated ThermoSteel heating element warms tools and supplies like batteries and caulk tubes to 70 degrees even when it is zero outside.

Weather Guard has also introduced new finishes for truck boxes, driven in part by municipalities.

"We just came out with two new finishes, a matte black, which has become very popular, and then also a gloss white. A lot of municipalities like the white box because it matches their trucks and it's not as shiny as some of the bright boxes."

**NEXT UP: WOC 2017!**

These above interviews were with just six of the more than 1,500 companies that exhibited at this year's event. The 2017 World of Concrete is set for January 17-20, at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Learn more at [www.worldofconcrete.com](http://www.worldofconcrete.com). **CS**

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