



News Release

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FINLEY Technical Director Combault to Deliver Keynote at International Symposium

Jacques Combault, Technical Director for Finley Engineering Group (FINLEY), will be a keynote speaker at the 2008 fib Symposium in Amsterdam during the week of May 17, 2008. Combault, who is president-elect of the IABSE (International Association of Bridge and Structural Engineers), tentatively plans to deliver a presentation on how the Confederation Bridge in Prince Edwards Island, Canada, is designed, monitored, inspected and maintained for a 100-year design life.

Completed in 1997, the Confederation Bridge is a two-lane highway toll bridge that carries the Trans-Canada Highway between Borden-Carleton, Prince Edward Island (at Route 1), and Cape Jourimain, New Brunswick (at Route 16). It is a multi-span post-tensioned concrete box girder structure. Most of the curved bridge is 40 meters (132 feet) above water, and it contains a 60-meter (198-foot) high navigation span to permit ship traffic. The bridge rests on 62 piers, of which the 44 main piers are 250 meters (825 feet) apart. The bridge is 11 meters (36 feet) wide. Combault coordinated design and construction of the bridge as Scientific Director of GTM Group, Inc. (now part of VINCI).

In focusing on the Confederation Bridge, Combault will discuss how the project team's approach provides an opportunity to keep a large, complex bridge project manageable from project initiation throughout the completion of an extended lifecycle. "I think this a very interesting project and topic, and is especially relevant to several sub-themes of the conference," says Combault.

The fib Symposium's theme is "Tailor-Made Concrete Structures: New Solutions for our Society." Conference sub-themes that apply are Life Cycle Design, Modifying and Adapting Structures, Codes for the Future, Developing a Modern Infrastructure, Monitoring and Inspection, and Design Strategies for the Future.

The International Federation for Structural Concrete (fib - fédération internationale du béton) is a non-profit organization created from the merger of the Euro-International Concrete Committee (CEB - Comité Euro-International du Béton) and the International Federation for Prestressing (FIP - Fédération Internationale de la Précontrainte). Prior to the 1998 merger, the parent organizations existed independently since 1952.

Founded in 2004, Finley Engineering Group is recognized nationally and internationally as a leading engineering and construction consulting firm specializing in complex bridge projects of all kinds.

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