

5700-D SAVES YOU TIME

“We will do the job right and we will do it on time.”

- A1 Concrete US, LLC company promise

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A1 Concrete US, LLC, slipforms up to 3,000 ft (914 m) of curb per day at projects throughout central Florida.

The 5700-D's optional hydraulic mold offset lock enables the operator, at the flip of a switch, to lock the offset rigidly to the machine.

The 5700-D's compact footprint, at 20 ft (6.1 m) in length, is important in parking lot corners and also helps with transport

New 5700-Ds Save Third of Time on Jobs for Central Florida Contractor

A1 Concrete US, LLC, slipforms up to 3,000 ft (914 m) of curb per day at projects throughout central Florida. Every day. The 34-year-old company runs two new Power Curber 5700-Ds, an extruder, and four crews. These guys move.

“And we have to keep moving,” says owner Jason Samuels. “We’re running every day. Speed is time.”

The company's promise to its customers is: “We will do the job right and we will do it on time.”

On the ground running with his 5700-Ds, Jason has his speed, with each crew slipforming 42 ft (13 m) of curb and gutter per minute per machine. He estimates that he is saving at least a third of the time that he would need with the competitive machine that he previously used.

The purchase of the new 5700-Ds, one in 2020 and the other in 2021, was a big move for Jason, who has been in the family business for 32 years. He started working with his dad, Greg, when he was 15 years old. Jason, who has been running the company since his dad died 10 years ago, had seen the newly designed Power Curber 5700-D working in Florida on jobs awarded to his competitors. His competitive machine was too slow, he says, so he talked to both Power Curbers, and the competition before making his decision.

“I had a better feeling talking with Steve Milam at Power Curbers,” Jason says. “It was a better atmosphere.”

“The Power Curber machine is more advanced ... more innovative ... more versatile,” Jason says. “It can do everything that is required with our jobs, from curb to sidewalk to barrier wall.”

He likes the 5700-D set-up, which gives him the ability to move the mold around. The competitive machine's mold set-up allows too much travel, he says, and is often off grade, cutting into production.

Jason also likes the view of the product from the operator's platform. “You can look straight down at the product,” he says, for quick adjustments to minimize hand work behind the machine. With the competitive machine, “you almost have to turn around to see the product,” Jason adds.

The 5700-D's compact footprint, at 20 ft (6.1 m) in length, is important in parking lot corners and also helps with transport, he says. The 5700-D transports at legal width (8 ft 6 in [2.6 m]) and does not require a low-boy. The competitive machine is 3 - 4 ft (0.9 - 1.2 m) longer and that is sometimes a big thing, Jason says. A1 Concrete has been involved in projects in Sarasota, Orlando, Tampa and Lakeland, including several million-dollar subdivision projects, as well as DOT highway work. A recent nine-mile (14.5 km) project was completed on U.S. Route 27, which moves traffic from north of Tallahassee down the peninsula to Miami.

The 5700-D has an operator-friendly dash, especially with the vibrator control within easy reach, he says. His competitive machine's vibrator control is on the seat panel.

The 5700-D's hydraulic grade arm is controlled with the touch of button, instead of a crew member having to pull the wand, again slowing production.

“There's lots of power in these machines,” Jason says. “We move.”

He has found quick response at Power Curbers when he needed to add a mold to his order. “It was never a problem. They popped out that mold as needed,” he says.

Jason says that his dad would be “super impressed” with the growth of the company that Greg started with just three men. The crews have grown to 25, and Jason says some members of his crews have been with A1 for 25 years.

His dad knew Power Curbers from early days working with extruders, Jason says. Greg and his partner owned an extruder company in Florida, and his dad explored extruders with Power Curbers for many years.

“Since I have taken over the company, it's turned into a whole different company,” Jason says. “My dad gave me the knowledge and wisdom. He was a great concrete man. He was very well respected.

