



**HELIX<sup>TM</sup>**

## **Twisted Micro-Rebar Technology**

Luke Pinkerton, PE  
Helix Steel

# Helix and Infrastructure



*And the ALASKA CONCRETE ALLIANCE*



- Case Studies,
- troubleshooting and problem solving
- Cast-in-place operations
- Mix designs
- Concrete composition
- More science/research on concrete mixes

# Helix for Blast Resistance



Rebar Only



With Helix & 50% Less Rebar

**HELIX**<sup>™</sup> Micro-Rebar

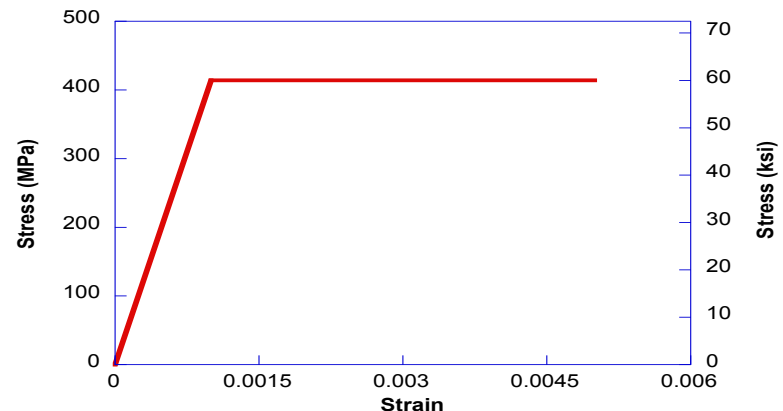
# 12 Years and 30 Countries: Slabs - Complex Structures



# Reinforced Concrete Development Length



- R/C is a Two Part System: Concrete fails before rebar works
- Rebar Development Length: required to develop full tensile stress. #6 bar (20 mm) is about 2 ft (600 mm)

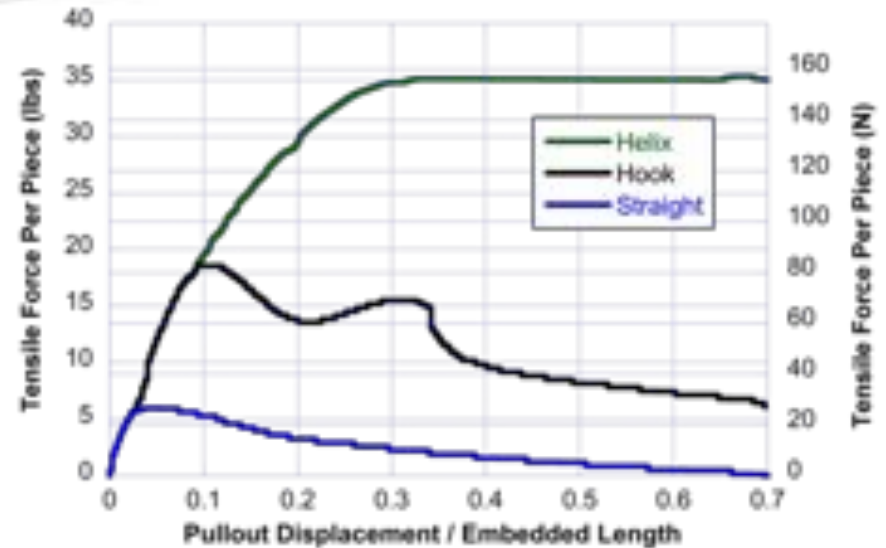


# Product Description

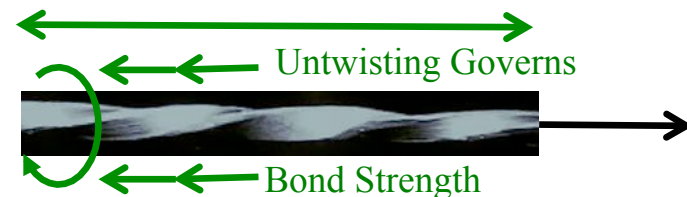
- Steel wire tensile strength: 270 ksi (1800 MPa)
- Electroplated zinc coating: 3 g/m<sup>3</sup>
- Length: 1.0 inch (25 mm),
- Equivalent diameter: 0.020 inch (0.5 mm)
- Rectangular Cross Sectional Shape
- Each Helix Micro-Rebar has a minimum of one 360-degree twist.
- 11,000 parts per pound



