

Cematrix cements deal for new location

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It's only nine years ago that Jeff Kendrick left his CFO position with Jaeger Industries to take on the role of president and CEO of Cematrix and moved the cellular concrete company into a 6,300-square-foot facility on 27th Avenue N.E.

Tremendous growth since then meant the need to move into larger space. The new location at 5440 52nd St. S.E. that was leased through Target Realty provides 22,750 square feet of office/warehouse space and a hectare of yard for the storage and maintenance of its big equipment.

The product is unique and is being used by a growing number of companies that are able to save time and money with Cematrix, which vice-president and general manager Steve Bent says has become an alternative to other forms of insulation products such as pre-formed plastic foam.

Cellular concrete is a cement-bonded material produced by blending fluid cement-based slurries and injecting foam into them under pressure. The ratio of cement and fly-ash slurry to foam dictates the final density of the cellular concrete.

One of the company's first clients was the City of Calgary on a roadbed at the Brentwood LRT station. Today, Cematrix is still being used on roads providing one layer of high-strength insulation that has proved to be cost-effective and superior at locations that have poor peat bases or suffer from frost-heave damage.

More than 70 engineering firms throughout Western Canada have specified the use of cellular concrete but Bent says the majority of its current contracts are at oilsands projects in the Fort McMurray area.

It is being used to insulate shallow utilities; around piles, pile caps and modules; tank foundation systems; and as process slab insulation. Besides providing superior thermal protection, Cematrix is able to provide huge cost savings with its on-site production equipment that can produce up to 120 cubic metres of cellular concrete per hour. Its pumping units can deliver the product at low pressure over distances up to one kilometre from the sophisticated mixing equipment.

It takes three tractor units to move the equipment and a crane to assemble it on site. The new facility has just taken delivery of self-contained silos that are highly mobile, require no setup and can quickly begin to generate 1,000 cubic metres of cellular concrete per day.

The company is highly technology oriented with staff engineers working hard to design even better equipment. Cematrix is already being used in B.C. and Ontario, and Kendrick says he



CREDIT: Ted Rhodes, Calgary Herald
Steve Bent, left, and Jeff Kendrick of Cematrix have moved their cellular concrete business to 5440 52nd St. S.E.

is now bidding on larger projects in the United States.

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Tenants are moving around at Northland Village Mall to make way for Canada's Queen of Breakfasts. Mr. Charanek Barber Shop and Crown Optical have relocated to make way for the opening of Cora's Breakfast & Lunch on the west side of the shopping centre in the space that for many years was home to a TD Bank branch.

Scheduled to open by year-end, it will be the second Calgary location for the super popular eatery that prides itself in offering healthy, balanced breakfast and lunch menus. It doesn't serve evening meals. The first opened in South Trail Crossing last year through Jeff McGinley of Avison Young Commercial Real Estate who also leased the new northwest space.

But the choice of location was also largely thanks to Laurel Adamson, director of retail leasing for Western Canada at Oxford Properties, who says she ate with her daughter at a Cora's in St. John, N.B., and was so impressed with the meal she was determined to find a good location in one of her Calgary properties.

Thanks to the relocations in the enclosed mall, Adamson has been able to provide Cora's with 3,500 square feet of space.

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