



Everything Michigan

Concrete-testing facility lands new contract, plans expansion at Midlink Business Park

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Jane Parikh | Special to the Kalamazoo Gazette

COMSTOCK TOWNSHIP — A decade of planning and building is paying off in a major way for Tourney Consulting Group LLC, headquartered in Midlink Business Park.

TCG is a consulting and engineering company that focuses on the durability of concrete and cost-effective ways to service concrete structures, said Paul Tourney, vice president of the company.

Tourney and his wife, Lilibeth, the president of TCG, started the company 10 years ago in the basement of their Comstock Township home.

The company was recently awarded a \$240,000 contract from the Bureau of Reclamation, part of the United States Department of the Interior. The money will be used to test concrete industry proposals for reducing and repairing concrete that comes in contact with water.

The Tourneys and some of the engineers and scientists they employ last week discussed TCG's role in the project with representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation and the domestic concrete industry.

"This has been our dream and now it's becoming a reality," said Lilibeth Tourney, as she watched concrete being poured in preparation for testing in the TCG facilities. "We want TCG to be the most advanced concrete testing facility in the country. Nationwide, we want to be the go-to firm."

Paul Tourney said the project is an outgrowth of a program from the International Concrete Repair Institute. Vision 2020 was established by representatives of the concrete repair industry to set a course for the next decade. Tourney said he expects the project to take about two years to complete.

The testing component of the project involves flooding the surfaces of concrete slabs with saltwater for two-week intervals, draining the slabs to allow them to dry and flooding them again, said Glenn Schafer, vice president of operations. Schafer said this

FACTSHEET

Tourney Consulting Group LLC

What: A consultant and testing laboratory for the concrete industry.

Employees: 22

Founded: 2000

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process will continue for two years and is designed to begin the corrosion process so that TCG staff can identify treatment methods.

Where: 20,000-square-foot space in Midlink Business Park, Comstock Township.

Contact: 269-384-9980, www.tourneyconsulting.com

"We've got lots of dams, power plants, canals and bridges," said Kurt Von Fay, of the Bureau of Reclamation, "and we've got a number of companies telling us they've got the perfect solution to our problems. But, it's hard for us to compare Brand A with Brand B."

Paul Tourney said there are a number of companies offering methods to prolong the life of concrete structures, but the Vision 2020 plan calls for uniform testing methods to gauge the durability of concrete materials.

"There are 13 objectives the concrete repair industry identified and longer-lasting repairs and standardization of testing materials were among the most critical," he said.

In addition to the Bureau of Reclamation, TCG's client base also includes the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Navy and major construction corporations and concrete producers.

The company employs 22 people and occupies a 20,000-square-foot space at Midlink.

Paul Tourney said plans are in the works to expand the facility this winter by an additional 8,000 square feet.

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