



# Update

December 2009

## Pontis®

### Users Group Meeting

By: James A. Foster, P.E, Outgoing User Group President

Although we didn't make it all the way to Hawaii (2,570 miles short), we ended up having a great Pontis Users Group meeting in Newport Beach, California. One hundred Pontis enthusiasts attended the 2009 PUG meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting provided opportunities for users to voice concerns, establish priorities, and share information by reviewing survey results, and participating in 'speed dating' and round table discussions. Recent accomplishments include the release of Pontis 5.1 (special thanks to the Beta Testing TAG), release of patch 4.5, and the completion of Pontis 5.2 requirements. There was ample interest in Pontis 5.X and we benefited from a primer on creating custom Crystal Reports presented by Michael Baker, Inc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Pontis Support Group that formed at the Maine PUG meeting in 2007. This group, representing ten state agencies, worked together for the purpose of developing improvements to the AASHTO CoRe Elements, with a focus on structural steel and bridge deck elements. The resulting recommendations were subsequently considered by the AASHTO T-18 Committee and Pontis Task Force members. It is rewarding to see that the efforts of this group will be reflected in the upcoming version of Pontis 5.2.

The current PUG President is Paul Cooley (Caltrans), the Vice President is James Fu (Hawaii DOT), and the newly appointed Secretary is David Morgan (Rhode Island DOT). For more detailed information, including presentations, please visit the [Pontisusergroup.org](http://Pontisusergroup.org) website. I hope to see everyone back next year in Rhode Island.

# Virtis/Opis®

## Virtis/Opis 6.2 on the Horizon

By: George W. Colgrove III, Technical Manager

*Michael Baker Jr. Inc.*

Virtis/Opis 6.2 development is well underway. The flagship improvements this cycle are the AASHTO LRFD Steel Multi-Girder Superstructure Analysis Engine and LRFR Load Rating capabilities. The New AASHTO Steel Engine will cover Girder Line and Girder Systems, including built-up members, plate girders and rolled beams and will be current to the 2008 Interims of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications 4th edition.

Seventy-seven separate articles have been identified to date for inclusion in the LRFD specification check module, with a few articles requiring multiple branches depending on the structure. These articles span fifty-five pages of an elaborate labyrinth of flow charts for which the engine will navigate through to a solution. In addition, a comprehensive test plan is under development complete with design check tools. The complexity of steel design and rating can be easily seen within these development documents.

Other features to look forward to are enhancements to Truss Analysis, including counters, suspended spans and the addition of combination deck-thru trusses. Updates to the 2008 LRFD specifications include simplified wind loads, simplification to the effective flange width calculations, adding a new method of calculating reinforced concrete shear resistance and other minor changes.

<b>AASHTO BRIDGEWare® Task Force and Management Team</b>	
<b>Wendy Gagnier</b>	Project Manager, AASHTO
<b>Jim Ramsey</b>	Assistant Project Manager, AASHTO
<b>Dennis O'Shea - Delaware DOT</b>	BRIDGEWare Task Force Chairman
<b>Scot Becker - Wisconsin DOT</b>	Task Force member - Pontis
<b>Francois Ghanem - New York DOT</b>	Task Force member - Pontis
<b>Paul Jensen - Montana DOT</b>	Task Force member - Pontis
<b>Mike Johnson - Caltrans</b>	Task Force member - Pontis
<b>Wade Casey</b>	Task Force FHWA liaison - Pontis
<b>Tim Armbrecht - Illinois DOT</b>	BRIDGEWare Task Force Vice Chair - Virtis Opis
<b>Beckie Curtis - Michigan DOT</b>	Task Force member - Virtis/Opis
<b>Dean Teal - Kansas DOT</b>	Task Force member - Virtis/Opis
<b>Vacant</b>	Task Force member - Virtis/Opis
<b>Tom Saad</b>	Task Force FHWA liaison - Virtis/ Opis

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