# Helix Micro Rebar Development Length



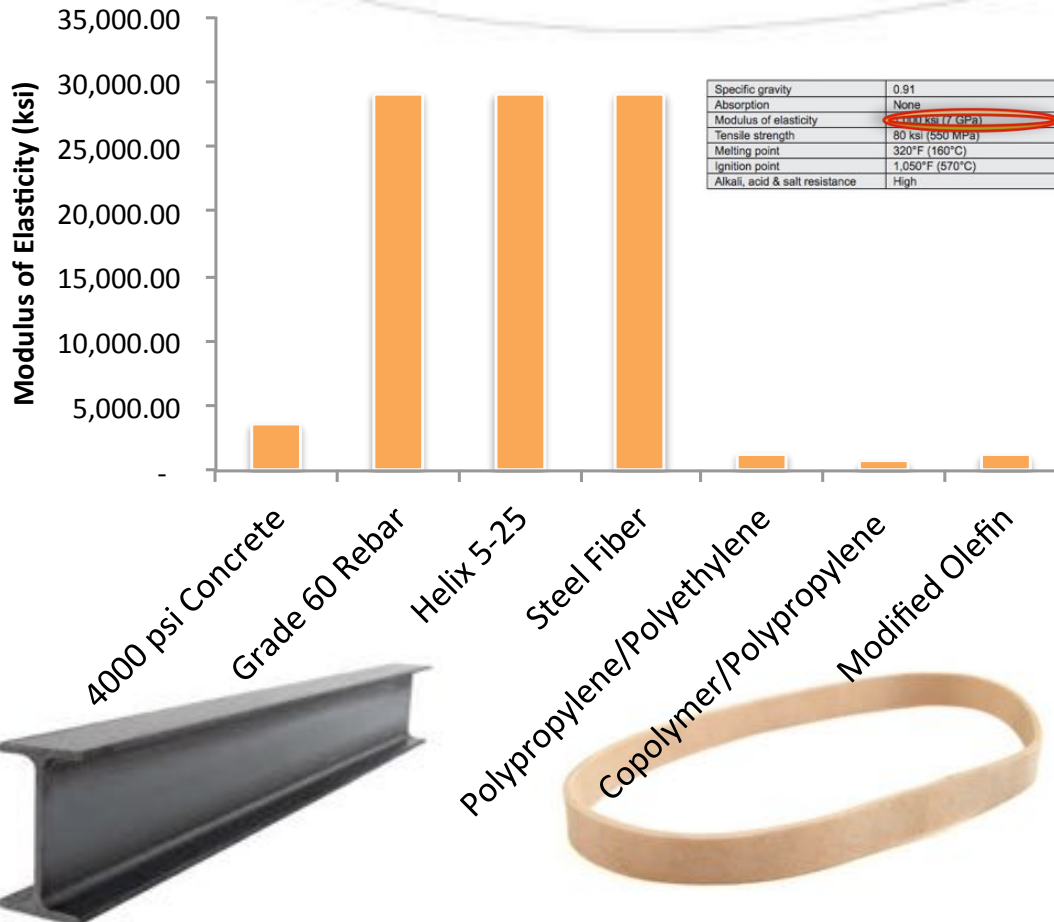
1/4" (8 mm) Helix Micro Rebar



**HELIX**<sup>TM</sup> Micro-Rebar

# Breaking Laws of Physics Can Plastic Replace Steel?

## Modulus of Elasticity (Stiffness)



## Helix

- 8 x Stiffer than Concrete
- 6 x bond of smooth steel

## Synthetic Fibers

- 1/3 the stiffness of Concrete
- 1/20 the stiffness of Steel
- Acts as **void** until stretched
- No force until 1 mm crack and “band is stretched”

