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“BETONGLØFTET”- A NORWEGIAN PROGRAM FOR THE CONCRETE INDUSTRY AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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Abstract

Since decades, concrete has been the fundament for growth in both urban development, infrastructure and all other constructions. More recently, sustainability issues have become important factors when evaluating different scenarios for developing housing and infrastructure. The concrete industry is facing challenges connected to CO₂ emissions mainly originating from the production of cement. There is a need to identify the optimal sustainable concrete solutions by combining environmental, economic and social properties of concrete in a number of pilot projects. The Norwegian concrete industry has started the program BETONGLøftet which will test and document new and innovative uses of concrete in commercial buildings and civil engineering projects. In 2017, the initial phase of the program has identified the technical challenges and solutions to be included in the program for the period 2018-2020. BETONGLøftet is Norwegian word with two meanings in English: a ‘promise’ to our customers that pilot projects will identify the most sustainable solutions but also a ‘lift’ to increase skill competence for our own industry. The challenges we face will require changes in the way we think and operate today, to support the new political agenda called “The Green Shift”.

Through innovative design and construction techniques and high media visibility of pilot projects, BETONGLøftet will identify the frontrunners of sustainable concrete constructions. The partners in the program are suppliers of concrete, cement, admixtures and other materials or services to the concrete industry. Each of the pilot projects will be connected to the program by contracts defining targets, specific areas of interest and how to report and communicate results.

Keywords: Sustainability, concrete, environmental properties, responsible sourcing, industrialization, pilot projects, green products, greenhouse gas emissions