

Tensar InterAx™ Geogrid Design Increases Performance of Crane Pad with Thinner Section



Google Alta

Mountain View, CA

CHALLENGE

Google's innovative architectural designs require carefully thought-out construction and so sequencing of events creates a critical path. A portion of the building foundations needed to be constructed before the columns could be built from those foundations. To construct the columns, the contractor needed a large crane that would impose surcharge loads on the existing footings. However, the footings were not designed to experience the additional surcharge. Additionally, the crane would need to track around the structure to achieve the required picks.

SOLUTION

Tensar collaborated with the contractor and geotechnical engineer to develop a crane pad platform using InterAx geogrid. InterAx geogrid interlocks with aggregate forming a mechanically stabilized layer (MSL) that can experience more stress with less strain.

Using Tensar's innovative T-Value method, the aggregate thickness could be thinner and achieve the same performance compared to a thicker, unstabilized section. This solution offered a considerable cost savings compared to crane mats. The T-Value method also provided quantifiable benefits to the Engineer of Record allowing them to feel confident with the decision to use geogrids.

RESULTS

- Developed a crane pad capable of supporting required crane operations while protecting existing foundations.
- InterAx™ geogrid created a mechanically stabilized layer (MSL) for improved performance.
- T-Value design method achieved required performance with a thinner aggregate section.
- Reduced costs compared with traditional crane mats.
- Provided quantifiable design benefits, giving the Engineer of Record confidence in the design.



PROJECT TEAM

Owner

Google, LLC

Design/Build Contractor

Clark Pacific

Earthwork Sub-Contractor

Teichert Construction

Product

InterAx™ Geogrid

Quantity: 12,000 SQY



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