



LOAD ASSURANCE

Lauren Concrete

Lauren Concrete is a leading provider of ready mix concrete in Austin, Texas. They maintain a large footprint with 23 plants from Mason all the way to Waller.

The Challenge

Lauren Concrete was awarded a major job supplying all of the ready mix concrete for DPR Construction on the Block 185 skyscraper located at 601 W. 2nd St. in Downtown Austin, Texas. The tower is the fourth tallest in Austin at 594 feet. The new 37-story, 590-foot-tall Green Water Block 185 project represents the largest self-performing concrete job to date for DPR. For such a job, it's important for Lauren Concrete to deliver the highest-quality materials to meet the project specifications.

"Block 185 is a very high-spec job, so performance is extremely important," said Matt Jetmore, Central General Manager at Lauren Concrete. "When pouring columns, strength and slump are crucial to success, so having the ability to know what's in our trucks, how our product is going to perform, and having assurance that it's going to be out here at a consistent slump during high temperatures – knowing the continuous reading of the temperature is invaluable. Load Assurance is a perfect product for this project."

The Solution

Load Assurance monitors the material science of a load of concrete from the moment it is batched to the moment it is delivered at the job. Probe technology gathers information on the properties of the materials while inside of the drum such as volume, temperature, slump, how many revs are on the truck, etc. "What really sold me on Load Assurance was the integrity behind the product and



LOCATION
Texas



INDUSTRY
Ready Mix



RESULTS
Instant Information

the efficiency opportunities,” said Ethan Horton, Operations Specialist at Lauren Concrete. “Really looking at dialing in down to the plant, the batch operator, and seeing that load from A to Z has been pretty impressive.”

All of the information is reported up through the cloud so production, dispatch, quality control personnel, and drivers are able to instantly check on the contents of any truck at any time and from any location. When the truck makes it to the job, jobsite personnel can look at the display board on the back of the truck and know everything about the load before they pour. “When we first began our pilot with Load Assurance, we’d have a load that had an issue on the jobsite, and we’d say, ‘Man, I wish that was a Load Assurance truck so we would know what’s going on with it,’” said Ryan Cupps, Operations Manager at Lauren Concrete. “That conversation started coming up more and more. We’ve gained a lot of information on what’s going on with our loads in the drum while on the way to the job.”

Lauren Concrete ran over a three-month pilot with Load Assurance on 31 of their ready mix delivery trucks. The results that they achieved with that small sliver of trucks prompted them to extend the value of Load Assurance to 115 trucks in their central division.

The Result

The data collected by Load Assurance enables the batch operator to adjust loads on the front-end so that they arrive to the jobsite at the correct slump. “We found that slump is accurate within plus or minus half an inch,” said Cupps. “That’s well within what you would typically see with a slump cone. So, I can tell you that as far as we’re concerned, this is as accurate as a formal slump test.”

The dispatch team is watching the slump and knowing more about the properties of the product before it arrives. With that information, they can trim time off at the plant and at the job. It also empowers them to have specific conversations

when customer questions arise because they have real-time and historical data for all of the loads that they dispatched. Now, dispatch and quality control personnel have the answers that they need to combat false claims and data that can protect against litigation.

“Not only does Load Assurance bring value to the customer, we’re able to bring value that not everybody in the industry can bring. Therefore, we think this makes Lauren a more attractive partner to our customers.”

“The data is instantly available to our QC team,” said Cupps. “All historical records are maintained, and I can tell you what happened a month ago or even four months ago on a specific truck. From a data standpoint, it’s outstanding.”

Lauren Concrete believes in complete transparency, so they share all of the data that is being pulled through with their customers. They can look at the same information that Lauren employees can see to help them to understand how their own crews are performing in terms of time on job and water additions.

The insights and reports that Lauren Concrete receives from the system have been extremely helpful in being able to see how they were trending the previous week and a big-picture view of their performance enables them to drill down into areas that they can improve. “Having technology like this on such a huge project like Block 185, we really feel it’s a differentiator for us, said Jetmore.



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