“We are efficient and progressive. We use our help in ways to get a lot done,” he says. “And now with the versatility of these new machines, we will get even more progressive.”

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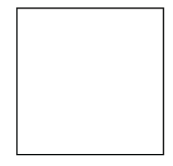
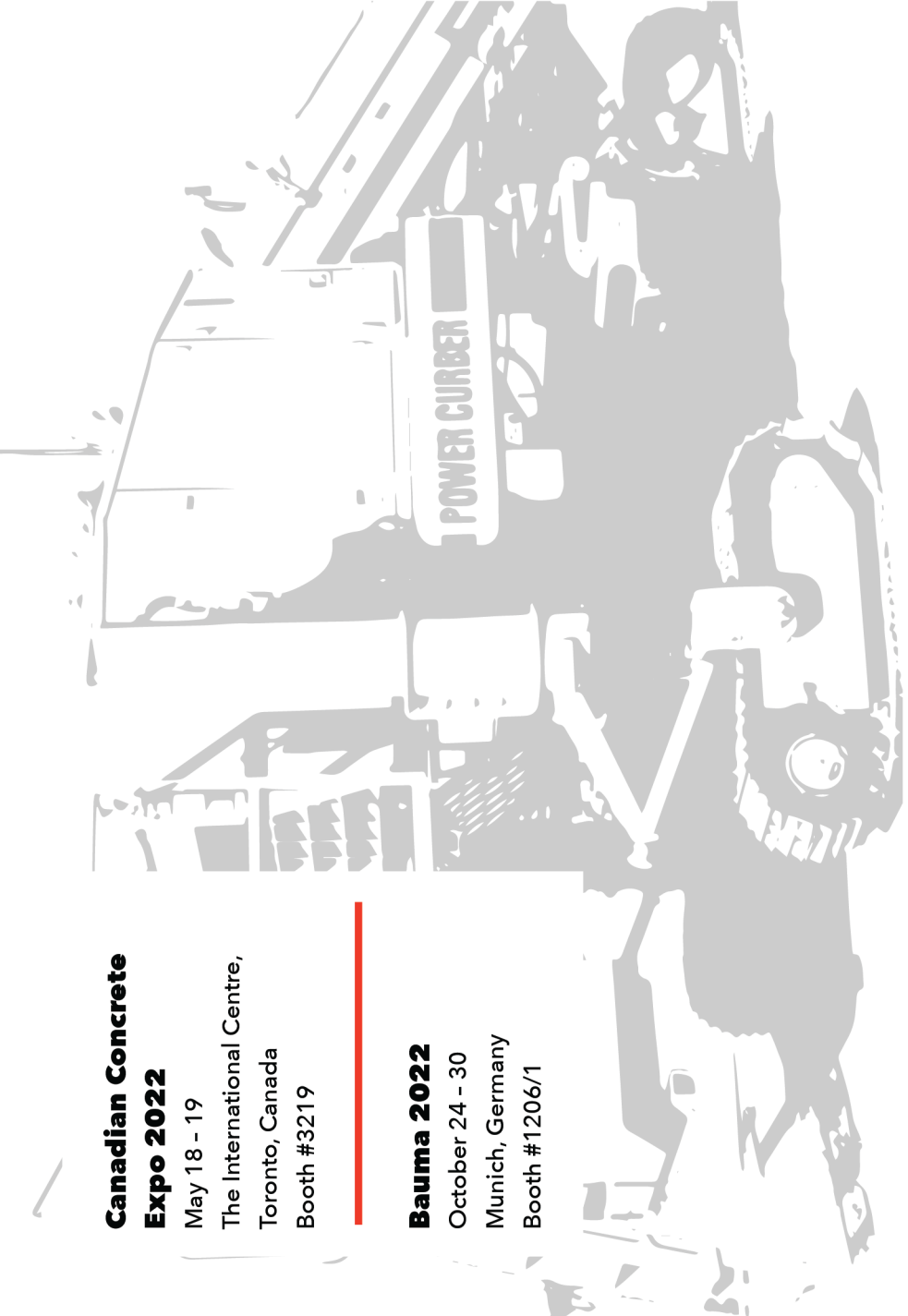
UPCOMING EVENTS

