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November 2016

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EWTA Supplier Award Winners Honored

Four EWTA member companies were honored in the 2016 Supplier Awards, which were bestowed during the Chairman's Dinner at the APA Annual Meeting in Bonita Springs, Fla., Nov. 7. The winner of the Innovation of the Year Award was Willamette Valley Company for its Wil-Spray 500 adhesive. Supplier of the Year Award winners were KADANT Carmanah Design in the Equipment/Tooling category; Willamette Valley Company in the Materials/Supplies category; and Panel World Magazine/Hatton-Brown Publishers Inc. in the Consulting/Services category. APA members voted for both the Innovation of the Year and Supplier of the Year awards online as well as during the Annual Meeting and Info Fair. Details on the winners can be found on the [EWTA website](#) and will also be highlighted in the spring *Engineered Wood Journal* magazine.

EWTA Allocates \$75,000 for APA Projects, Research

EWTA's Advisory Committee, at its fall meeting in Bonita Springs, Fla., voted to recommend an allocation of \$75,000 to fund three projects benefiting the engineered wood industry. The project proposals, presented by APA staff, included \$10,000 for a study on siding material usage trends, \$35,000 for research on a panel test frame to create harmonization with an existing flexure test system at the APA laboratory, and \$30,000 in funding for the Coalition for Fair Energy Codes (CFEC) that would promote adoption of key proposals to the 2018 International Energy Conservation. The recommendation was forwarded to the APA Board of Trustees as part of the overall EWTA budget for 2017.

EWTA Advisory Committee Recommends 2017 Budget

The EWTA Advisory Committee finalized the association's 2017 budget during its meeting earlier this month in Bonita Springs, Fla. The budget is for income of \$446,000 and expenses of \$454,600, resulting in a year-end net deficit of \$8,600 and cash reserves of \$138,960. The deficit is due to increased allocation of funds towards APA research projects (see story above) in light of ample cash reserves. The proposed budget was forwarded to the APA Board of Trustees for approval.

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Info Fair Breaks Record with Number of Sponsorships

This year's Info Fair in Bonita Springs featured the highest number of paid sponsors in the history of the supplier exhibition. Sixty out of 80 companies who exhibited also sponsored the event. Twelve companies were Platinum sponsors: BRUKS Rockwood, Chem-Trend LP, CMA engineering Inc., COSTA Sanders LLC, Huntsman Polyurethanes, SASCO Chemical Group Inc., Signode Packaging Systems, Stratachem Solutions Group LP, Sweed Machinery Inc., USNR, Veneer Services LLC, and Westmill Industries USA Corp. Seventeen companies were Gold sponsors and 31 provided sponsorships at the Silver level. A complete list of exhibitors and meeting sponsors can be found on the EWTA website. The next Info Fair supplier exhibition is Oct. 28–30 at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort and Spa in Huntington Beach, Calif.



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EWTA MEMBER NEWS

Van Voorhis Wins Bronson J. Lewis Award

Rodger Van Voorhis, co-owner and president of EWTA member company Ventek, Inc., was the recipient of APA's Bronson J. Lewis Award for leadership and industry contribution. The award was bestowed at the APA Annual Meeting Nov. 7. Van Voorhis started his career in the forest products industry in 1974 as a part time draftsman for Morvue Electronics. Ventek, which specializes in the design, manufacture and installation of vision-based industrial controls and material handling systems for the veneer and plywood industry, was founded in 1991 and Van Voorhis was hired a year later.

Over the past 10 years, Ventek has received EWTA's Supplier of the Year Award six times and was the winner of the Innovation of the Year award in 2013. Van Voorhis and his wife Pam recently celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary and have two children, Cody and McKenna.

USNR Acquires Ventek

USNR announced in a press release this month that it has acquired the business of Ventek, Inc. Based in Eugene, Ore., Ventek has provided veneer scanning, grading, and handling systems for the plywood industry since its founding in 1991. The group's patented multi-point diverter has become the flagship product of Ventek's veneer handling product catalog.

"I am thrilled to join the USNR team, and I am excited to see what we can do with our veneer scanning, grading, and handling products as part of a larger organization," said Rodger Van Voorhis, former president of Ventek and one of its founders. "I think there are going to be a lot of great opportunities to learn from each other—such as taking our plywood technology and applying it to lumber grading, and vice versa." Van Voorhis has joined USNR as director of sales for veneer systems.

"I am tremendously pleased that Rodger and the rest of the Ventek team have decided to join USNR to help us build the next generation of products for the plywood industry," said Alan Knokey, vice president responsible for USNR's plywood and panel business. "The people—the engineers, the service technicians, the guys who actually build the systems, and everyone who supports them—they are the most important part of this transaction."



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EWTA Welcomes New Members

Three new and returning member companies have joined EWTA since the publication of the last *Connections* newsletter, bringing the association's member count to an all-time high of 115.

