Press Release

Date: June 2012

Enclosure: pic.

Reference: PR-0044-CPE-220612-RSV2

New Laser from Polytec Helps Make Bridges Safer

A safe and capable infrastructure is essential for the economic growth and stability of any highly developed country. But how can the safety and capacity of old railroad and highway bridges be tested quickly and economically? Polytec tackles this problem with its new measurement method that allows easy detection of the bridge's condition. The laser optical RSV-150 Remote Sensing Vibrometer makes it possible to measure bridge pier movement as well as deck bending and stay-cable vibrations over great distances with micrometer precision.

Heavy expansion bearings within the construction distribute the forces to alleviate stresses on piers and abutments. When the bearings are worn out, e.g. through corrosion, high bending moments appear at the piers. To test the functionality of the bearings, e.g. after reconstruction, the bridge is stressed with a specific load and horizontal pier movements are measured. The data are then compared with desired values from reference measurements or calculations. The measurement system has already proven its usefulness for this application on railroad bridges in Germany.

More Info: www.polytec.com/rsv

Publication free of charge

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