

Lightweight Panel System Combines Concrete And Steel

For those metal building projects where tilt-up concrete wall panels are being considered, Earl Composite Systems offers an alternative called Metal Stud Crete (MSC).

The MSC panel system can be site cast using standard tilt-up procedures or pre-cast. Among the advantages of the MSC system is that the panels are lighter than their counterparts. Weighing just 35 lbs. per sq. ft., the 2"-thick panels do not require as thick a footing as heavier tilt-up panels. In addition, the steel studs on the inside wall plane are a ready-made cavity for insulation or the routing of utilities. The insulation and interior finishing options are endless.

MSC panels can be easily attached to pre-engineered metal building framing systems using clip angles and self-tapping screws. The panels can be used as a cladding or shear wall application.

In one example, BB Vance of Jonesboro, AR, an authorized Star Systems Builder, utilized MSC panels in conjunction with a Star framing system for an aircraft hangar at the Jonesboro airport. The panels were engineered to clad the offices adjacent to the executive jet hangar. The wall panels were cast on the concrete apron next to the hangar, then lifted with a lightweight crane and attached. Production and installation was accelerated by pouring a high-strength 5,000 psi concrete mix, enabling the panels to be placed just one day after being poured. The interior walls were insulated and covered with drywall.

The standard components of the MSC panels on that project were procured locally. The structural composite connectors used to install the panels, as well as technical assistance to complete the job, were provided by Earl Composite Systems.

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