Concrete Plant International
North America Edition

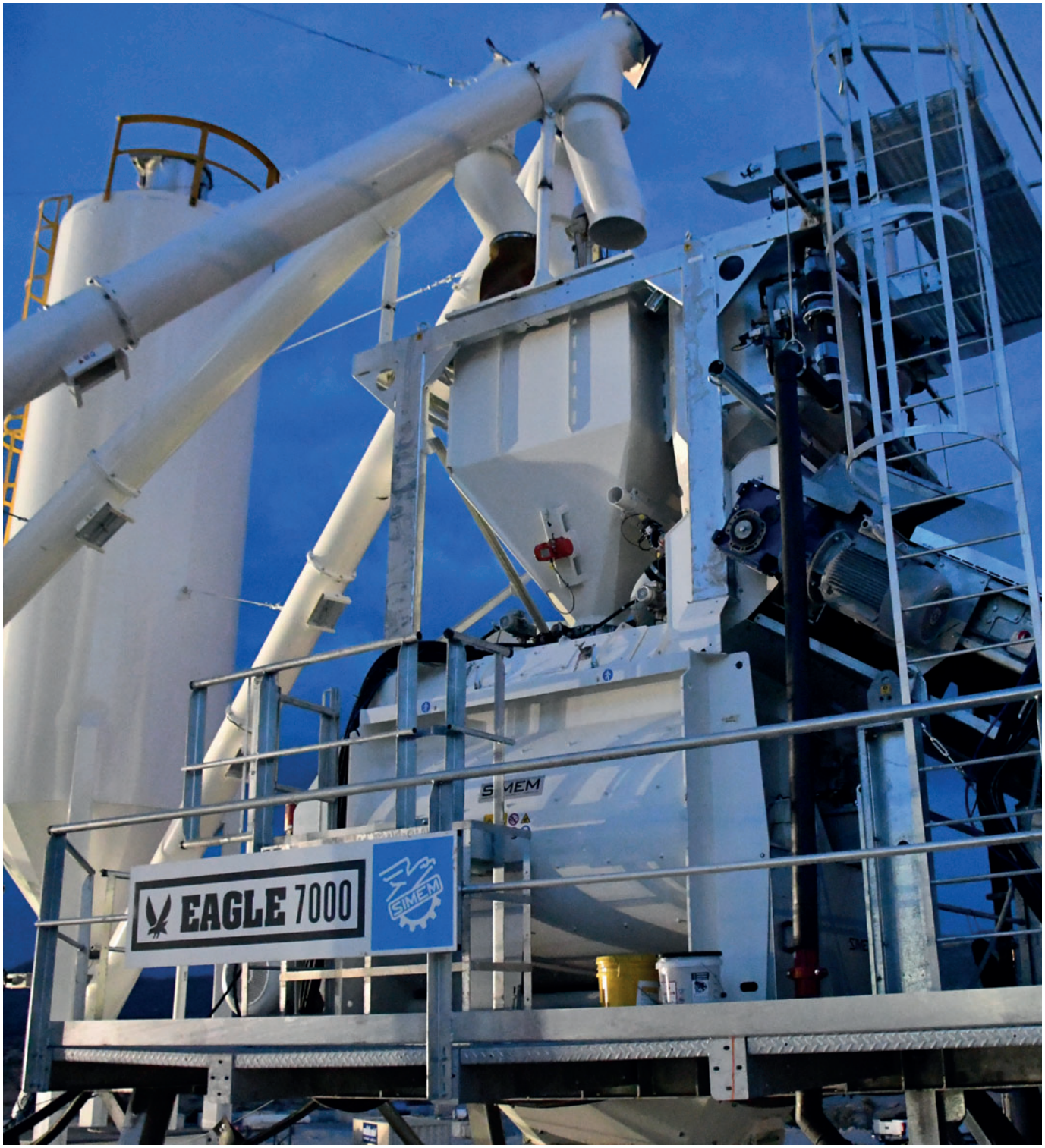
2 | 2019

www.cpi-worldwide.com

REPRINT | CONCRETE TECHNOLOGY

Western Pacific Precast Chooses Quality and Reliability For Las Vegas Stadium Construction

SIMEM



Simem America Corporation, San Antonio, TX 78233, USA

Western Pacific Precast Chooses Quality and Reliability For Las Vegas Stadium Construction

When an industry leading, PCI-certified precast concrete producer like Western Pacific Precast sets out on a major project – like the new professional football stadium in Las Vegas, with tight deadlines and massive deliverables – it's critical that smart, reliable choices are made early in the process.

