



The Deep Foundations Institute is a not-for-profit association of contractors, engineers, manufacturers, suppliers, owners and academia.

DFI's membership promotes understanding and advancement of the deep foundations & excavations construction industry through conferences, publications, and community.

The technical committees, Augered Cast-In-Place Pile, Drilled Shaft, Driven Pile, Helical Foundations & Tiebacks, Marine Foundation, Micropiles, Seismic and Lateral Loads, Slurry Wall, Soil Mixing, Testing and Evaluation, and Tiebacks & Soil Nailing provide industry leadership for these foundation systems, through the publication of Guides, Specifications and References and by providing educational programs.

The membership is international.

#### **DEEP FOUNDATIONS INSTITUTE**

326 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506 USA  
T: 973 423 4030 F: 973 423 4031  
dfihq@dfi.org | www.dfi.org

Theresa Rappaport  
Executive Director

## For Immediate Release

### Super Pile '09 Seminar

June 10, 2009 Hawthorne, N.J. Seven of DFI's technical committees collaborated to organize Super Pile '09. With close to 200 attendees and 30 exhibiting companies, participants judged the seminar a great success. The presentation subject matter ran the gamut from Julius Caesar (driven piles in 55 AD) to today's equipment that can drive 17-ft-diameter piles in 3,000 ft of water. Those facts, offered by the Marine Foundations Committee chairman and Super Pile lead organizer Gerry Houlahan, Moffatt & Nichol, related to just one committee's subject area addressed at the event. Other presentations focused on Driven Piles, Drilled Shafts, Micropiles, Seismic and Lateral Loads, ACIP Piles and Testing and Evaluation.

The first day of the two-day meeting, featured varying technologies in an historic context. Speaker Dan Brown, Dan Brown and Associates, PLLC, traced drilled shafts back to 1892 in the U.S., when they were called caissons. The more recent history of micropiles was addressed by Tom Armour of DBM, who began with Fernando Lizzi's introduction of root pile technology in 1952. Embedded suction anchors, another marine foundation technology, have been around for about 30 years, but there are new applications, according to Sangchul Bang, professor at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He spoke about immersed tube tunnels, noting one under construction in Korea. Robert Stevens, Fugro-McClelland, demonstrated the difficulties of offshore work in his address, titled "Things that go Wrong with Large Piles." John White, American Piledriving Equipment, described the origin and the versatility of vibro-installed piles, while others spoke about case studies and laboratory testing, pile foundations in seismic areas, and problems with deep foundations in California bedrock.



Benicia-Martinez Bridge Template being Hoisted Into Place As Shown By Speaker Richard Foley, P.E. of CalTrans.

Sessions by Caltrans engineers covered the construction of two area bridges including the Benicia-Martinez Bridge. Other subjects included two on foundations and equipment for offshore wind farms. Kevin Turner, Collins Engineers, Inc. presented multi-hazard

concerns at SC802 bridge over the Intercoastal Waterway. Testing and evaluation were addressed by Matthew Meyer, Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, and Ed Hajduk, professor, The Citadel. Lively panel discussions after each of the two day presentations focused on subjects such as whether the use of rotators reduced friction on the Benecia-Martinez Bridge foundation elements, and many other aspects of that project.



Speakers field questions from attendees during Day Two's panel discussion.

Pictured from left to right are:  
Ed Hajduk, Bret Lizundia, Gyimah Kasali, Wolfgang Brunner, Peter Faust, Matt Meyer and Mike Holloway standing in back.

Super Pile '09 was followed by a technical tour boat ride, where participants visited the Richmond San Rafael Bridge, the Carquinez Bridge, the Benecia-Martinez Bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the construction site of the new Self-Anchored Suspension Bridge for half of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Speakers during the tour were Houlahan, Henrik Dahl, Ben C. Gerwick Inc., Saman Soheili of Caltrans, and Robert Bittner, Bittner-Shen Consulting Engineers.

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