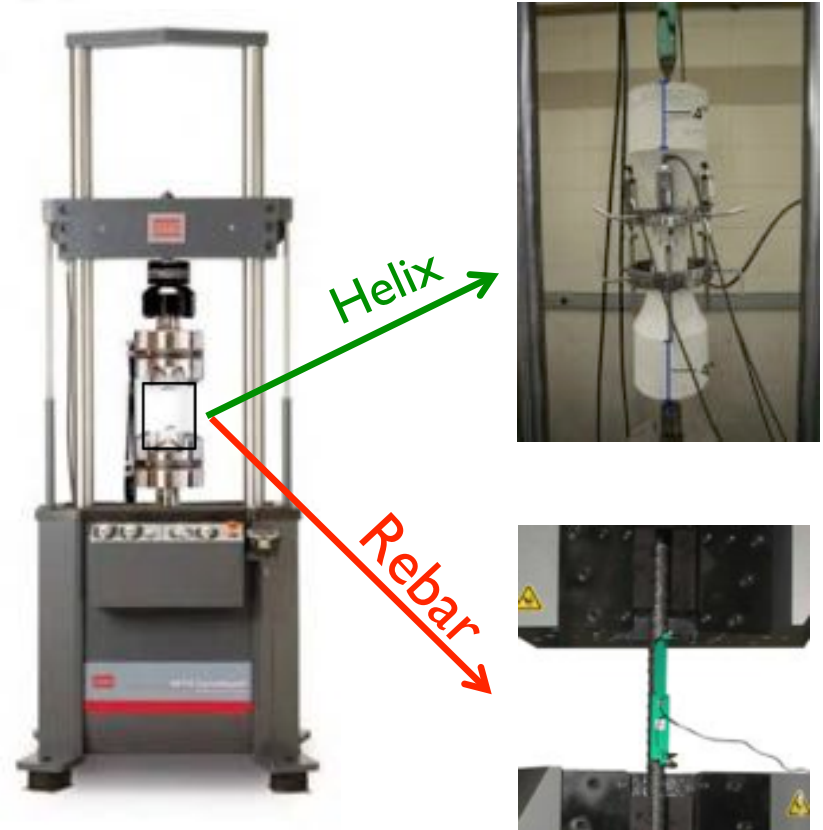
Large crack width testing

Plastic Shrinkage

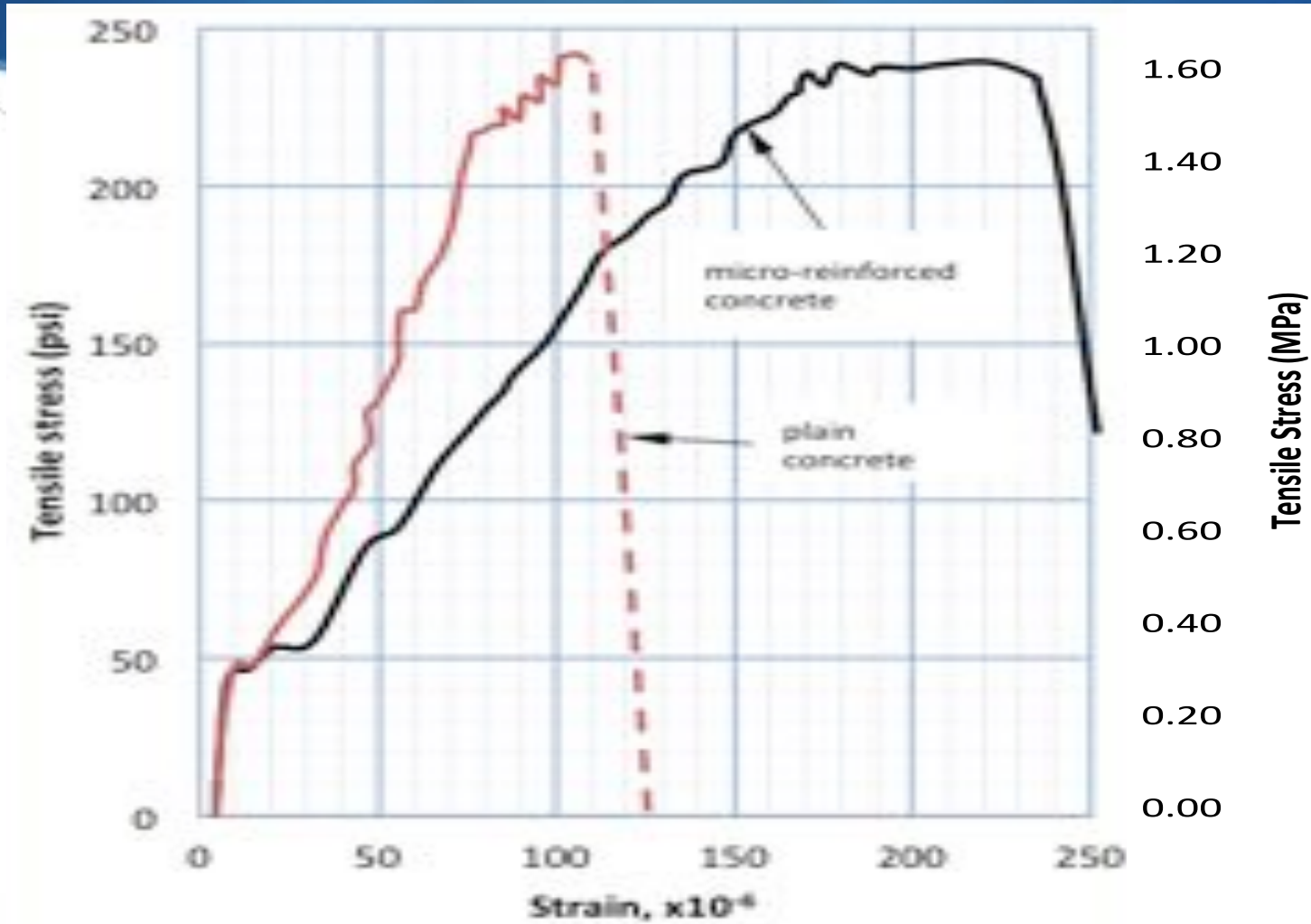


# Helix Tensile Resistance ASTM E111 Rebar Test

- ASTM E-111 Test Setup
- Hourglass 6" (150 mm) Diameter
- 4 inch (100 mm) Gage Length
- Machine plots tensile stress vs. strain
- ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratory



# Proactive Reinforcement & Strain Capacity



# Development of a LRFD Tensile Resistance Model

- Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) – J.G. MacGregor,
- Required Information
  - ① Resistance Functions (Force & Distribution)
  - ② Variations (Force & Distribution)
