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Contact:

Tara Smith, Public Relations

At Large Marketing Solutions

Phone. 864.527.1190

Mobile. 864.430.6608

taras@atlargemarketing.com

XPS Insulated Sheathing Manufacturer Provides The New American Home 2006® With Best Energy Efficient Option

WOODBIDGE, VA - A lake front spa room, an elevator and a hot tub aren't the only amenities that make The New American Home 2006®, one of the most state-of-the-art, modern facilities built. Contributing to its sustainable, energy efficient design, one-inch Extruded Polystyrene foam (XPS) boards are also applied on the entire interior perimeter of the masonry building wall envelope of the house. XPS insulating sheathing helps lower utility bills, provides long-term sustainable performance and reduces the likelihood incurring devastating moisture damage. Through the use of such innovative technology and design practices, the home will achieve nearly 40% whole house energy savings.

Energy savings will be good news for The New American Home owner, since the home encompasses 7,367 square-feet of cooling and heating space. It's estimated that about 44% of a homeowner's total utility bill pays for heating and cooling of the home. Due to this percentage, the Department of Energy (DOE) recommends that by insulating a home adequately, an investment of just a few hundred dollars can reduce heating and cooling needs by about 30%. XPS reduces energy loss in buildings because it reduces the amount of oil, gas or electric energy required to maintain comfortable living environments.

"XPS insulating sheathing is a superior material for residential building systems. That's why it was necessary we showcase the product in The New American Home 2006 since the home utilizes the best home building concepts, designs, techniques and materials" notes Susan Herrenbruck, XPSA's Executive Director. "What XPSA wants to communicate to homebuilders and homebuyers is that, even though insulation may not be as visible as mahogany fixtures or marble countertops, it is one of the most important components of a home because it conserves energy, helps to protect the environment, and contributes to ensuring the home is properly protected from possible moisture damage. Because other amenities can be added later, insulating sheathing, as part of the residential building envelope, should be considered when the home is built to save money and energy in the long run."

XPSA Addresses Sustainability and Moisture Resistance at International Builders' Show in Orlando

To qualify as a sustainable insulating product, it is essential that a product is able to insulate without significant degradation in thermal performance over its useful life. Many types of insulation cite high R-values. However, many R-value claims are often inflated when insulation performance is considered during the life of a home. R-value is the measure of a material's resistance to heat flow. The higher the R-value, the more the material insulates. XPS insulating sheathing increases the R-value of an entire wall because it has a long-term R-value from 3 (for a ½ inch thick board) up to 5 per 1-inch of thickness (i.e., 5 for a 1-inch; 10 for 2-inch etc.)

Another important aspect of sustainability involves a material's propensity to avoid problems associated with moisture damage. XPS not only lowers utility bills, but because of its superior ability to resist water moisture absorption, it also reduces the likelihood of incurring devastating moisture damage. When properly installed, XPS provides a continuous layer of protection against inside and outside moisture while keeping the wall cavity warm and shifts damaging dew points, minimizing the potential for condensation to occur within the wall. And because it is an inert plastic material, it will not corrode, rot or support the growth of mold or mildew.

To learn more about the Extruded Polystyrene Foam Association or individual XPS products, stop by the Dow Building Products, Owens Corning or Pactiv trade booths at the International Builders Show to obtain informative brochures and product samples, or visit www.xpsa.com.

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About The Extruded Polystyrene Foam Association

The Extruded Polystyrene Foam Association (XPSA) is a trade association representing manufacturers of Extruded Polystyrene Foam (XPS) insulation products and the industry's raw material suppliers. XPSA voting members are The Dow Chemical Company, Owens Corning and Pactiv Corporation, who collectively manufacture more than 95 percent of all XPS foam products sold in the North American market. XPSA serves as the industry's leader on product stewardship, conducting research to substantiate performance claims and promotes the benefits of XPS foam insulation applications. Its excellent resistance to moisture, high compressive strength and ability to maintain long-term insulating power make XPS foam a premiere insulating material for commercial, industrial and residential structures, as well as for critical civil engineering uses. For more information, please see XPSA's website at www.xpsa.com or call 800.978.XPSA (9772).