

Event Recap

Location

Presenters

BUILDING COMMISSIONING ASSOCIATION (BCA) PRESENTATION

ARCHITECTURAL TESTING HEADQUARTERS . YORK, PA . 6.14.2013

JOHN A. RUNKLE, P.E. – ATI VICE PRESIDENT BUILDING SCIENCES, MARK MILLER – BCA PRESIDENT, ERIC MILLER – ATI DIRECTOR ACOUSTICS, KAREN YETTER – SR PROGRAM MANAGER CERTIFICATION SERVICES, MATT FREEBORN – ATI MANAGER FIRE TESTING

Participants at the 2nd BCA Presentation held at the Architectural Testing, Inc. (ATI) facilities in York, PA enjoyed an informative day of tours and presentations. Guests were educated on the emerging practice of Building Envelope Commissioning and received an overview of the expanding services ATI offers the building industry. As a follow up to last year's event, John Runkle, Vice President of ATI's Building Sciences division, expanded upon the importance of Building Envelope Commissioning and its interaction with the more established practice of Building Mechanical Systems Commissioning. First-time attendees learned a brief history of Building Envelope Commissioning, the different steps of the process from the Pre-Design Phase to the Operations and Maintenance Phase, as well as the current trends of the practice.

The day at ATI began with a presentation from Mark Miller, the BCA President. His presentation touched on industry hot topics and trends, as well as BCA goals for the upcoming years. Mr. Miller's presentation was followed by a presentation by Eric Miller, director of ATI's Acoustic Department. A tour of ATI's York facility demonstrated the wide array of testing and consulting services available to the building industry, including product manufacturers, architects, engineers, building owners and developers.



"THE EVENTS AT ATI ARE BEYOND BENEFICIAL WHEN IT COMES TO EDUCATION, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND NETWORKING IN THE COMMISSIONING INDUSTRY. THE AGENDA DRAWS SUCH AN INTEREST FROM LEADERS IN OUR MARKET AND OTHERS."

~TRACY JUMPER
KEYSTONE COMMISSIONING





John Runkle, P.E.

Highlights of the tour included ATI's 200-foot shock tube, a demonstration of the Impact Cannon, a dynamic pressure water penetration test using one of ATI's 8 WOLF machines, as well as several other of ATI's building-related testing capabilities. During the tour, the 32 attendees learned the roles of lab and field testing in the Building Envelope Commissioning process. Karen Yetter, a Senior Program Manager at ATI, concluded the tour by speaking to the group about Installer Training and Certification Programs.

After a quick lunch and a word from Matt Freeborn, manager of ATI's comprehensive Fire Testing Department, John Runkle spoke to the group about the evolution of BECx practice from its origins in the Canadian building standards several decades ago to the more exacting standards and requirements in place today. The concept of environmental (i.e. air, water, thermal) separation between interior and exterior (or conditioned and unconditioned) spaces was discussed. The influence of today's developing "green building" standards on BECx was also examined. To relate these concepts to real-world situations, Mr. Runkle also discussed several case studies and the ill effects (ie mold growth, building envelope deterioration, increased energy costs, etc.) that can result from improper building envelope design and/or construction.



"THE PRESENTATIONS AND TESTING DEMONSTRATIONS WERE EDUCATIONAL, INFORMATIVE AND MADE YOU REALIZE THE EFFORTS THAT ARE PUT INTO A SECURE BUILDING"

~TONY DILEONARDO
WICK FISHER WHITE ENGINEERS

The presentation also included a discussion of the different processes involved in an effective Building Envelope Commissioning program. Starting in the Pre-Design and Design Phases, the merits of peer review of project documents (i.e. architectural drawings, specifications, shop drawings, submittals, etc.) were discussed, noting that environmental separation aspects, as well as durability, constructability, and functionality of the building envelope, should be considered.

In the Pre-Construction and Construction Phases, the importance of functional mock-ups, field testing, and on-site inspections were examined. A discussion of Operations & Maintenance Phase commissioning processes, such as providing warranties and post-occupancy site visits, was also included in the presentation.

PRE-DESIGN PHASE . DESIGN PHASE
PRE-CONSTRUCTION PHASE
CONSTRUCTION PHASE
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE PHASE



The day provided valuable interaction between many key figures in the building industry. Due to its success, ATI plans to host an annual BCA event as Building Envelope Commissioning continues to grow and new technologies and standards become available. For more information on this or ATI services in general, please visit www.archtest.com or call 717.764.7700.