

Structural Testing Labs to be dedicated at ceremonies scheduled March 15 at UCSD

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Media Contact: Pat JaCoby, 534-7404 or Warren Froelich, 534-8564

STRUCTURAL TESTING LABS TO BE DEDICATED AT CEREMONIES SCHEDULED MARCH 15 AT UCSD

The dedication of two large-scale structural testing laboratories as new additions to the Charles Lee Powell Structural Research Laboratories will be held March 15 at the University of California, San Diego.

Invited to speak at the 4-6 p.m. ceremony on the terrace adjacent to the laboratories are U.S. Secretary of Transportation Frederico Pena and Governor Pete Wilson. Others scheduled to participate are UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson; Dean Robert W. Conn, UCSD School of Engineering, and Powell Laboratories Directors Gilbert A. Hegemier and Frieder Seible.

The new Structural Components Laboratory and the Composite Structures Laboratory join the existing Structural Systems Laboratory to form one of the world's largest structural testing facilities. Work in the labs will include new design methods for building earthquake-resistant bridges as well as techniques for retrofitting and rehabilitating older bridges and buildings.

Total construction cost of the new laboratories was approximately \$2.6 million; all three laboratories represent a capital investment of more than \$10 million.

The existing Structural Systems Laboratory was the first U.S. high-bay facility with a 50-foot-tall reaction wall and a 120-foot-long strong-floor for the full-scale testing of complete structural systems such as buildings, bridges, ships and aircraft.

The new Structural Components Laboratory contains three test bays for the full or large-scale testing of structural components or subassemblages, a 65-foot-long reaction-wall and strong-floor, and a 10 x 16 foot shake table for real-time earthquake simulations.

The Composite Structures Laboratory is a dedicated reactionwall/test-floor facility for the development and full-scale testing of new lightweight composite materials and structures.

The laboratories are supported by machine, electronics and wood shops as well as unique manufacturing and processing capabilities for advanced composite materials. Each lab is linked directly to the San Diego Supercomputer Center for interactive testing.

The Charles Lee Powell Foundation provided the principal funding of \$2 million for the existing Structural Systems Laboratory and the two new laboratories. Powell, an engineer and developer, died in 1959 at the age of 96. His will designated that the Foundation be established for furthering education in the engineering and scientific fields.

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