

## **MCEER Introduces Strategic Partnerships Network**

### ***Program seeks alliances with business, industry and government to advance technology application***

Strategic partnerships and networking opportunities are the cornerstone components of a new initiative of MCEER. Known as the Strategic Partnerships Network, the program aims to unite business, industry and government participants to enhance the study, development and application of advanced technologies and reduce earthquake damage and losses nationwide.

The new MCEER program began to take shape after center management met with professionals interested in further development and use of structural control technologies (damping and seismic isolation systems). The meeting enabled researchers, manufacturers, structural engineers, consultants and end users to discuss how to collectively work together to explore opportunities in structural control technologies. These discussions provided key input into the development of the overall Strategic Partnerships Network.

The network features three levels of membership: Flagship Partner, Premier Partner, and Partner, each with its own array of network benefits. It also includes Specialty Interest Groups centered around various technologies being studied by researchers at MCEER. These include:

- Site Remediation – to stabilize soils and foundations;
- Structural Control and Simulation – to protect buildings and bridges from damaging vibrations;
- Advanced Systems Analysis and High-Performance Materials – to improve performance of lifelines;
- Condition Assessment – to better estimate real and potential earthquake losses; and
- Decision Support Systems – to enhance emergency response and post-earthquake recovery.

The network offers a variety of annual benefits to members, including: access to MCEER researchers and students; preferred enrollment in the center's Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) short courses; early access to research results and new state-of-the-art ideas, concepts and methodologies; preferred access to MCEER experimental facilities and equipment; and opportunities for members to advance their company's product development needs through collaborative research with MCEER researchers, fellow partners, and government agencies.

Members also become part of MCEER's User Advisory Network, providing input to the center's research program, and receive additional benefits including educational seminars, publications and information services. Flagship and Premier Partners receive further extended benefits.

Annual membership fees are: \$10,000 for Flagship Partners; \$3,500 for Premier Partners; and \$1,000 for Partners. First-year memberships are effective through August 2001.

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