

Ground broken for city's largest auto-parking garage

A.P.T. Parking Technologies, together with Westfalia Technologies, broke ground recently for New York City's largest automated parking garage project, a 270-car facility to be part of a new nine-story, 226,000 square-foot office building being developed by Baruch Singer at 1504 Coney Island Avenue in Brooklyn, NY.

Designed to maximize parking within the tight urban space constraints of this site, the developer selected the team of A.P.T. Parking Technologies and Westfalia Technologies because of the superior quality and reliability of their existing automated garages around the world.

Lee Lazarus, president of A.P.T. Parking Technologies, based in New York City, said, "Automated parking garages provide greater efficiency and flexibility in design, allowing the developer to use less space for parking and allocate additional space for significantly more profitable revenue streams."

At this New York City location, the high water table prevented the developer from excavating down far enough to build a conventional parking garage. The reduced excavation needed for the automated parking system saved the developer money, while allowing a greater

density of parking spaces in an area half the size of a traditional parking garage.

"In addition to doubling the number of parking spaces in the available space, the automated parking system provides a number of added personal and vehicle safety benefits, since no one actually enters the garage and there is no risk of vehicle damage or theft," said Mr. Singer. "Additionally, there are significant 'green' benefits, since car engines are turned off during the parking process, and users have the convenience of dropping off and picking up their cars at a central location without having to navigate ramps, walk aimlessly through a garage searching for their cars or risk crime associated with dark, deserted garages."

Drivers will enter the automated parking garage, drive down one level, enter one of three transfer cabins, turn off their engines and leave. After a series of safety checks ensure the car or SUV is vacant, the vehicle, parked on a pallet, is moved through the automated garage by a computer-operated system to an available parking space on the two levels below. When returning for their car, clients simply run their ticket through a smart card reader, and their car will automatically be returned to them.