  - ③ Consequence of failure (Classes)
  - ④ Field Test Results (Calibration)
- Output
  - ① Tensile Resistance Equation (function of dosage and  $f'c$ )
  - ② Resistance Factor

# Helix Design Classes and Selection

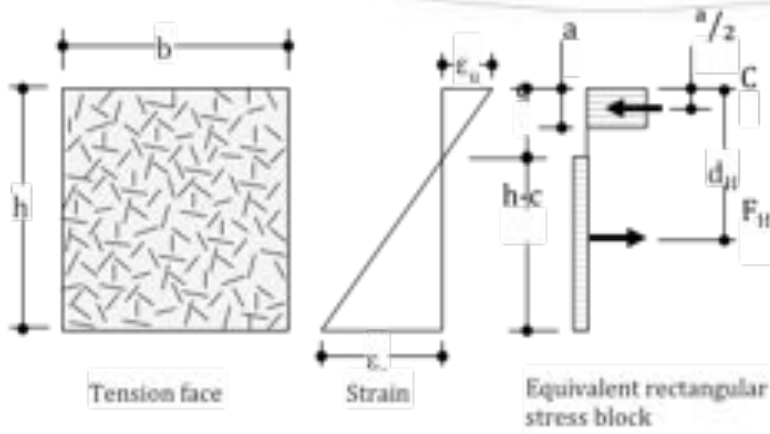
## Helix Design Classes

Class	Assumptions	Applications
A	Micro-Cracking I FS 3.7  Strain Limit 110 $\mu\epsilon$	Shrinkage and Temperature Soil Supported Structures
B	Micro-Cracking II FS 5 (LRFD)  Strain Limit 110 $\mu\epsilon$	Soil Supported Structures, Arches, Laterally Supported walls
C	Multiple Crack III FS 8.5 (LRFD)  Strain Limit 1000 $\mu\epsilon$	Suspended Cast in Place Concrete, Other Structures, Limitation Apply

