

FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTORS, INC. PURCHASES NEW TADANO GTC-800 80 METRIC TON TELE-BOOM CRAWLER CRANE FROM COASTLINE EQUIPMENT CRANE DIVISION

By Ian Hoover, Editor

Foundation Constructors, Inc. was founded in 1971 by Fred Cavin and partners, Ray Rose, Joe Hilton and Barney Murdock. The dream and vision have always been to be a modern, dynamic and industry leading pile driving company in California. Through hard work and determination, the company grew quickly enabling them to purchase the H.F. Lauritzen Construction company in 1976 and relocate to the current Oakley facility. A couple years later (1978), Foundation Constructors, Inc. opened its wholly owned subsidiary, Foundation Pile, Inc. to better serve the Southern California market. The company entered into the drilled foundation market in 2006 by purchasing the assets of American Pile Driving. A variety of patented and proprietary drilled foundation products along with a new level of engineering expertise came along with the American acquisition.

Foundation Constructors, Inc. and Foundation Pile, Inc. (Foundation) now specializes in multiple types of deep foundation piling for the commercial, infrastructure, industrial and energy industries, as well as a long list of other agencies and institutions. From freeway and road building jobs and private construction projects to residential and multi-use housing, and DOT work, the company is a recognized foundation solutions leader throughout California.

Foundations Constructors, Inc. serves the territory from Bakersfield north, while Foundation Pile, Inc. serves everything south of Bakersfield.

John Honaker is the Vice President of construction for the entire state of California and he has been with Foundation for 15 years. "The pile driving trade requires heavy equipment that can stand up to the daily rigors of our continuous, and aggressive work environment," says Honaker. We use cranes and excavators equipped with special piling attachments to perform pile driving and auger cast pile duties. We need cranes and equipment that we can depend on and an equipment distributor who can be there for us at a moment's notice."

Foundation Constructors and Foundation Pile collectively own and maintain a fleet of 40 pieces of heavy equipment, including multiple cranes and a hydraulic excavator. "Our drill rigs are Woltman PVE 90s, along with a variety of sizes of Fundex machines. Our cranes are primarily Link-Belt and Manitowoc, and we just recently added a Tadano GTC-800 80 metric ton tele-boom crawler crane to our fleet," says Honaker. "We were renting the Tadano from Coastline Equipment and almost immediately moved it into a rental/purchase and decided to buy it. David Demichei contacted us and let us know that Coastline was handling the Tadano/Mantis cranes and so we started out

Foundation Constructors' Tadano GTC-800 on Highway 4 bridge widening project installing all of the bed pile at the 680-freeway intersection.



by renting a Tadano GTC-600 and GTC-800." Honaker explains that the main benefit of owning the Tadano GTC-800 is that it is a hydraulic rig and that means it comes preassembled with tracks and boom. "There is no real erection time involved with the Tadano, other than the counterweights that we install in 30 to 40 minutes," continues Honaker. "Typically crane rental companies do not like or allow their customers to drive pile with rough terrain cranes and other hydraulic rigs. The 88-ton Tadano is advertised as a pile driving crane and that is the beauty of this machine. It is built to drive piles. We have driven pile with diesel hammers and have pulled and driven sheets with no issues whatsoever. It is everything they claim it to be."

Foundation Constructors has utilized their new Tadano GTC-800 in San Francisco to drive sheet pile at the Soma Hotel project. "The Tadano has plenty of boom length where I can set or splice pile. We typically pile drive with one rig and set additional pieces with the Tadano crane. We have had it for nine months now and it is just such a versatile crane. This machine has never had an idle moment and I have never seen it in our yard," says Honaker. "We plan on purchasing more Tadano cranes because they fit right in with our niche market. They are built for pile driving and they are definitely our crane of choice when it comes to hydraulic rigs."

Foundation Constructors also recently used their GTC-800 on the Highway 4 bridge widening project to install all of the bed pile at the 680-freeway intersection for Brosamer & Wall. "We also were recently awarded the pile driving contract for the Mission Rock project in San Francisco. This is for four separate buildings and some of the longest pile ever driven in San Francisco," continues Honaker. "We are driving around 1,300 piles around 250 feet deep. We are doing test piling right now and should be in full production by the end of June."

Foundation Constructors, Inc. and Foundation Pile, Inc. are both union operated companies with anywhere from 75 to 130 skilled team members working during both peak and slower times of the year. They offer and maintain the industry's most innovative engineering staff with the most experienced and profession construction teams available. With the most modern technologically advanced drilling equipment and installation methods available, the Foundation team is prepared to provide their clients with a long list of deep foundation solutions. For more information on either company, please visit foundationpiledriving.com or call their Oakley headquarters at (925) 754-6633. **CC**