Barriers protect WTC transportation hub.

Smith-Midland installing barriers near WTC location

The World Trade Center Transportation Hub project near the World Trade Center reconstruction site will provide a centralized location for taxi, bus and rail transportation services located near the reconstruction site.

Smith-Midland Corp., manufacturer of the J-J Hooks barrier connection system, will finish installing up to 2,000 linear feet of precast concrete barriers this month, a contract worth more than $100,000. Barrier installation began Jan. 17.

"This is a very high-profile project that every employee of Smith-Midland Corporation should be proud to have been a part of," Ashley Smith, vice president for sales and marketing, said. "Through all of the tragedy they experienced in New York, it's great to be a part of the rebuilding of such a meaningful project."

Smith-Midland Corp. was chosen because the New York Port Authority was pleased with the both the barrier product and the service provided by the company at the 2004 Republican National Convention, held in New York City.

The J-J Hooks barrier connection system has been crash tested to National Cooperative Highway Research Program 350 standards. Self-aligning, identical ended J-J Hook connectors allow for quick, easy installation of the barrier.

There is no loose hardware, permitting a single section to be easily removed without disturbing adjacent sections and eliminating the possibility of lost, stolen or damaged parts. This is important for easy emergency access and protection against tampering and vandalism.

J-J Hooks can be used as a temporary or permanent barrier system. CM

thin-set mortars, grouts, underlayments and decking products. ParexLahabra is a subsidiary of Parex Group, a division of Materis-France, with more than 35 manufacturing locations worldwide. CM

Maryland highway project to get sound suppression panels

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) project at the I-95/I-695 interchange near Baltimore will contain more than 215,000 square feet of precast concrete sound wall from Smith-Midland to insulate the highway noise from nearby residential areas, a contract worth approximately $3.2 million.

The project will construct express toll lanes, to be known as "hot lanes," to facilitate traffic movement at the I-95/I-695 interchange. The total cost of the project, which is a Wagman/Corman/McLean joint venture, is estimated to be more than $200 million.

The concrete panels will feature a vertical ribbed finish on the highway side, with a stamped finish on the residential side. Production of the projected 1,690 precast concrete panels and 577 concrete posts will begin this spring at Smith-Midland's Midland, Va., plant.

Installation is scheduled to begin in July 2007 with a targeted completion date in June 2008.

The 5.5-inch-thick panels will be stacked on top of each other, sliding into a groove on the concrete posts, to create a wall that is up to 30 feet tall and is almost two miles long. CM