Canadian Concrete
Expo 2022

May 18 - 19
The International Centre,
Toronto, Canada
Booth #3219

Bauma 2022

October 24 - 30
Munich, Germany
Booth #1206/1



POWER CURBER PROFILES

SUCCESS WITH STRINGLESS

PAVING LIKE THE WIND



“*Yep, we’ve made the right decision, and we can see benefits from it. Time. Labor. It helps our customers and us. It is more cost-effective and more efficient.*” - Jerry Bowman

We recently spoke with slipforming industry veteran Jerry Bowman about his decision to buy a Power Curber 5700-D and begin pouring stringlessly. He has poured using stringline since 1986 when his family founded Bowman Contractors Inc. Like many of you, Bowman had concerns about 3D systems and making the switch. We’ve included his thoughts on the transition.

Tell us about your decision to go 3D/stringless with the new 5700-D?

“We’ve been watching this 3D/stringless move start to evolve when it began several years ago. We heard a lot about it and read articles. Then we went to a demonstration at the [Power Curbers] factory. That was pretty impressive, and I liked it. We finally got to the point where we thought, ‘alright, we’ve got to get serious about this’ because our customers talked about it and asked about it. They were all using 3D on their site work. We had three 5700-Super-B’s with 8,000-10,000 hours on them, and when the 5700-D came out, it looked great, the economy was good, we said alright, it’s time. I had drug my feet long enough, and it was time to move forward.”

Is it accurate? Are you managing without the physical stringline reference?

It is so accurate. You actually take the human error out of it. You’ve still got to train people, they’ve got to be good with it, but the grade is almost perfect when everybody’s on it. When you set stringline, you get off a little bit due to human error. With the 3D set up correctly, it’s right on the money. The system is dead nuts. It doesn’t move. We think we’re more accurate pouring our radii with our 5700-D than with our Super-B’s. With all-crawler steering, we’re more accurate in a tight radius. The 5700-D is more accurate than the Super-B’s even on stringline, but with 3D controls, it’s right on.

Have there been any surprises?

“Our customers like it and are anxious to use it, but it’s been a learning curve for them too. Just because they have 3D with their grading equipment doesn’t mean they’re 100% ready to bring the curb machine in stringlessly. We are learning, we see their weaknesses, and they’ve got to pick it up a notch to make the job smooth and accurate. We all have to be on the same page. And it’s working! It’s all about people. We had good support from Topcon. We definitely burned their phone up for a while, getting stuff going. They were right there to help us through it. They did a great job.”

How has your 3D/stringless transition been?

“It was scary. I knew nothing about 3D. None of us did. We didn’t have other equipment with 3D. Topcon people were very supportive, so we went with them. Everybody from Power Curbers and Topcon was great. We dove in and started figuring it out. In the beginning, we were slow. We couldn’t move as we could with stringline, but we were learning. It is our first year with stringless guidance, and it’s come along well.

Jodie in our office took an interest in 3D and learned to do our alignments. She can print us out an alignment for the curb machine. Then I send two guys out to localize a job. It doesn’t matter how much curb is on it. They can do a 10,000’ (3,048 m) job in less than half a day, and we are good to go. Now we’re getting more experience with the little ins and outs to perfect it. You’ll always have problems, minor issues, but we’re picking them off and know how to correct them. We’ve learned how to fix whatever comes along.”

Do you see enough benefits to justify the cost?

