# Rigid Inclusions for Support of Embankments and MSE Walls in Soft Ground

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# **First Things First**







- Introduction to Rigid Inclusions (Controlled Modulus Columns, CMC)
- Case History: I-29 and US 275 Interchange Project
- Case History: I-295 Direct Connect Project
- Case History: Ericson Avenue Project



# **Controlled Modulus Columns (CMC)**



## Definition:

"A ground improvement solution comprised of grouted inclusions which act to reinforce a soil mass for the purpose of settlement control"

CMC is a technology using piling equipment to build solutions designed with a ground improvement approach and philosophy

CMCs are typically used as an alternate to:

- Driven piles
- ACIPs
- RAPs
- WDs+Surcharge
- PIFs
- Stone Columns
- Vibro-concrete cols.
- Overexcavation





# **TYPICAL INSTALLATION SEQUENCE**









# **CONTROLLED MODULUS COLUMNS**

 <u>Pile</u>: An extension of the structure into the underlying ground for the purpose of transferring loads from the superstructure to deeper bearing strata.

 Ground Improvement: Installation of higher strength/stiffness inclusions in the ground to transform the physical behavior of the underlying soils from the behavior of the original soil to the composite behavior of the soil with the inclusions.



# **DEEP FOUNDATION SYSTEM vs. CMC SYSTEM**







# **REMINDER FROM THE PAST**





WICK DRAINS





# WICK DRAINS







# I-29 and US 275 INTERCHANGE PROJECT

- Project in Iowa, near Nebraska border
- Soils associated with Missouri River flood plain
- Over 14,000 CMC's installed
- 18-inch diameter
- Design-Bid-Build traditional Project
- CMCs cut off for Load Transfer pad as well as utilities.

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# I-29 and US 275 INTERCHANC











### **QUALITY CONTROL – COMPUTER MONITORING**







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# I-29 and US 275 INTERCH

#### DGI-Menard CMC



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ET :





- Project in New Jersey, near Philadelphia
- Over 5,000 CMC's installed on Contract 1 and 5,500 coming up on Contract 2
- CMC support Design-Build within a traditional Design-Bid-Build Project















# **Construction Staging**

- Cut slope to lower working pad
- Install temporary sheeting, lower working pad
- Install CMCs for lower wall
- Backfill lower wall to upper bench elevation
- Install CMCs for upper wall
- Backfill upper wall to roadway elevation
- Finish grade, place pavement





## **Modeled Soil Profile**









# 3D Model Plan View – Slice Through Entire Embankment





# **Plaxis Results**









# I-29 and US 275



Figure 4 Plan view of the instrumentation.





# **I-29 and US 275 INTERCHANGE PROJECT**





# **ERICSON AVENUE PROJECT**

- Project in Virginia, near James Madison University
- Value-Engineering Proposal Project
- Replaced lightweight fill (geofoam) with ground improvement and traditional MSE all construction.



# **ERICSON AVENUE PROJECT**







# **ERICSON AVEN**

Sta. 13+99 Proposed raise of working pad from 1244 to 1245.2 - CONFIRM



# CONCLUSIONS

- Accelerated construction by supporting embankments and MSE walls is possible by means of CMC rigid inclusions
- Multiple geometries for new construction and widening can be accommodated





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