## Class B Example – Wall



# Designing with Helix Another Piece of Rebar




- A Familiar Design Process
  - ① Compute  $A_s$  Required at Tension Centroid
  - ② Table 1: Number of Helix
  - ③ Table 2: Helix Dosage
- Ensuring Stability
  - Design Class Selection (A, B or C)
  - Stability Requirements (Soil, Arch or Lateral Support or Hybrid)
  - Strain Check

$$c = \frac{-h + \sqrt{h^2 + 4(1 - \beta) \frac{2M}{0.85f'_c \beta b}}}{2(1 - \beta)}$$

# Approved

## ISO/IEC Guide 65 Evaluation Report

- Assurance of Structural Capacity
- Assurance of Fire Resistance
- Public Reviewed Design Method
- ISO/IEC 17025 (IAS) Laboratory
- Recognized in 99 countries

**EVALUATION REPORT** 

Report Number: 0279  
Issued: 05/2013  
Revised: 02/14/2014  
Valid Through: 05/2014

DIVISION: 03 00 00—CONCRETE  
SECTION: 03 20 00 CONCRETE REINFORCEMENT

REPORT HOLDER:  
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EVALUATION SUBJECT:  
Helix 5-25 Micro-Rebar Concrete Reinforcement System

1.0 EVALUATION SCOPE

1.1 Compliance with the following codes:

- 2012 and 2009 International Building Code® (IBC)
- 2012 and 2009 International Residential Code® (IRC)

1.2 Evaluated in accordance with:

- IAPMO UES EC015-2013, adopted December 2013
- ICC-ES AC208, approved October 2005, editorially revised November 2012

1.3 Properties evaluated:

- Shrinkage and temperature crack control in concrete.
- Structural tension and shear resistance in concrete
- Fire Resistance

2.0 USES

Helix 5-25 Micro-Rebar functions as tensile reinforcement for concrete.

2.1 Helix 5-25 Micro-Rebar may be used to reduce shrinkage and temperature cracking of concrete. Helix Micro-Rebar may be used as an alternative to the shrinkage and temperature reinforcement specified in Section 7.12 and Chapter 22 of ACI 318 (as referenced in Section 1901.2 of the IBC and Sections R404.1.2 and R611.1 of the IRC).

2.2 Helix 5-25 Micro-Rebar may be used as tension and shear reinforcement in other structural concrete as detailed in this report, which satisfies the requirements of ACI 318 Section 1.4 and Section 104.11 of the IBC and IRC.

2.3 Use of Helix 5-25 Micro-Rebar in Seismic Design Categories C, D, E, and F is subject to the restrictions listed in Section 5.2 of this report.

3.0 DESCRIPTION

Helix 5-25 Micro-Rebar reinforced concrete consists of two materials, as described in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of this report.

3.1 Helix 5-25 Micro-Rebar is made from cold-drawn, deformed wire complying with ASTM A 820, Type I. The steel wire has a tensile strength of 270 ksi +/- 10 ksi (1800 MPa +/- 100 MPa) and a minimum 3 g/m<sup>2</sup> zinc coating. The length (l) is 1.0 inch +/- 0.1 inch (25 mm +/- 0.004 mm), equivalent diameter is 0.020 inch +/- 0.007 inch (0.5 mm +/- 0.02 mm), and cross sectional area is 0.003 square inches (0.196 mm<sup>2</sup>). Each Helix Micro-Rebar has a minimum of one 360-degree twist. Helix 5-25 Micro-Rebars are packaged in 22.5 pound (10 kg) boxes, 45-pound (22.5 kg) boxes or 2,450-pound (1100 kg) bags.

