

Member Spotlight- Heliwalls puts a new spin on shoring!

By: Howard Nute, Communications Committee

NAXSA member company Heliwalls founders Brian Beach and Todd Lohr knew a lot about shoring applications prior to starting their business but learned it through the less traditional route of manufacturer or distributor, and more through the sometimes more problematic side of installation. Faced with a restrictive shoring application around a 100-year-old Historic Building in downtown Omaha, they quickly realized that conventional methods weren't going to work, and that put in motion what would eventually become their new business entity. Searching for a solution, they researched a Canadian manufactured product made by Shortek Commercial Shoring Systems. The new system met their needs and was in place on their project for over a year and proved to be cost effective, durable, and had minimal deflection.

They brainstormed with the owner/inventor about bringing the product to the United States, and all parties decided the best route was a patent purchase arrangement that gave them rights to manufacture the product and Heliwalls was born!

The product is simple yet ingenious. The most common size panel will shore a 12' deep trench and provide 4' wide of protection. The interlocking panels slide together and interlock for solid excavation wall protection. The product is pulled into the ground with helical plates driven by a hydraulic power unit typically installed on a mid-sized excavator. The depths of 12' and 16' are achieved by the cantilevered installation process. The interlocking system allows for straight trench runs, curved, box, or circular applications.

Mr. Beach says that they have already seen applications in linear shoring, gas and oil pipelines, utility pits and manholes. Many new commercial projects that have underground parking are also an ideal fit. The product can give a very cost-effective approach to single wall stabilization over conventional methods like beam and plate and driven sheet piling.

Many of us in the industry know that historically change and innovation has come slowly and incrementally in our sector, so what makes this product innovative? Minimal to no vibration gives the product a leg up over traditional driven sheet piling. Heliwalls can be extremely cost effective in many single vertical wall applications over traditional methods like beam and plate. Quick and relatively easy installation help cut costs both in and out. The ability for a standard 3-to-4-man crew to install 300 linear feet daily is pretty common. The product requires site specific engineering but with pre-designed tables it's easy to quickly see if the product is a fit for your job site.

Mr. Lohr explains their wide array of support will make it easy to see if the product is a fit for your next job. They are providing install/removal training, Engineering plans in all 50 states, as well as finance and rental options. Heliwalls currently partners with ICON Equipment

Distributors in the Northeast and is excited to partner with any other interested NAXSA members with a revenue sharing plan that will ease the cost of getting the product and putting it to work in your market.

NAXSA welcomes Heliwalls to our industry and knows their innovative product will find a home in our drive to make working in excavations safer!