

German mixing technology wins in US

At the former Pier 55 along the Hudson River in New York, 132 precast tulip elements, mounted on 267 concrete piles, form a 2.4 acre artificial island. They are the new eye-catchers of the waterfront. For the ambitious project, precast producer and supplier of the concrete flowers Fort Miller Co. relied on the proven mixing technology from BHS-Sonthofen. Two BHS twin-shaft batch mixers of type DKXS 300 ensured concrete of the highest quality.

The planning phase for Pier 55, now known as 'Little Island', dates back almost 10 years, with the foundation stone being laid in 2018: Concrete piles had to be driven into the ground to make the island, designed to accommodate several thousand people, possible. The project was realised through partnership with the Hudson River Park Trust and funded primarily through Barry Diller and the Diller-Von Furstenberg family foundation. The free public park pier within the larger Hudson River Park opened in May 2021.

BHS-Sonthofen, with head office in Germany, was already involved in the project during this first phase. Precast concrete manufacturer Coastal Precast Systems from Chesapeake/Virginia uses BHS mixing technology at three of its sites. This company supplied the necessary 267



'Little Island' comprises 132 concrete tulips rising from the water.

up to 60m long posttensioned precast concrete piers for the substructure – each with a load capacity of 250 – 300t.

In the subsequent project phase with Fort Miller from Schuylerville/NY, the architecturally appealing precast concrete structures were installed. Weighing 90t, each of the 132 tulip heads is intended to be both delicate and function as an oversized flowerpot to support the park and entire trees. Fort Miller accepted this challenge and purchased two BHS twin-shaft batch mixers, each with a discharge capability of 3m³ per batch, for this and other ambitious orders. "Concrete components in close proximity to the tidal

sea water are subject to constant corrosion. The mixing technology from BHS-Sonthofen ensures excellent mixing quality, which is essential in such projects," explained Scott D Harrigan, president of Fort Miller. The proven technology enabled the production of 655 individual tulip leaves, which were trucked to the port of Coeymans and assembled before being barged to the site.

With more than 130 years of experience with mixing technology, BHS-Sonthofen proved to be the right partner for such an ambitious challenge. "The DKXS is the optimal choice for precast concrete of highest quality", explained Mike Kerins, sales manager concrete and minerals division at BHS-Sonthofen Inc. "The three-dimensional mixing concept of the mixer results in an intensive exchange of materials, shorter mixing cycles with reduced energy consumption, and a maintenance-friendly and robust design. Furthermore we are centrally located on the East Coast where we have our sales and warehousing operations that can quickly adapt for orders and service needs. Fort Miller has been a great partner to BHS, and we are honoured to continually be an integral part of their manufacturing process," Kerins concludes.