“We send three, maybe four guys to set stringline, and it’s physical. We’re driving pins in the ground and have to set it up. On a good day, you’re setting between 1,000 – 2,000’ (305 – 610 m) of string. With 3D, I send two guys to localize the job then we’re ready to go. These guys and Jodie picked up on it quickly. I was honestly impressed with what they did. What they do with 3D, it’s nothing. It’s done. When it comes to expense, we eliminate a complete curb stake-out, which benefits our customers. We also see savings on the stringline operation. You can compare three days of stringlining to a couple of guys localizing in a half-day or less and a few hours building the alignment on the computer. Big parking lots with a bunch of islands, that’s where it really shines. Setting stringline for a bunch of islands is a lot of work, a lot of labor. The machine did an excellent job. We are thrilled with the performance of it pouring all those islands.”

Bowman Contractors Inc., operated by Jerry and his sister Kim Driver in Aberdeen, MD, and with its 50 employees, pours curb in DE, northeast MD, and parts of PA and NJ.

Before investing in his first machine in 1986, Bowman worked around a Power Curber 6700 for two years. “When I went out on my own, I called Power Curbers and bought an original 5700. We had two or three of those. Then, we purchased our first tight radius 5700 in 1992. After that, we had a couple 5700-B’s and then upgraded to the Super-B. We ran three of those for many years. And now, finally, we have a 5700-D with Topcon 3D machine control. We’re delighted with Power Curbers. We’ve known them from the day we went into business. They’ve been with us the whole time. They’re great people to deal with, and whatever questions we have or issues we run into, I can pick up the phone and call for anything. They’ve always been here for us.



Jones Contracting Corporation of West Point, IA recently broke out nearly its entire slipforming fleet to install a DOT ramp and turn lane addition.

They used their Power Paver SF-1700 for the mainline, Power Curber 5700-C for the shoulders, and added the finishing touches with their Power Paver TC-2700. Allowed only 35 days to complete the \$700,000-plus job, Jones had to be efficient. Owner Pat Jones explains, “Our thought was the more we could use the slipforming machines, the less we would have to form up.” And it worked.

**35 days to complete
\$700,000+ contract job**



“*Power Pavers are great machines for us. They are a lot more compact and well-suited for city street paving. We are very impressed with the equipment we’ve gotten from Power Curbers and Power Pavers. They are good people and have been a good partner.*” - Pat Jones

“We had days to spare. If we had to hand form all that, we would have been there a long time and been into penalty. The machines are what made that job quick work.”

A Fort Madison, IA wind turbine blade factory needed the new ramp. They struggled to maneuver trailers loaded with 150 ft (46 m) blades onto Highway 61. Although the 1,500 ft (457 m) job wasn’t the largest, it was complex. Incorporating numerous joints and varying widths meant Jones had to be creative. Further complicated by Highway 61 traffic, they had to keep their equipment off the road to minimize disruptions. Jones used the SF-1700 to slipform most of the mainline, but there wasn’t room for a paver where it joined into the highway. There, they used their 5700-C to pave the shoulders first, eliminating the need to set up forms. One of the shoulders was 4 ft (1.2 m), and the other was 6 ft (1.8 m). So, Jones used a single, adjustable Power Curber mold that could pour both widths. They followed their paver with the texture/curing machine to add longitudinal tining. Jones described the results, “we got an excellent profilograph back on it. No issues, and it is a smooth ride.”

Pat Jones founded the company in 2015. He worked in the financial industry after graduating college. But eventually, the mud in his blood got the better of him, and he chose a life of concrete over a suit and tie and Jones Contracting Corp. was born. Today it specializes in concrete foundations, flatwork, and road construction. The thirty-person operation typically works within sixty miles of home. Beyond the equipment used for the ramp job, they also own a Power Paver SF-2700. Jones describes their choice of machinery, “We do a lot of city street paving and occasional county road projects. Power Pavers are great machines for us. They are a lot more compact and well-suited for city street paving. We are very impressed with the equipment we’ve gotten from Power Curbers and Power Pavers. They are good people and have been a good partner.”

