

Groundbreaking Marks First Stage in Construction of New ASTM International Headquarters



The four-acre site of ASTM's new international Headquarters is located on the bank of the Schuylkill River in a suburban community 15 minutes from Center City Philadelphia and 20 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport. A model of the new building (directly above) shows the four floors of office space and meeting rooms (82,000 square feet (7,620 square metres)) and three floors of parking area (66,000 square feet (6,130 square metres)) that will accommodate ASTM's entire staff. The site is accessible from the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) and the "Blue Route" (I-476). The Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-276) and other access highways are a short distance away and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) Regional Rail Line also serves the area. The building will be constructed of precast concrete panels with an aluminum curtain wall, ribbon windows and green tinted glass. The main entrance will be at lobby level with access from an open plaza also constructed of precast concrete and granite panels.



At the breezy groundbreaking ceremony, A.C. Webber, former ASTM president (right), helps C. Ross Thomson begin the digging at ASTM's new site. Webber uses the same shovel he used to break ground in 1962 for the current Headquarters location on Race Street in Philadelphia and Thomson uses a special, nonsparking, nonmagnetic shovel donated especially for the event by ASTM corporate member NGK Metals Corp.

Also attending the ceremony were members of the ASTM Board of Directors, Real Estate Committee, and ASTM staff; as well as architects, contractors and other advisors involved with the project. Construction of the new building is expected to be completed in August 1995, with occupation of the building following immediately.



(Left to right) James Thomas, ASTM president; Joseph Costello, president of the West Conshohocken Borough; and C. Ross Thomson, 1994 chairman of the ASTM Board of Directors make the first digs into the soil at a groundbreaking ceremony held May 9 at the site of ASTM's future international Headquarters in West Conshohocken, Pa. "The new building will support ASTM's objectives of serving the technical information needs of industry and government in an efficient and timely manner," said Thomas in his opening remarks.



"The new Headquarters, with its state-of-the-art facilities, will bring together the entire Philadelphia staff under one roof and will enable ASTM to continue to respond effectively to standardization needs for many years to come," said ASTM Chairman C. Ross Thomson in his welcoming remarks.



Joseph Costello (left), president of the West Conshohocken borough, welcomes Jim Thomas (center) and C. Ross Thomson (right) to the community. During his welcoming remarks, Costello expressed his enthusiasm toward continued cooperation between ASTM and the West Conshohocken community.