

News

Contact: Karen DeMartine
DeMartine Group
++1-203 221-2790
kdemartine@demartinegroup.com

Aging Infrastructure and Transportation Emergencies Continue to Drive Growth in U.S. Demand for Modular Steel Bridging, Finds Acrow

From the I-5 Skagit River Bridge collapse in the Northwest to the I-81 Harrisburg shutdown in the Northeast, prefabricated modular steel bridges demonstrate versatility

(Parsippany, New Jersey) – 29 July 2013 – The need for cost-effective solutions in preserving the structural integrity of the nation's transportation infrastructure, combined with the need for fast and dependable solutions in transportation emergencies, is driving demand for prefabricated modular steel bridges in the U.S., finds Acrow Bridge, a leading international bridge engineering and supply company.

In the first half of 2013, Acrow saw a 25 percent increase in orders for its modular steel bridging solutions as state and local governments, departments of transportation and contractors continued to leverage the versatility of modular steel technology. The modular design and steel construction of these bridges address the critical requirements for bridging in both emergency situations and repair and replacement projects, which include durability, ease and speed of assembly and installation, ability to easily achieve desired length, width and strength and reusability.

Acrow also experienced growth in demand as a result of the Federal Highway Administration advocating the use of prefabricated modular systems for the significant time and cost savings, safety benefits, environmental advantages and convenience for travelers that these bridges offer.

Examples of the bridging technology's diverse applications include:

- **Interstate 5 Skagit River Bridge, Washington – Emergency Span:** A major bridge on the main highway route (Interstate Highway 5) between the cities of Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada was reopened as soon as Acrow's emergency span was installed in June 2013. The temporary 160-foot (48-meter) span replaces the portion of the bridge that collapsed after being hit by a truck in May 2013 and will remain in place until completion of a permanent span.
- **Route 3A Quincy/Weymouth, Massachusetts – Permanent Bridge:** Acrow designed, fabricated and supplied 3,600 feet (1,100 meters) of the most complex panel bridge ever produced. The bridge comprises multiple spans that vary from 130 feet (39 meters) to 210 feet (64 meters) with vertical and horizontal curves. The two main 210-foot (64-meter) spans also open and close to accommodate large ships navigating the river below. When the two spans are lifted, they provide a clearance off of the water of 210 feet (64 meters).

News

The bridge is opened thousands of times per year, with each opening taking approximately 5 minutes.

- **State Highway System, Vermont – Temporary Bridges:** Acrow provided the State of Vermont with a number of temporary bridges to provide access over brooks and rivers where Hurricane Irene rendered permanent structures unusable for public travel. Installed in 2011, these bridges will remain in place until permanent bridges are erected. The temporary bridges will then be used by the state for future emergency needs.
- **Interstate 75 Tampa, Florida – Detour Bridge:** Acrow's 320-foot (98-meter) modular steel bridge has been serving as a major highway detour since 2011, maintaining the flow of traffic in the busy Tampa area while enhancing the safety of motorists and construction workers during long-term road repair and replacement work of aging infrastructure. The detour bridge was erected overnight, requiring only a four-hour closure.
- **Interstate 81 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania – Shoring System:** Acrow rushed two 43-foot (13-meter) towers to Harrisburg in May 2013 after an intense fire caused by a truck accident on the middle section of a double overpass over Interstate 81 destroyed the middle section and compromised the integrity of the top section. The panel towers, constructed from steel bridging components, were used for support while the damaged span was removed to keep anything above from collapsing onto the highway below.
- **Ground Zero World Trade Center, New York – Heavy Haul Bridge:** Designed, delivered and assembled within a month, the Acrow bridge at Ground Zero served as a ramp for extremely heavy construction traffic while the site was being cleared of debris from the collapsed World Trade Center towers. The installation of the Acrow ramp made it possible to decommission an adjacent ramp in order to recover hundreds more bodies of those who had perished in the terror attack. The ramp was used by construction crews from 2002 to 2008 and also by victims' families seeking closure and visiting dignitaries paying their respects.

"The nation's transportation infrastructure includes some 600,000 bridges, tens of thousands of which are considered structurally deficient," said Bill Killeen, President and CEO of Acrow Bridge.

"Consequently, more and more customers are expanding their inventory of modular steel bridges to deal with both emergency and scheduled repair work. While engineered for permanent use, these extremely durable and versatile bridges can be easily reused, as they are simple to assemble, disassemble, store and transport. It's also easy to change bridge size and strength by adding modular bridge components to meet specifications."

About Acrow Bridge

Acrow Bridge has been serving the transportation and construction industries for more than 60 years with a full line of modular steel bridging solutions for vehicle, rail, vessel, military and pedestrian use. For more information, please visit www.acrow.com.

Editor's Note: Photos available on request.

###