



Press Release

For immediate release

Permacon Opens the Doors to the Oldcastle Research and Development Centre

*This new R&D Centre is the biggest and most technologically advanced of its kind in
North America's prefabricated concrete products industry*

Montréal, April 21, 2008 – Permacon Group is pleased to announce the opening of the new Oldcastle North American Research and Development Center. A subsidiary of Oldcastle Architectural, Permacon Group is Canada's largest manufacturer of prefabricated concrete products, such as pavers, walls, slabs, borders, bricks, stone and blocks. Located at 8145 Bombardier Street, in Montréal's Anjou borough, this new North American R&D Centre is the most important centre of its kind in the industry.

"We're all very enthusiastic about opening the Oldcastle North American Research and Development Centre," said Permacon President Georges Archambault. "Thanks to the new R&D Centre, we can develop products that meet the industry's most stringent requirements. Research and development have always been at the heart of Permacon's growth. They are the key factor in the company's success, and leadership. The industry's future lies, first and foremost, in developing and innovating products and processes. With the new R&D Centre, Permacon will always be able to offer consumers and industry professionals alike the best prefabricated concrete products."

Investments:

Building the Oldcastle North American Research and Development Centre took a total investment of 6 million dollars. Canada Economic Development made a \$500,000 refundable contribution to enable the Oldcastle R&D Centre to buy specialized equipment for its lab. Investissement Québec also made a \$500,000 refundable contribution under the Strategic Support for Investment program. Emploi-Québec provided a \$80,980 subsidy to hire and train new employees.

Oldcastle North American Research and Development Centre:

Measuring 14,000 square feet, the Oldcastle R&D Centre contains the Centre's administration offices, offices for the team assigned to new product and process development, and an 8000 square foot lab containing cutting edge equipment and machinery. The R&D Centre includes a total of 30 new engineers, technicians, industrial designers and managers.

Activities at the R&D Centre will focus on constantly developing new products and processes for the prefabricated concrete industry. The Centre will serve the masonry, landscaping and retail sectors.

The new R&D Centre's mission is to exceed the needs and expectations of North America's industry and consumers," said Bertin Castonguay, President of the R&D Centre. "We know that one of the most important criteria in selecting a product is how it fits in with its environment, and our new prefabricated concrete products are in perfect harmony with the building, landscaping and architectural style that our clients want. We constantly strive to improve product performance in terms of durability and installation costs. In terms of thermal resistance, proportion of recycled content or anything else, we are committed to developing products that respect the environment and foster sustainable development."

About Permacon Group:

Permacon Group is Canada's largest manufacturer of prefabricated concrete products, such as pavers, walls, slabs, borders, bricks, stone and blocks. It has over 700 employees at 12 facilities in Québec and Ontario. Permacon Group delivers a line of more than 1000 products to the masonry and landscaping industry, designed for the residential, institutional, commercial and industrial markets. For over 55 years, Permacon Group has sustained a tradition of leadership and innovation in the design and manufacturing of the highest quality prefabricated concrete products.

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Source:

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