

Board Approves Expansion of ISSA's Scope

The Board of Directors of the International Slurry Surfacing Association has voted to expand the scope of the association to include other thin surface sealing contractors, materials suppliers, and equipment manufacturers, starting now. The membership voiced its support of this concept through a survey last Fall, and the Board has appointed a committee, chaired by Past President Mike Buckingham, to proceed with identifying prospective members and new ISSA tools to benefit this new membership segment. The expansion will include the chip seal and crack seal industry, surface rejuvenation contractors and suppliers, and others in the pavement preservation arena.

Buckingham says, "The expansion is designed not only to broaden ISSA's scope, but to bring an industry together. The voice of the entire pavement preservation industry can be a strong one. This will be an attempt to bring a fragmented industry together to have a single voice. We talked to FHWA, the Foundation and the National Center for Pavement Preservation, the Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association, and other industry partners, and they were all enthusiastic in their support of this expansion."

ISSA's plan is to provide the same services to all pavement preservation contractors that it has for many years to the slurry and microsurfacing industry. Members, suppliers, and agencies around the world are well familiar with ISSA's guidelines for slurry and micro, A-105 and A-143, and publications like TB-1990, the Inspector's Manual, Quality Control for Microsurfacing, and the new High Performance Slurry Systems brochure and dvd. As the new members join, the Board will quickly appoint new task forces to develop publications and other promotional and educational tools to represent the new segments, and appropriate levels of funding for same.

The hardworking Slurry Systems Workshop Committee is already at work to implement and add new half-day session to the ever-popular workshop, next scheduled for January 15 – 18, 2008, in Las Vegas.

The as-yet unnamed expansion committee will develop the best strategy for ISSA to begin representing other preservation contractors. ISSA will send letters of invitation to prospective members explaining the tangible and intangible benefits afforded by membership, and assuring them of a strong voice in setting direction for the promotion of their services and products.

As the change develops and matures, it is likely the association will consider a name change to better represent its expanded industry coverage.

Buckingham summarizes, "I strongly feel, as I have for the past several years, that the inclusion of other types of surface sealing contractors in no way takes away from the slurry surfacing industry. It will make the entire pavement preservation industry come together as one, have a larger voice, represent all types of pavement preservation surface-type treatments, and, if we are successful, draw a large number of additional members to ISSA. Additional members will allow us the opportunity to expand services, and become a much larger voice with a larger portion of funds to facilitate additional activities.

For over 40 years, the International Slurry Surfacing Association has been an international non-profit trade association comprised of slurry surfacing and microsurfacing contractors, equipment manufacturers, public officials, research personnel, consulting engineers and associated industry interests, working together to promote the increased and more efficient use of slurry surfacing in roadway pavements. With the expanded scope, ISSA will continue the programs that have contributed to its success and reputation, and grow them to represent the other segments of the thin surface sealing industry.