

Mainmark introduces Terefirm

Following extensive testing and field trials, Mainmark Ground Engineering has introduced the first commercially viable, non-invasive ground improvement and liquefaction mitigation technique that can be applied beneath existing structures.

Terefirm Resin Injection is fully engineered and validated by geotechnical testing and can protect structures at risk from soil liquefaction, providing an alternative to structural strengthening and more invasive soil treatments.

Developed in response to the 2010/11 Canterbury seismic events, Terefirm Resin Injection has been proven to produce consistent and positive results with the method now included in the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Module 5: Ground Improvement of Soils Prone to Liquefaction¹. The internationally peer reviewed research was conducted in partnership with the Earthquake Commission (EQC) and the MBIE, and can be found online in the New Zealand Geotechnical Society library.

The non-invasive Terefirm Resin Injection method involves a proprietary technique to inject Mainmark's engineered resin with surgical precision in a relatively clean and non-disruptive process, to densify the soil and increase liquefaction resistance. During injection of the treatment zone, the low viscosity resin both permeates the soil and penetrates under pressure along planes of weakness within the soil profile. The injected material then reacts by rapidly expanding to many times its original volume, resulting in compaction of the adjacent soils. This improves the soil foundation characteristics and makes the ground less susceptible to liquefaction².

Theo Hnat, technical manager, Mainmark New Zealand, says, "We've always believed that our unique resin injection technique could be used to provide liquefaction mitigation, and we are very pleased that this is now a proven and ratified theory.

"Terefirm Resin Injection is the result of years of hard work, commitment and scientific collaboration. Through the success of the Christchurch Ground Improvement trials, engineers and asset owners now have a viable alternative to

consider for improving soil density beneath structures affected or at-risk of liquefaction," continued Mr Hnat.

Terefirm has already helped to successfully remediate a number of residential and commercial projects, including the Northwood Supa Centa, a large shopping centre in Christchurch that had suffered liquefaction-related settlement damage following the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. The site required extensive ground improvement work to densify the soil beneath the centre and bring the buildings back to level. Mainmark undertook the project while retail tenants, including a busy supermarket, continued to trade virtually uninterrupted. The outcome resulted in the shopping centre achieving 100% NBS (new building standard).

While remediating liquefaction affected buildings is ongoing, the focus is also turning towards the building of resilient cities and protecting critical infrastructure, including utilities, roads and hospitals. The operators of the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant in Wellington have taken a proactive step to address liquefiable soils beneath the plant, helping to reduce the risk of damage to the water facility when earthquakes occur.

"Wellington Water's council owners have tasked us with ensuring our key treatment plants will be able to quickly resume operating after a major earthquake," says Tristan Reynard, Project Director for the Seaview project. "Upgrading this plant while it keeps operating presented a unique challenge, which Mainmark's solution helped us to address."

Mainmark's ability to continually deliver exceptional ground engineering outcomes has been recognised worldwide. The company's post-earthquake resurrection of the Christchurch Art Gallery won International Project of the Year Award at the 2016 Ground Engineering Awards in London. As New Zealand continues to rebuild and remediate homes, buildings and infrastructure to address the effects of seismic events, Mainmark will further collaborate with engineers, homeowners, government, councils and civil infrastructure owners to help strengthen and protect at-risk structures, from the ground up.

RMA shakeup 'long overdue'

A shakeup of the Resource Management System is a big step in the right direction, BusinessNZ chief executive Kirk Hope says.

"This is a great chance to move towards improved environmental, economic and social wellbeing outcomes."

Mr Hope says Resource Reform New Zealand (Employers and Manufacturers Association (EMA), Environmental Defence Society (EDS), Property Council New Zealand, Infrastructure New Zealand and BusinessNZ) is pleased to see the focus finally on the Resource Management Act.

Mr Hope praised Environment Minister David Parker for recognising the issues

and bringing independent oversight to the review.

The RMA was the first legislation of its type in the world combining environmental and planning matters, however, at almost 30-years-old, it is outdated, Mr Hope says.

"Substantial changes in climate change and large-scale infrastructure construction mean an overhaul is necessary."

Mr Hope sees the review as a chance to look at the wider resource management system in New Zealand.

"We hope a reform will increase housing development affordability, reduce complications and improve freshwater quality."

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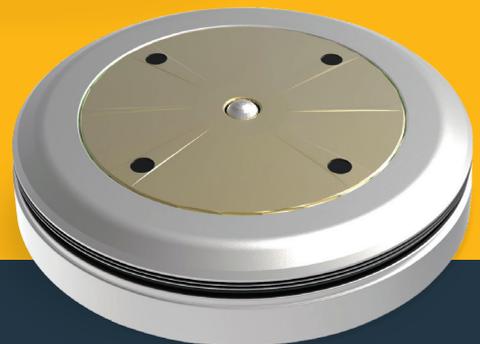


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