

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 19, 2026

SPEEDCORE RECOGNIZED WITH ASCE CHARLES PANKOW AWARD FOR INNOVATION

Collaborative development of new structural system delivers faster, safer, and more sustainable high-rise construction.

SEATTLE, WA — The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) honored the SpeedCore development team with the 2026 Charles Pankow Award for Innovation, recognizing the structural system's prefabricated, modular building methods and its potential to improve construction quality, safety, sustainability, and project schedules. Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) led a years-long collaborative research and development effort, culminating in the first-ever high-rise implementation of SpeedCore at Seattle's Rainier Square.



ASCE presents the Charles Pankow Award for Innovation to collaborative teams whose efforts advance design, materials, or construction methods moving beyond development and into practical use, benefiting both the building industry and the public. The award carries the name of construction luminary Charles J. Pankow and recognizes the collective effort required to bring new ideas into practice.

SpeedCore represents more than two decades of research and development across industry and academia. Collaborative efforts began in 2005 and included MKA; Purdue University researchers Dr. Amit Varma, Dr. Mike Kreger, and Dr. Mark Bowman; University at Buffalo researcher Dr. Michel Bruneau; AISC; Cives Steel Company; Schuff Steel; Turner Construction; and J.F. Stearns Steel Erecting Company.

The Rainier Square implementation brought together RSQ Tower LLC/Wright Runstad & Company as owner and developer; NBBJ as architect; Lease Crutcher Lewis as general contractor/construction manager; Supreme Steel as steel fabricator, The Erection Company as steel erector; and peer reviewers Simpson Gumpertz & Heger and Degenkolb Engineers. The team translated years of testing, analysis, and standards development into a buildable system that could be fabricated, erected, inspected, and delivered at commercial scale.

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Rainier Square marked the first use of SpeedCore in a high-rise building. The 850-foot-tall, 1.4-million-square-foot tower demonstrated the system at full scale, reducing the project's structural construction schedule by 10 months compared with a conventional concrete-core approach. The structure was erected 43% faster, with crews completing as many as four floors per week. The accelerated schedule also reduced on-site activities and allowed the owner to realize construction, financing, and revenue benefits earlier.

SpeedCore's research and design standards are non-proprietary. This open-source approach supports continued refinement and adoption by engineers, contractors, fabricators, owners, researchers, and standards organizations worldwide.

The award is the latest recognition of SpeedCore and MKA's longstanding commitment to advancing structural engineering through research and collaboration. Together, the SpeedCore team created a practical new pathway for high-rise buildings to be delivered more quickly, safely, and sustainably.

For image(s), visit our download portal at:

<https://mka.openasset.com/Portals/3daf0c82-40ab-47ed-94f1-090a16b1f651>

(Downloads are available for 90 days after press release date.)

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ABOUT MKA

Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) is an award-winning structural and civil engineering firm founded in 1920 with offices in Seattle, Washington, and Chicago, Illinois. Serving clients worldwide, MKA has worked on projects in 48 states and 62 countries. MKA's passion is creating structural systems for buildings of all shapes, sizes, and complexities, and civil site and infrastructure designs for architectural projects.

Learn more at www.mka.com.