3.2 Normal Weight Concrete complying with ACI 318, with a minimum 28 day compressive strength of 3,000 psi (20.66 MPa).

4.0 DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

4.1 Design Class Selection

The Helix design class shall be selected based on the application and consequence of failure. The registered design professional shall select the design class based on the criteria in Sections 4.2 through 4.5 of this report. Figure 1 of this report provides guidance in making the design class selection.

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International  
Organization for  
Standardization



element<sup>™</sup>  
materials technology

**HELIX<sup>™</sup>** Micro-Rebar

# Why Specify Helix?

## Increased Performance

## Decreased Install Time

	Rebar	Helix		Helix Results	
Design	#4@12	18	lb/yd	<b>Equal or Better</b>	
	12@#300	10.7	kg/m <sup>3</sup>		
Bending Strength	31	31	k-in/ft		
	12	12	kN-m/m		
Shear Strength	3.4	13.5	k/ft		<b>250% Increase</b>
	54	211	kN/m		
1st Crack Strength	596	609	psi	<b>10% Increase</b>	
	4.1	4.5	MPa		
Durability	115	161	lb-in/ft	<b>50% Increase</b>	
	3610	5196	kN-mm/m		

Direct Cost Savings 20%



“We saved one day for every 10,000 (900 square meters) square feet when substituting Helix for rebar”

