

South Beloit firm celebrates 60 years of success
Engineering and project management innovation drives growth and industry leadership



Press Release
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SOUTH BELOIT, IL - September 5, 2006 - From a modest beginning in October of 1946, Mid-States Concrete Products Co. has grown to become a recognized leader in the manufacture and installation of precast concrete building systems.

Today, Mid-States Concrete employs approximately 175 people and provides products, as well as engineering and project management services, to general contractors and developers in the State of Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Eastern Iowa and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The company was started by Charles V. Harker (1918-1995) shortly after he returned from fighting in World War II. Prior to the war, he had worked for a firm that dabbled with a new technology for manufacturing precast concrete slabs. During the war, the company lost interest in the technology, gave up its franchise, and in doing so created the opportunity seized upon by Harker.

Today, Harker's son, Charles H. Harker and grandson, C. Hagen Harker, and their team of engineers and project managers, continue to pioneer the use of precast concrete products in the construction industry. "We manage anywhere from 65 to 75 projects each year," says Charles H. Harker. "And, we have learned that no matter how great our technology is, or how perfect our precast products suit a particular building application, one of the most important aspects of any project is how it is managed."

This realization has led to the development of the industry's only Interactive Project Management process. "Our process is called The Face-to-Face Solution and provides a structure for detailed planning, the careful analysis of project variables, and identification of efficiencies that lead to more profitable projects for our clients," says C. Hagen Harker. "It also helps us reduce our product delivery time by as much as 30%."

Precast products have long been recognized as flexible and economical solutions for many structural applications such as condominiums, apartments, hotels/motels, office buildings, parking structures, and single family homes. The products themselves offer architects, engineers, contractors, developers, and end users with many advantages including fast installation, design flexibility, fire and wind disaster protection, superior sound, moisture and temperature insulation, along with environmentally friendly composition.

"We are committed to partnering with our clients to ensure they achieve their goals," says C. Hagen Harker. "We believe the service and support we provide is just as important - and in some cases more important - than our products. So that's why we are always looking for new ways to provide timely, economical, and stress-free building solutions."

For 2006, the company is promoting its approach to project management under the slogan, "Expand your freedom... Experience our commitment". "Our goal is to free up our clients so they can focus on their project goals and objectives," says Charles H. Harker. "We believe in providing hands-on communication and project management procedures that give our clients more time and energy."

In addition to growing its engineering and project management capabilities, Mid-States has developed a state-of-the-art, 140,000 square foot manufacturing facility. The range of products they can manufacture include precast floor and roof beams, wall panels, columns, balconies, and other custom products to suit almost any application.

To celebrate this major anniversary, and in conjunction with PCI's Precast Month (Precast/Pre-stressed Concrete Institute), the Mid-States team is proud to be hosting two plant tours to be held on September 26th and 28th. The public and press can visit the Mid-States Concrete web site (www.msprecast.com) to register or call direct to sign up for the tour and receive an information packet.

Charles H. Harker
C. Hagen Harker

