FLATWORK
INTERIOR MEGA INDUSTRIAL

FORD BLUE OVAL
BATTERY PARK

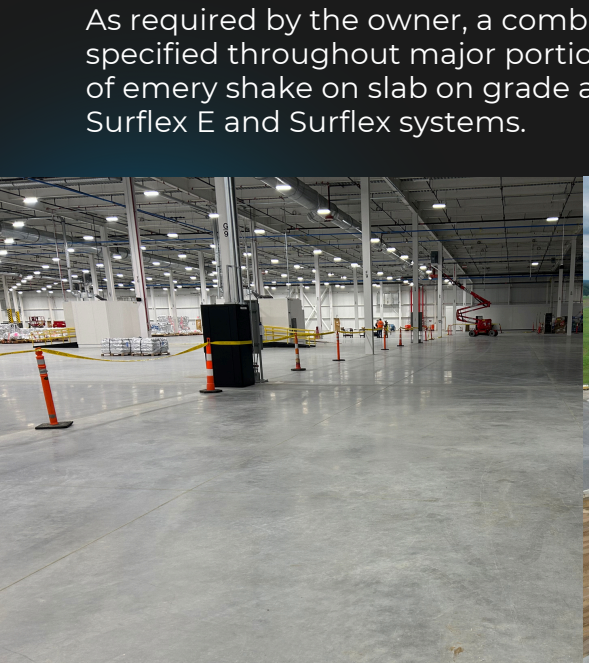
13700 W MICHIGAN AVE, MARSHALL, MI

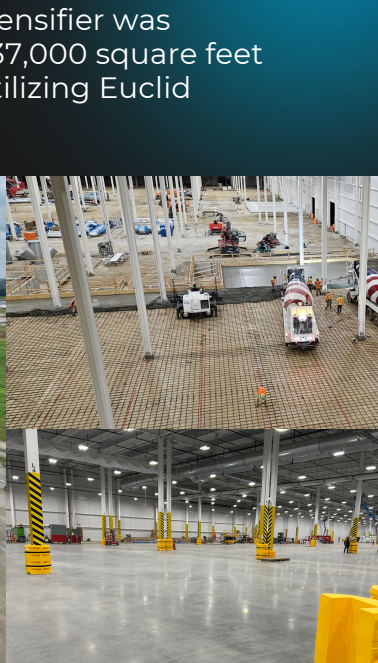
Concrete Contractor: Fessler & Bowman, Inc.
Concrete Contractor: Walbridge
Concrete Supplier: Hercules Materials Holdings, LLC
Project Owner: Ford

The construction of the Ford Blue Oval automotive manufacturing facility in Marshall required the team of Walbridge Concrete Services and Fessler & Bowman to partner up to accomplish the task of placing huge quantities of floor slabs, walls, and foundations. The project was divided into many parts and phases, with primary portions consisting of the Main Cell Building and the Pack Out Building. The contractors accomplished this massive and technically demanding industrial project through disciplined planning, precision placement, and close coordination with multiple trades to maintain schedule and performance requirements. Concrete for the project was supplied by two plants on-site, operated by Hercules Materials Holdings.

The project included approximately 1,795,000 square feet of slab on grade and 784,000 square feet of slab on metal deck, supported by more than 10,000 linear feet of perimeter grade wall. Slab-on-grade placements ranged from 6 to 12 inches in thickness and utilized a low-shrinkage, blended aggregate mix designed to support long-term durability and demanding service conditions.

As required by the owner, a combination of emery dry shake hardener and floor densifier was specified throughout major portions of the facility. This included approximately 837,000 square feet of emery shake on slab on grade and 90,000 square feet on slab on metal deck, utilizing Euclid Surflex E and Surflex systems.





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Significant planning and coordination were required to support the emery hardener installation. Raw emery material was sourced overseas, shipped to Canada, trucked to Ohio for final manufacturing, and then delivered to the project site. Maintaining continuity of supply was critical to keeping slab placements on schedule.

Early in construction, a major challenge arose when portions of the building were not fully enclosed during floor placement. To ensure proper emery shake application and minimize dust and environmental impacts, temporary walls and wind-break systems were constructed prior to concrete placement. These systems required careful layout and sequencing to balance cost, coverage, and productivity.

Construction joint layout for slab-on-grade placements was another critical component of the work. Joint locations were required to align precisely with process equipment anchorage points, column placement, and other obstructions, leaving no margin for error. In areas with restricted access and limited concrete truck movement, advance planning was essential to maintain accuracy while sustaining production.

Concrete placement methods included direct truck discharge, concrete pump placement, and a line system utilizing a Line Dragon for slab-on-metal-deck pours. Individual placement sizes ranged from 15,000 to 75,000 square feet, often occurring simultaneously in multiple areas of the building.

Given the project size and aggressive schedule, concrete operations were frequently executed alongside other active trades within the same footprint. Continuous coordination, communication, and adaptability were required to ensure safe, efficient progress for all parties. This collaboration proved essential to maintaining overall project momentum and delivering a high-quality finished product that meets stringent owner performance requirements and supports long-term operational demands.