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CONTACT:

Jill Reed
Business Development & Marketing Manager
RIZZO Associates, Inc.
Penn Center East
500 Penn Center Boulevard, Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
(412) 825-2053
jill.reed@rizzoassoc.com

RIZZO PROJECT AWARDED ESWP'S 2015 ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROJECT OF THE YEAR

RIZZO is excited to announce that our Christchurch Sample Testing and Analysis Project received the Engineer Society of Western PA (ESWP)'s Project of the Year Award in the Advanced Technology category. Each year ESWP recognizes outstanding projects that highlight the important contributions engineers make to our society. The Project of the Year must represent technical innovation, commercial success, and be a benefit to society.

For the award-winning project, RIZZO devised and implemented a cutting-edge approach for the seismic assessment and structural integrity evaluation of buildings damaged in the City of Christchurch, New Zealand, following several large earthquakes that occurred between September 2010 and December 2011.

The estimated damage to the city and its structures from the most devastating earthquake, which registered 6.3 in magnitude, is approximately one billion dollars. RIZZO was hired by members of the insurance industry to perform an independent assessment of the extent of damage suffered on a select group of five structures owned by the City of Christchurch. RIZZO's work focused on investigating the degree of damage sustained by the structures and determining whether or not the buildings could be safely repaired or needed to be demolished and reconstructed.

RIZZO performed 3D nonlinear time-history analyses and conducted full-scale seismic testing, which involved conceptualizing, designing, and constructing a unique 30-foot-tall, 51-ton self-balancing steel testing frame with a 100-ton concrete-filled base.

The ESWP Awards were presented in a ceremony at the ESWP Annual Banquet, held in Pittsburgh, PA, on February 18, 2016. Dr. Rizzo and the members of the project team were present for the ceremony.