

News Release

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STI WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS COST/WEIGHT ADVANTAGES OF HSS IN NEW MEADOWLANDS STADIUM

Coral Gables, FL July 15, 2009 — The Steel Tube Institute of North America has just hosted a webinar which featured the cost/weight advantages steel hollow structural sections (HSS) is providing in the support structures of the video boards, ribbon boards and entry towers at the new Meadowlands stadium under construction in East Rutherford, NJ.

The webinar, viewed by architects, design engineers, fabricators and architectural professors, featured Mark VanDyk, project engineer for large sports venues for Daktronics, the world leader in fabricating and installing large electronic display systems. Mr. VanDyk, explained why Daktronics specifies HSS in the support structures for their large electronic display systems: “HSS meets our requirements for both strength and weight, and it saves on both fabrication and erection costs,” he says.

The combination of scoreboards, video boards and display boards at the new Meadowlands Stadium makes the project the largest LED system in the world. All of the LED systems are supported by HSS structures. Inside the stadium are four 118 ft. x 30 ft. corner video screens; a 360-degree 1800 linear foot ribbon board, which also acts as a protective rail; two 4 ft. x 130 ft. game-in-progress displays and; two delay-of-game clocks.

Outside the stadium are a total of ten double-sided entry gate towers --- six 38 ft. x 20 ft. towers; two 54 ft. x 20 ft. towers; and two 18 ft. x 32 ft. double-sided marquees located next to the freeway.

Mr. VanDyk, in explaining why Daktronics uses HSS in its support structures, cited the product’s unique benefits:

- efficient strength in both axis
- the ability to handle both eccentric and torsional loading
- the capability to provide longer un-braced lengths for both the strong and weak axis of section
- the fixed outer geometric section dimensions
- efficiency in deflection criteria with reduced section height
- reduced section height
- the attractive appearance of HSS, if it’s left exposed to view
- the smooth surface for handrail applications and,
- the flat surface area which makes it easy to attach multiple materials to the HSS members.

The majority of the HSS used in the Meadowlands project is 6 in. x 4 in. rectangular shapes and 6 in. x 6 in. squares. The handrails are constructed of 1.5 in. x 1.5 in. tubing.

The STI's executive director, Bill Wolfe, opened the webinar by discussing the applications and benefits of HSS, including the significant cost/weight advantages the product provides. "Whether you're an architect, design or structural engineer, fabricator, contractor or consultant, you can lose weight and look smart by specifying HSS," Mr. Wolfe emphasized. "Not only can you save significant weight on your project, HSS can lighten your fabrication, transportation, handling and erection costs...and because HSS has fewer sides and less surface area to coat, you can save on painting and fireproofing costs, too."

The complete webinar, including questions and answers, is available on the Steel Tube Institute's website at www.steeltubeinstitute.org. Go to the HSS section of the website and click on the HSS webinar banner.

The Steel Tube Institute was founded in 1930. It sponsors cooperative efforts to improve manufacturing techniques, safety and best business practices in the welded steel tubing industry and informs customers and fabricators about the utility and versatility of steel pipe and tubing products. It is headquartered in Coral Gables, Florida.