A privately-owned precast concrete company located in the South Las Vegas Valley, Western Pacific Precast is widely known as a major industry leader in concrete design, creation, and solution. The company has earned its reputation creating precast solutions for small to large-scale infrastructure projects above and below ground – including stadiums, highways, retaining walls, subway and tunnel liners, wall panels, utilities, landscaping, water detention and infiltration, agriculture uses and more – for over 25 years.

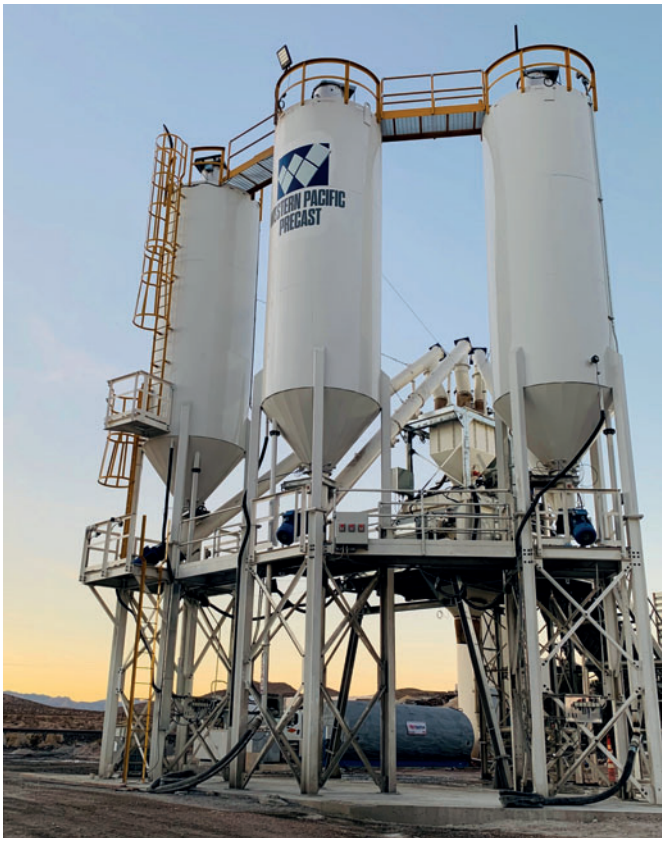
In that time, the company has truly experienced the value of smart advance planning, and the new stadium in Las Vegas offers a prime example of just how valuable these early decisions can be to long-term efficiency.

Ask Adam Mainka, Vice President and General Manager at Western Pacific Precast, and he'll tell you that one of the best choices they made early on in this particular project was choosing Simem America as their concrete batching plant partner.

Working with the team at Simem, Mainka and Western Pacific Precast have delivered exceptional results which helped keep the project moving forward, on time and with minimal interruptions.

History Working with Major Industry Players

Originally from Texas, Mainka brings over 12 years of construction and concrete industry experience to the table. That means he knows the industry – and also knows how quickly a 100% on-time production schedule can flip to a delayed, backlogged production schedule, because one aspect of the process is held up.



Eagle 7000 plant with a capacity up to 235 cu.yd./hr., fully equipped with a 6 cu.yd. compacted concrete output twin shaft mixer. Another beautiful morning for production.

After transitioning away from his early career in production to spend several years working throughout the U.S. in a consultant role, Mainka initially connected with Western Pacific Precast as a consultant for a major project: the new professional football stadium, located in Las Vegas.

Immediately, all parties recognized the high-profile nature and magnitude of the project. A project accompanied by a tight 2020 deadline and rigorous production requirements –

Standard and safeguarding durability, for this well-kept plant by Western Pacific Precast, is complete hot dipped galvanization on all steel structures, belt conveyors, covers, aggregate bins, and mixer platform.

not to mention a finished product inventory well beyond the average yard size of a typical precast producer. With all this in mind, exceeding project goals and expectations would require extensive on-site precast production, careful planning, and an aptitude for problem solving. For Western Pacific Precast, the logical equipment choice was Simem America.
That choice – made before Mainka's arrival on the project – would eventually be a major driver for Mainka to walk away from consulting altogether and join Western Pacific Precast full-time.

Having worked with Simem equipment for over 8 years on previous projects, Mainka came into this project knowing that Simem stands for quality.
That quality is vast – from the durability of the mixers and batching plants themselves, to the responsiveness and expertise of the Simem America support team. Collaboration and teamwork is also important, as there are always issues to work through. Aligning to identify root cause, then proactively addressing, and permanently solving an issue, breeds success.