– Wes Atkinson,  
Century Concrete

**HELIX™** Micro-Rebar





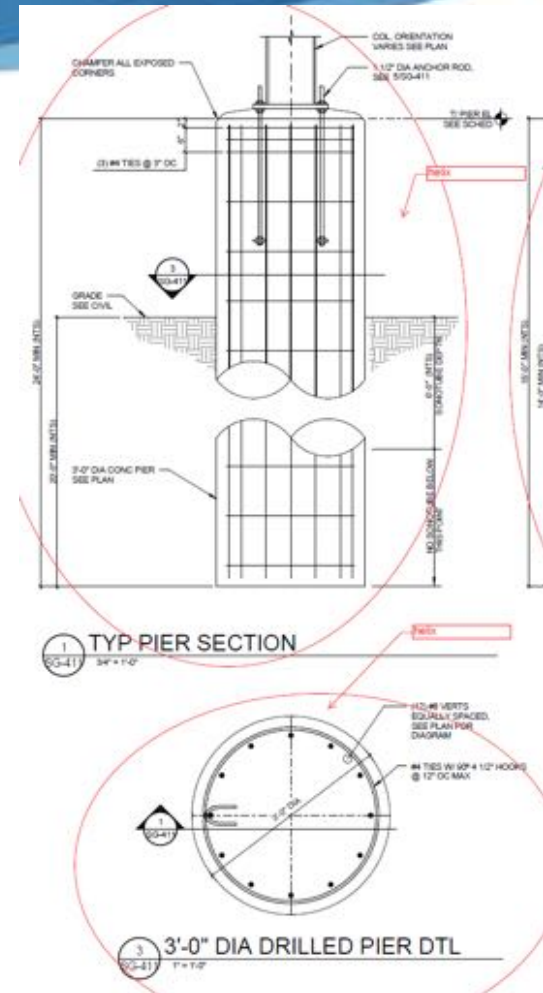
# Heavily Loaded SOG



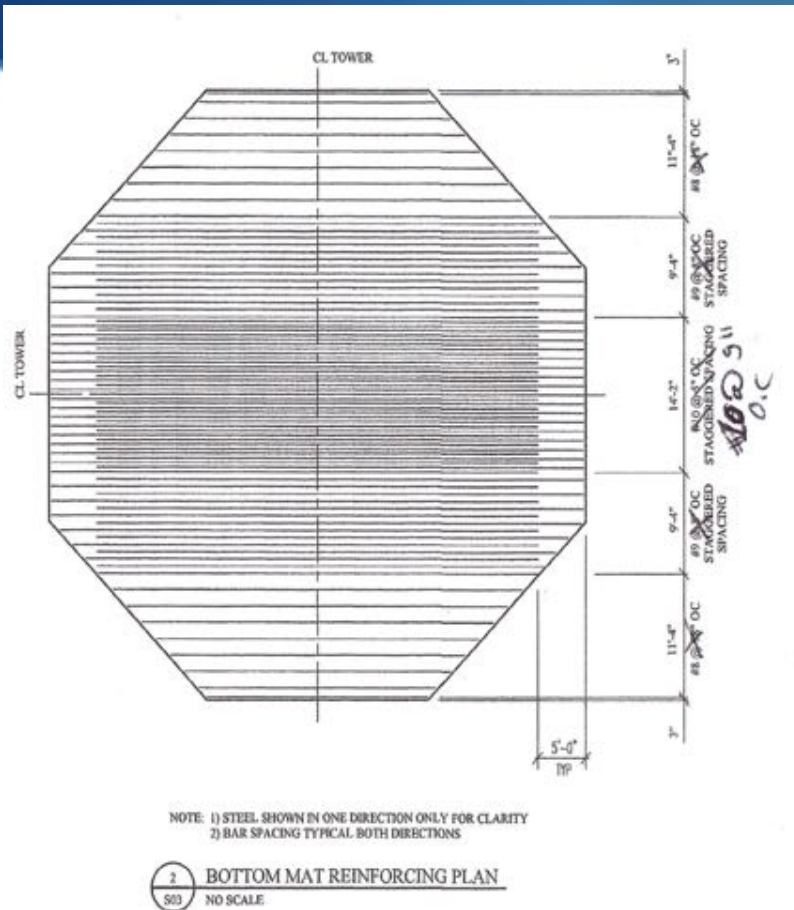
- **Project** - A slab designed for heavy loading was specified at 16" thick and with #6 bar spaced at 9" both top & bottom with a 6-6-6-6 mesh.
- **Helix Design** - 50 lbs/yd of Helix replaced rebar and mesh, increasing the first crack resistance by 84% and resulting in a 42% cost savings.

# Refinery Piles

- **Project** – Refinery typical concrete pile – (12) # 8 vertical rebar with #4 horz on 12' oc.
- **Helix Design** – 45 pounds/cy of Helix reduced the rebar to (4) #6 rebar – horiz steel, only needed at anchor bolt area and for ease of construction.



# Wind Farm Foundations



- **Project** – 53 Wind farm towers in Washington with large concrete and rebar foundations.
- **Helix Design** – 45 pounds of Helix reduced the rebar use and would have saved the contractor \$880,000 in material costs over all towers IF, they had known about Helix.....

# Thin White Topping.



- **Project** – Commercial pavement rehab.
- **Helix Design** – 1.5 inch to 1.75 inch parking lot with 20 pounds of helix and the tractor trailer and loaded van rolled over it.. .no cracks.

# Sidewalks



- **Project:** A large university pours 8” thick sidewalks to allow heavy equipment to drive over the surface. Engineers were looking for a way to decrease costs without sacrificing strength or quality.
- **Helix Design:** Helix was added at a dosage of 20 lb/yd in a 6” thick slab. The result? A cost savings of 15% and greatly increased strength over the plain 8” concrete.

# Case Study: Mining Road

- **Project:** 12” thick concrete was poured to allow heavy equipment to drive over the surface. After three years, the road was in shambles.
- **Helix Solution:** Helix was added at a dosage of 40 lb/yd but with only 6” of concrete. The result? After three years, the road doesn't have a single visible crack and it was 20% less expensive to pour.



