

SUMMARY – 2008 TECO IAC MEETING

TECO's Industry Advisory Council meeting was held on February 7, 2008, at the Omni Hotel @ CNN Center in Atlanta, Georgia, in conjunction with the Panel World's Panel and Engineered Lumber International Conference and Expo (PELICE). Over 500 people attended PELICE so it provided an excellent opportunity for the 40+ clients and industry friends who also attended TECO's IAC meeting to maximize their time.

The TECO IAC meeting started off with Steve Winistorfer, Chairman & CEO, providing an overview of TECO's current business and a summary of TECO's 4-year strategic plan. The plan has two components: solidify current business and diversify into new areas of business beyond certification and testing of structural wood panels. Winistorfer introduced Eric Sawyer, a Mechanical Engineer with Metriguard Inc. of Pullman, WA, and together they announced a partnership where Metriguard will take over R&D, manufacturing, sales and marketing of TECO's line of panel test machines. Metriguard is a global leader in testing machines for the wood products industry, and through this partnership it will be able to service and improve upon TECO's line of successful machines. TECO will be able to devote more resources to fulfilling its plan for diversification beyond panel certification.

Scott Drake, VP of Operations, highlighted some of the enhancements to TECO's certification and testing service programs, and introduced what the new and improved www.tecotested.com website has to offer. Steve Verhey, TECO's Technical Manager, talked about new California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulations for formaldehyde emissions and how they may affect panel manufacturers around the world. TECO's Senior Engineer Roland Hernandez discussed recent changes in building codes related to earthquake and high-wind applications. Structural panels can be designed to satisfy shear wall and uplift requirements, eliminating the need for metal straps to resist uplift forces.

Winistorfer closed with a presentation on the growing movement of green building and sustainability, providing an overview of existing green building certification programs and those being developed—examples include LEED-H, the new NAHB National Green Building Program, and Green Globes.

As a Gold Sponsor of PELICE, TECO kicked off a year-long celebration of its 75th anniversary by co-hosting the main social reception of the conference (with Raute, a company celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2008). A presentation highlighting TECO contributions to the wood industry over its 75 years of history was the backdrop while PELICE attendees enjoyed appetizers and cocktails in the Atrium Terrace of the Omni Hotel and CNN Center. TECO would like to thank the following clients and industry partners for contributing to the success of this reception and anniversary celebration: Arauco Wood Products, Guararapes Plywood, HFB Engineering, Hunt Forest Products, Langboard OSB, Southern Veneer Plywood, and the Structural Board Association.