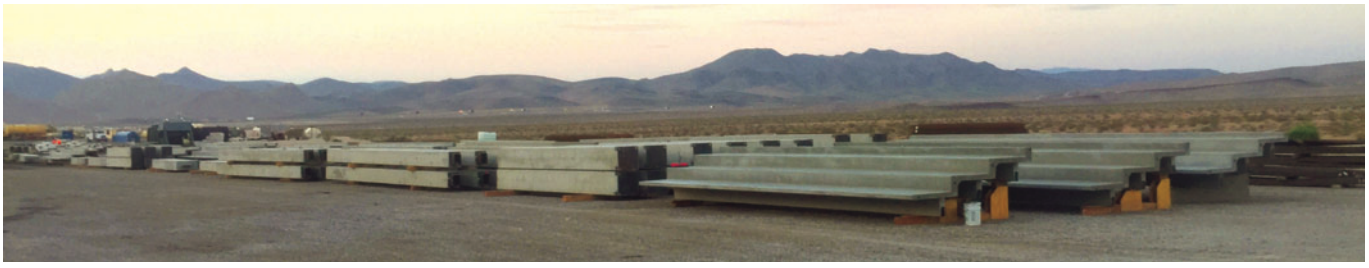
"You hear about a lot of plant fabricators who sell, build, and deliver plants, but you never hear from them again after that," said Mainka. "But I have to hand it to the team at Simem for how well they worked with our people at Western Pacific Precast before I got there, and how they really brought expertise on the finer details, including timing, motor functionality, sequencing, and all the little links in the process."

The Right Choice for the Job

Over the roughly 24 months Mainka spent as a consultant before joining the team at Western Pacific Precast, he worked with all kinds of concrete batching systems – including those featuring drum, planetary, and twin shaft mixers.

Of all these choices, Mainka describes himself as an evangelist for twin shaft mixing technology.

"This project features over 2200 precast pieces. Our yard simply doesn't have room to hold on to all pieces needed – meaning we have to make the product on demand, and we don't make money until the concrete is poured and delivered," said Mainka. "I believe that twin shaft mixers provide a better mix and better viscosity while reducing the amount of admixture needed. That helps drive down costs and create a more efficient production process to stay on timeline."



Western Pacific Precast stage the all-important stadium risers for transport, installation, and seat anchoring.

Knowing the challenges, it quickly became clear that execution, consistency, and quality were of utmost importance on this project. From the start, there was a tight 3-week timeline following equipment delivery to have the plant constructed and at full production output. Climate compounded the challenge, as the environment can be extreme: local temperatures can range from highs of 118 degrees fahrenheit by day to lows of 24 degrees fahrenheit at night.

Often understated is the plant's versatility to accommodate changing needs – including options for hot and cold water systems to sustain concrete quality in difficult climates – lending Mainka and Western Pacific Precast the ability to boost production, if needed, to meet demand.

"It is incredibly important to accurately batch concrete for a project of this scale, and I've worked with many mixers and batching systems over the years." said Mainka. "Quality is incredibly important, as it allows you to know how the concrete is going to perform over the long term."

Balancing Reliability with Capability

In over a decade of construction and precast experience, Mainka has learned what so many others in the industry have come to recognize: that when it comes to large projects like this one, expertise and customer service can be nearly as important as the plant technology itself.

"At the end of the day, you are the person responsible for getting the concrete poured and delivered on time," he said. "Working with Simem, I could move forward with confidence knowing that we could achieve our production goals on time and within budget."

For a project of this scope, anticipating potential obstacles is paramount to prevent a major holdup long before it may occur. This mindset saves time and energy, plus keeps things moving.

"If the batch plant were not operational, or if we were facing problems every day, we would not be able to deliver the product," said Mainka. "Having this batch plant designed and spec'd exactly the way I would have had it really gives me access to the heartbeat of the operation, and Simem has really been key to that. Not only do we run into very few issues along the way, but if we do, I know I can give them a call and hear back promptly."

Moving Ahead with Confidence

Major projects bring their own unique challenges, but few also present a schedule as tight as the one on the new professional football stadium in Las Vegas.

With football set to start in the new stadium by March of 2020, Mainka predicts that Western Pacific Precast "cannot miss a pour" – and that has made overcoming obstacles key to keeping things moving forward on time.

"Simem America is thrilled to be involved with such a high-profile project. We appreciate having industry professionals like Adam [Mainka] as a client partner and continuous improvement advocate," said a representative from Simem America. "We recognize the high-stakes, urgency to meet deliverables, and quality requirements for a project of this nature. We are dedicated to keeping Western Pacific Precast moving forward through project completion and through the life of their operation." ■

FURTHER INFORMATION

SIMEM AMERICA CORPORATION
12100 Crownpoint, Suite 100
San Antonio, TX 78233, USA
T +1 210 581 8600
F +1 210 581 8601
Toll Free: 800 729 0906
info@simemamerica.com
www.simemamerica.com