Pile Dynamics Recognized with International NOVA Award

George Piscsalko, P.E., and Dean Cotton, with Pile Dynamics, Inc. (PDI), of Cleveland, and Gray Mullins, PhD, P.E., with the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, recently received the prestigious 2013 NOVA Award from the Construction Innovation Forum (CIF).

The award recognized the Thermal Integrity Profiler (TIP), an instrument that uses the heat generated by curing concrete to reveal the shape of cast-in-place concrete foundations. The initial research for the TIP was conducted at the University of South Florida. PDI formed a joint venture with Foundation and Geotechnical Engineering (FGE), of Plant City, Florida to design the instrument and take it to market. The TIP measures concrete temperatures during the curing process either by a probe inserted into access tubes or by Thermal Wire® cables embedded in the concrete.

"The TIP overcomes many of the limitations associated with other non-destructive testing methods, providing an evaluation of the entire cross-section, something that can’t be done with other methods," Piscsalko says. "The TIP test is completed within typically 12 to 48 hours after casting the shaft, thus allowing for an accelerated construction schedule. In contrast, other testing methods are not done until typically five to seven days after casting."

CIF is an international, non-profit organization encouraging and recognizing construction innovations. This year’s winners were selected from more than 700 nominations from 20-plus countries.