



PRESS RELEASE

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Expansion of Services Strengthens Hawaii's Technology Base

Baldrige & Associates Structural Engineering, Inc. (BASE), Hawaii-based structural engineering firm, is announcing their expansion into the high-tech research and development market. The formation of "BASE Research & Development, LLC", was driven by successes in obtaining both private and federal research and development grants. This challenging effort is part of BASE's commitment to being at the forefront of innovative structural concepts both for conventional construction and defensive projects related to Homeland Security and Department of Defense needs.

"There is a misconception that the construction industry is low-tech. The reality however, is that there are new materials and methods being explored to make buildings stronger and less expensive to build," notes Steven Baldrige, President of BASE. "Our involvement in the research side of this work ultimately benefits both our clients and the community as a whole." BASE's recent research and development projects include three major developments.

1. ***Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) development of design and construction guidance for special facilities for vertical evacuation from tsunami:***
BASE is managing a two year, \$400,000 tsunami evacuation study. The objective of this project is to determine whether it would be possible to design and build a structure to withstand specific tsunami loads, and, if so, to develop vertical evacuation from tsunami conditions.
2. ***Hawaii Technology Development Venture:*** This project of the Office of Naval Research and the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICTHR) has particular interest in the development and demonstration of advanced technologies for anti-terrorism and force protection. BASE will be developing and testing special steel moment frame beam-to-column connection exhibiting the ability to withstand the rigors of destructive loading conditions that accompany severe blast damage of connecting members, including column damage or removal, without rupture. Testing will be performed at the University of Hawaii Structural Engineering Laboratory.
3. ***Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute – Structural Bulletin Series:*** BASE was retained by this esteemed institute to transform their intense training and experience into a structural bulletin. Entitled “Reinforced Concrete and Secure Buildings: Progressive Collapse”, the bulletin was published in November 2004 and is meant to get practicing engineers interested in possessing a basic understanding of the principles behind designing more secure buildings.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Steven M. Baldrige at (808) 534-1300.