



The production area enclosure consists of 121 double tee beams, 12.5- x 73-ft., and 122 insulated wall panels, 45 ft. high and 12 in. thick. The double tees over the twin 600-ft. bays bear on the wall panels and inverted "T" beams atop 14 center columns measuring 2 ft. x 4 ft. Crane rails run along 14- x 45-in. prestressed beams also set on those columns. Loading one bay's pair of 20-ton cranes, RexCon staff observed $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. deflection in the rail-supporting beams— $\frac{1}{2}$ in. below the engineering drawings' $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. limit.

The precast wall panels afford space and engineering efficiency at multiple levels. On the floor, they eliminate the column footprint and cross-bracing in a typical metal building enclosure. At the crane level, they readily support haunches carrying the outer rails.

Flanking the production area is a single-level office and electronics assembly wing, enclosed by 22 precast wall panels and double tee roof members. The office panels were cast with deep red/rust pigmented mix and rubber formliner to create a brick inlay effect. Local precast/prestressed producer J.W. Peters' contract covered wall and roof member fabrication and erection; the company subcontracted the latter to Rochelle Erectors of Illinois.

Sprawling twin bays afford fabricating and finishing stations for a full line of central and transit mixed plant models. Abundant overhead lifting capacity enables Burlington staff to perform routine handling tasks, such as transfer of drums from welding areas to paint booth, in minutes; the Milwaukee plant's space constraints and forklift methods meant hours for the same process. RexCon retained an older paint booth, soon to become a backup to a newer unit (left inset). Other Milwaukee plant equipment, including vintage press brakes and a surface prep chamber (right inset), is earmarked for long-term Burlington duty.

REXCON RELOADS

In a bold expression of confidence in future business prospects and commitment to a safe and comfortable work environment, RexCon LLC has relocated its headquarters and production from a land-locked Milwaukee site to an all-concrete operation on a southeastern Wisconsin greenfield.

Set on 30 acres in Burlington, RexCon's new home is anchored by an enclosure of 12- x 45-ft. insulated precast wall panels, yielding a 43-ft. working height for twin 75- x 600-ft. bays, topped by 12-ft. double tee roof members. Adjacent to the production space is a 40,000-sq.-ft., single-level

wing of offices, training areas and an assembly shop for RC3 plant controls packages. Like the main production area, it is enclosed with panels from J.W. Peters, whose nearby Burlington precast/prestressed yard runs a RexBatch 150 dual-lane central mix plant erected in 2002.

Another Wisconsin RexCon customer, Waukesha-based Zignego Co., served as general contractor. It delivered plant and office slab concrete from a LoGo 12 Central Mix batch plant serving an Interstate 94 contract in Caledonia, Wis. Placed at 8-in. thickness, the nearly 100,000 sq. ft. of produc-



Like adjacent office space, the RC3 plant controls assembly and testing shop has polished concrete floors.



tion floor slab contains Novomesh 950 reinforcing fiber. Super Mix, Inc., which runs RexCon models in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin ready mixed plants, supplied parking lot and truck loading pavement mixes from its Burlington site. Swederski Concrete Construction of Spring Grove, Ill., placed all plant, office and parking slabs.

In addition to having plant customers supply concrete for their project, RexCon officials likewise note how construction services and slab reinforcement were delivered from fellow American Concrete Pavement Association members (Zignego and Propex Concrete Systems). "One hundred percent of the work was done by ACPA members ... with RexCon plants," says CEO John "Jake" Jacob. "We believe in supporting our customers."

Where the choice of building enclosure and pavement specifications are concerned, RexCon Chief Operating Officer Mike Redmond adds, "We've been in concrete our whole lives. Everything we do in business involves concrete, so we wanted to show our commitment to the industry."

The building, parking and freight areas occupy about 14 acres of the parcel,

which is located near Wisconsin S.R. 11, accessing Interstates 94 and 43. The office and plant footprint was oriented to allow two additional bays at the rear of the facility, while maintaining a handful of 100- to 200-year-old oak trees. That green mind-set also factors into the building's energy-efficient design, underscored by a) the 12-in.-thick, insulated precast wall panels; b) abundant natural lighting provisions in the office areas; and, c) bi-fold aviation doors and upper-level windows that allow the production staff to operate with as little as 8 percent of ceiling fixture capacity during peak daylight periods. — Don Marsh



Six years after acquiring the plant and paving equipment business from Rose Industries—adding a major asset to their Illinois Aggregate equipment dealer partnership—RexCon principals John Jacob (left) and Mike Redmond left a dated Milwaukee operation for an ambitious plant and headquarters about 40 miles to the southwest of the city. A third partner with minority stake, Mike Burns, is chief financial officer.

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