# Interstate Highway

Method	JPCP		CRCP	
	Jointed Plain Concrete Pavement	Concrete Pavement	Continuous Rebar Reinforced Concrete Pavement	Helix Reinforced Pavement
Description				
Usage in US	43 States Use		9 State Use	
<b>Concrete</b>				
Concrete Thickness		13	12	10 in
Concrete Installed Cost	\$	85	\$	85
<b>Contraction Joints</b>				
Contraction Joint Spacing		12		ft
Joint Installation Cost	\$	250	\$	-
Dowel Spacing		1	1	1 ft
Dowel Installed Cost		10	0	10 \$/dowel
Total Joint Cost	\$	730	\$	-
<b>Helix</b>				
Helix Dosage		0	0	36 lb/yd
Helix Installed Cost	\$	1.65	\$	1.65
<b>Rebar</b>				
#6@8" Long, #5@48 Trans	\$	-	\$	2.44
<b>Highway Design/Area</b>				
Lane/Shoulder Width		12	12	12 ft
Lanes & Shoulders		4	4	4 lanes
Total Width		48	48	48 ft
Number of Miles		100	100	100 mile
Total Surface Area		25343928	25343928	25343928 sqft
Total Conc volume		1016886	938664	782220 yds
Total Helix Required		0	0	28159920 lbs
# Contraction Joints		44000	0	0
<b>Comparative Costs</b>				
Concrete Cost	\$	86,435,310	\$	79,786,440
Contractor Joint Cost	\$	32,119,909	\$	-
Helix Cost	\$	-	\$	46,463,868
Rebar Cost	\$	-	\$	61,927,888
Total Cost	\$	118,555,219	\$	141,714,328
<b>Savings with Helix</b>				
	\$	5,602,651	\$	28,761,760
		5%		20%
	\$	56,027	\$	287,618

## Growing List of DOTs including:

- Virginia
- North Carolina
- Texas
- Michigan
- Georgia
- Oregon
- California
- Mexico

# Interstate Highway

- **Project:** Oregon DOT test pour at milepost 211, south of Corvallis.
- **Helix Design:** Dose at 37 lb/cy to replace all rebar, but ODOT decided to include rebar and test for durability. Additional pours are being considered.





# ICF Construction Example



- **Project:** ICF Wall rebar both horizontal and vertical rebar.
- **Helix Design:** rebar both horizontal and vertical replaced by Helix. Lintel horizontal remains, and one vert on each side of windows and doors. Dowel between cold joints.

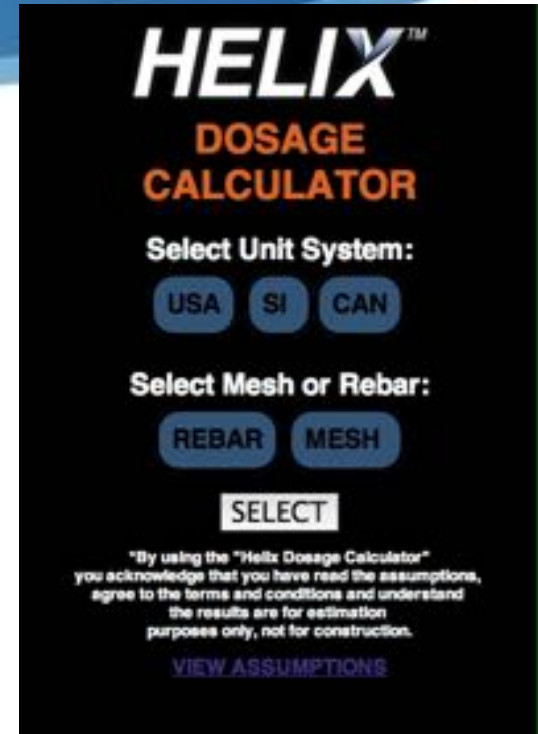
# Placing and Finish

- Placing Per Standard Practice
  - ACI 305R
  - ACI 302. IR -60 9.6 and 11.2.2.1.
  - ACI 207 (Mass Concrete)
- Finishing per Standard Practice
  - ACI 302. IR
  - Note ACI 544-3R recommendations
  - Adequate Paste Development
- Helix 3-Part CSI Specification



# Next Step: How to Include Helix on your next project

- ① Engineer Using ESR for helix contact us at [engineering.support@helixsteel.com](mailto:engineering.support@helixsteel.com) we will respond in 24 hours or less
- ② Note the drawing with the Helix alternative: *“Use the rebar as shown on the drawing or XX lb/yd Helix 5-25 (meets UES ESR #0279)”*
- ③ When required use Helix sample CSI format specification [www.helixsteel.com/specify-helix](http://www.helixsteel.com/specify-helix)
- ④ Submit to Helix engineering to activate tensile resistance warrantee (email or web form)



[www.helixcalculator.com](http://www.helixcalculator.com)

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