- Cross Wrap Ltd., based in Siilinjärvi, Finland, specializes in manufacturing board packaging lines for MDF, plywood, veneer, cement fiber board and other board manufacturers. Sales Director Kalle Kivelä can be reached at kale.kivela@crosswrap.com.
- Itipack Systems, a returning member, is based in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. The company is a manufacturer and integrator of custom strapping and robotic equipment for the lumber and panel industry worldwide. Arnold Hulzebosch can be reached at ahulzebosch@itipack-systems.com.
- Koch Knight LLC, based in Canton, Ohio, is a domestic manufacturer and global leader in RTO ceramic media. The company's GR (Glazed Resistant Alumina) material is used for OSB dryer applications and the wood products industry. Skip Anderson can be reached at james.anderson@kochknight.com.

Ashland Reveals New Corporate Identity Following Separation from Valvoline

Ashland has announced a new corporate identity following its announcement of its separation from Valvoline in September of last year. Ashland's new tagline, "Always Solving," reflects the company's positioning and people across diverse industries, according to a press release. For the engineered wood industry, Ashland supplies adhesives in I-joist, glulam beams and structural finger jointing wood applications.

Signode and IBC Form Partnership

Signode Canada and International Bar Coding recently announced a strategic partnership that enhances Signode's position in wood products printing and bar coding while expanding IBC's reach into North American wood products mills. The partnership is expected to increase Signode's position as a one-vendor solution, according to a news release, while growing their market share in wood products utilizing IBC's label applicators and printer applications.

Surfactor Builds New 'Innolab'

surfactor Americas LLC recently announced that it is building a new facility to permanently house the company's product development group and facilitate joint product development with the company's global customer base. The \$5 million "Innolab" facility will be located adjacent to surfactor's saturated papers plant in Schoppenstedt, Germany. A grand opening of the facility will be held in conjunction with the Ligna show in nearby Hannover, Germany, on May 23, 2017.

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GP Chemicals Introduces New Resin

Georgia-Pacific Chemicals LLC recently introduced a new resin that it says can reduce costs for structural plywood and laminated veneer lumber operations. Resi-Boost™ resin reduces over-penetration of the adhesive, leaving more resin solids on the surface, according to a press release.

Mid-South Engineering Adds to Management Team

Mid-South Engineering recently announced several changes to its management team. Jeff Stephens, P.E., has been named president of the company; Mark Culpepper, P.E., was named executive vice president; and Scott Stamey, P.E., was named a vice president and senior project manager.

Franklin Adhesives Offers New Adhesive

Franklin Adhesives & Polymers recently introduced Advantage EP-950A, a two-part acrylic-based emulsion polymer isocyanate adhesive system used in structural glued lumber. The adhesive stands out for its high resistance to water, heat and solvents, according to a press release, and its water-based formula—with zero formaldehyde—promotes good indoor air quality.

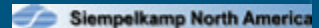
Hexion Names New COO

Hexion Inc. recently announced that Joseph P. “Jody” Bevilaqua has been named chief operating officer of the company. Bevilaqua will oversee all aspects of the company’s operations for both business divisions, including global responsibility for the manufacturing, supply chain, commercial, and environmental, health and safety functions.



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AROUND THE INDUSTRY

APA Wins Support for Code Revisions at ICC Hearings

The public comment hearing for the 2018 International Building Code was held Oct. 19–25 in Kansas City, Mo., with approximately 1,000 comments for code revisions submitted by various interested parties. APA public comments on wall bracing, nailable sheathing for brick ties, structural insulated panels, and preservative treatment of glulam beams were successful. There was no consensus, however, on the requirements for vapor retarders in different climate zones and the best practice for water-resistive barriers. Under the new structure and process of the International Code Council, the results from the public comment hearing are subjected to online voting by about 3,000 jurisdictions in the U.S. before the 2018 codes are finalized. Wins or losses at the hearings cannot be considered final until the voting is completed in late November or early December.

Southern Forest Products Association Elects 2017 Officers

The Southern Forest Products Association board of directors elected its 2017 slate of officers during its recent annual meeting in Williamsburg, Va. They are Chairman Kerlin Drake of Canfor Southern Pine, Vice Chair Donna Whitaker of Interfor U.S., and Treasurer Steven Mason of Deltic Timber Corporation. The board also reelected Tami Kessler as executive director and elected William Almond of Almond Brothers Lumber Company to serve as immediate past chairman.

LP Appoints COO

Louisiana-Pacific Corp. recently announced that it has appointed executive vice-president Brad Southern to the newly created position of chief operating officer for the purpose of implementing its management succession plan. Southern will continue to oversee the company's OSB operations, a post he has held since 2014.

Weyerhaeuser Opens New HQ in Seattle's Pioneer Square

Weyerhaeuser's new 160,000-sq-ft headquarters building opened Oct. 10 in downtown Seattle's Pioneer Square neighborhood. The company had been headquartered in Federal Way on a 430-acre, parklike campus for the previous 45 years. About 100 employees will remain at the tech center building the company is now leasing on the Federal Way campus.

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