

Media Release

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“MacDonnell Group and SMARTEC SA Partner to Bring Structural Health Monitoring Technology to North America”

HALIFAX, NS – MacDonnell Group of Halifax today announced that they have partnered with SMARTEC SA, of Lugano, Switzerland, a leading developer, producer and distributor of measurement and Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) systems. MacDonnell Group will be a Certified Solution Provider of SMARTEC products for Canada and the United States.

Roberto Walder, Sales Manager for SMARTEC, was in Halifax this week, presenting the range of products available for various field applications and structures. He explained that “SHM equipment is used to monitor performance, and to detect, locate and assess damage caused by severe loading or environmental conditions.” Mr. Walder went on to say that SHM is an innovative way to monitor the performance of structures and to manage risk.

Ralston MacDonnell, President of MacDonnell Group, stated, “this is a unique opportunity to accelerate the availability of Structural Health Monitoring services by bringing cutting edge technology from Europe to Canada. This partnership will build on our 10 year relationship with research organizations in Canada that are developing structural health monitoring systems.” Dr. Vidyadhar Limaye, Vice President of Engineering and Innovation for MacDonnell Group, will be leading the initiatives in Canada.

Structural Health Monitoring has already been successfully implemented in Nova Scotia. MacDonnell Group employed this new technology in 2004/2005, partnering with Dalhousie University and ISIS Canada, a National Centre of Excellence, to monitor the process of increasing the berthing depth for the Fairview Cove Terminal. SHM technology is also being used in other provinces, like Manitoba, where the MacDonnell firm JMBT Structures, and ISIS Canada, designed the system for the Esplanade Riel Pedestrian Bridge. Live examples of SHM are available at <http://130.179.57.204/ActiveSHM/Templates/Home.htm>.

MacDonnell Group is a Halifax based organization with over 50 years of experience in engineering and management consulting. In addition to SHM research, the firm has pioneered working in the area of fibre reinforced plastics in structures; including, the award winning corrosion free bridge decks.

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