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Conclusions to Seminar I Hybrid and Composite Structures

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Five papers were presented orally at this session by Messrs. S. Hamada, Japan; U. Girhammar, Sweden; L. Paulik, France; T. Yamasaki, Japan; and M. Collins, Canada.

It is evident that structures composed of different materials have good prospects in the future. One disadvantage may arise when the use of different materials needs different contractors on the building site. But usually it will be the same contractor who does the whole work.

One of the main problems concerning hybrid structures comes from the connections. As several speakers underlined, the connection between concrete and steel elements, or between wood and concrete or wood and steel elements, needs careful attention by the designer. Actually, most research concerns only the short time behaviour to verify the ultimate resistance of the structure. But there will be many problems in relation with the serviceability and durability, taking into consideration the time effects.

This seminar gave some examples with good slides of actual hybrid structures and laboratory tests. Specially the building possibilities of wood with concrete or steel with concrete, gave rise to many questions during the discussion following each contribution.

Finally it is worth knowing that in Macon, France, a bridge will be tendered for by 8 selected contractors with the obligation to choose a composite girder cross-section with concrete for the slabs and steel for the web or truss. The idea is to promote new ideas and to realize them in the scale 1 : 1.

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