

Press Release

VAST® Enterprises, LLC Named a Finalist for Tenth Annual Tekne Awards in Minnesota

Minnesota High Tech Association to Recognize the State's Top Technology Companies at Awards Ceremony in October. VAST, a Material Science Research and Manufacturing Company, is a Finalist in Two Categories.

MINNEAPOLIS – September 17, 2009 –The Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) has named VAST® Enterprises, LLC as a finalist for the 2009 Tekne Awards, which go to Minnesota companies that demonstrate superior innovation and leadership in technology. VAST is a finalist for the Cleantech Award, honoring manufacturers of environmentally sound products that reduce costs, inputs, energy consumption, waste or pollution. In partnership with Fabcon, Inc., VAST is also competing for the Innovative Collaboration of the Year Award.

“Selection as a Tekne Awards finalist in not one but two categories puts VAST among the preeminent technology companies in Minnesota,” said Andy Vander Woude, chief executive officer, VAST Enterprises, LLC. “Green building has continued to grow in the midst of the construction market slump. And as the economy works its way out of recession, the future is bright for green building products based on inventive technologies.”

“For ten years the Tekne Awards have recognized those making groundbreaking contributions to the growth of technology in Minnesota,” said Kate Rubin, president, Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA). “VAST and all of this year’s finalists help Minnesota excel at producing cutting-edge technology and demonstrate that our state is a great place to do business.”

VAST Enterprises uses its patented material science technology to turn post-consumer recycled rubber and plastics into a new green building material: composite masonry. All VAST composite masonry products are cradle-to-cradle green. VAST’s manufacturing process starts with recycled car tires and plastic containers and emits minimal greenhouse gases, does not generate volatile organic compounds, yields zero scrap, and creates products that are 100 percent recyclable.

VAST achieved a scientific breakthrough by engineering the world’s first composite material to have up to 95 percent recycled content and offer the strength, durability and aesthetics essential for landscaping and hardscaping. [VAST composite masonry products](#) include VAST Composite Landscape Pavers, VAST Permeable Composite Pavers for stormwater management and VAST Composite Deck Pavers. In August 2009, VAST Permeable Composite Pavers won an [EcoHome Editors’ Choice Award](#) as one of the year’s ten best green building products.

VAST and [Fabcon](#) have partnered to launch the first precast wall panel with a composite thin brick. To reduce the environmental impact associated with bricks without sacrificing the appearance of masonry, many builders now turn to thin brick. Manufacturing thin brick in VAST’s composite material increases the environmental advantage. Working together on the new composite thin brick panel, Fabcon and VAST expect to divert approximately 350 million pounds of recyclable materials from landfills over the next five years.

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Presented by the MHTA in partnership with LifeScience Alley and Enterprise Minnesota, the [Tekne Awards](#) annually recognize Minnesota's best and brightest technology leaders in innovation, development, education, commercialization and management. Recipients of the 2009 Tekne Awards will be announced at an award ceremony on October 22, 2009. The event will begin with a VIP reception at 4:30 p.m., followed by general registration and reception at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., the awards ceremony at 7:00 p.m., and a post-Tekne party at 8:30 p.m. The event will be emceed by John Sweeney, author of "Innovation at the Speed of Laughter," and owner of the Brave New Workshop, the nation's oldest satirical comedy theatre. For more information and to register for the 2009 Tekne Awards ceremony, contact Lonni Ranallo at 952-230-4555.

Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)

The Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) accelerates the growth, sustainability and global competitiveness of Minnesota's technology-based economy through public policy advocacy, member collaboration and education, and community outreach. MHTA is the only membership organization that represents Minnesota's entire technology-based economy. MHTA members include organizations of every size — involved in virtually every aspect of technology creation, production, application and education in Minnesota. MHTA works in partnership with TechAmerica, which represents Minnesota's technology organizations nationally. Find out more online at www.mhta.org or follow MHTA on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/MHTA>.

VAST Enterprises, LLC

VAST applies its patented technology to transform recycled materials into a new resource for green building: composite masonry. VAST composite products — including landscape pavers, permeable pavers for stormwater management, deck pavers and brick wall fascia — offer an engineered alternative to molded concrete and clay brick. VAST meets the most demanding requirements for aesthetics, durability, sustainability and installation efficiency. Award-winning VAST pavers deliver rich colors, superior slip resistance and unbeatable strength at one-third the weight of concrete pavers. VAST can contribute to more LEED® credits than any other paver. Today, every 5,000-square foot VAST landscape installation keeps 2,500 scrap automobile tires and 75,000 plastic containers out of U.S. landfills. Tomorrow? *The Future is VAST™*. Learn more at vastpavers.com. Then call (612) 234-8958.

LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is registered trademark of the U.S. Green Building Council.

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Media Contacts

VAST: David Aquilina ■ (612) 234-8958 x 708 ■ news@vastpavers.com

MHTA: Peter Lindstrom ■ (952) 230-4551 ■ plindstrom@mhta.org