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GROUNDBREAKING FOR RESEARCH DEMONSTRATION HOUSE

Madison, Wis.— A groundbreaking ceremony will take place at Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) for a 2200-square-foot, two-story research demonstration house. The Advanced Housing Research Center at FPL has partnered with APA-The Engineering Wood Association and the Southern Forest Products Association to design and construct a wood-framed house that will serve as a field laboratory. The demonstration house will be built using proper building practices from the permanent wood foundation to engineered wood composites in the roof.

“The construction of this house is an excellent opportunity for FPL to work with industry and university partners, and it provides a field research laboratory for evaluating housing technologies,” said Tom Hamilton, FPL Director.

The FPL Advanced Housing Research Center is a full partner in the Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH), which is an alliance between industry and government that develops and utilizes new technologies that will make homes more durable, energy efficient, less costly to operate and maintain, and more comfortable. The research in the demonstration house will focus on improving the use of traditional wood products, recycled and engineered wood composites, natural disaster resistance, energy efficiency and indoor air quality.

The research demonstration house can be compared to a classroom for proper building practices from proper drainage around the foundation to choosing housewrap to flashing around openings. Four different exteriors will be used: lap siding, panel siding, stucco and brick.

Participating in the 11:30 a.m. ceremony will be William Doug Burgin, a Civil Engineer with the Southern Forest Products Association, Steven C. Zylkowski, Director of Engineered Wood Systems of APA-The Engineered Wood Association, Katie Crawley, the Regional Coordinator for Senator Russ

Feingold's office, Tom Hamilton, Director of FPL and Michael Ritter, Assistant Director of Wood Products Research at FPL.

The USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory was established in 1910 in Madison, Wis., with the mission to conserve and extend the country's wood resources. Today, FPL's research scientists work with academic and industrial researchers and other government agencies in exploring ways to promote healthy forests and clean water, and improve papermaking and recycling processes. Information is available at FPL's Web site: www.fpl.fs.fed.us. Through FPL's Advanced Housing Research Center, (www.fpl.fs.fed.us/ahrc/), researchers also work to improve homebuilding technologies and materials.

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