VersaTube Building Systems Teams with Worldwide Shelters on Global Initiative

New Collaboration Expands the Capacity of Both to Help People in Need

Collierville, TN (PRWEB) June 24, 2012 -- VersaTube® Building Systems today announced an initiative to extend its reach to people in critical need of housing through Worldwide Shelters, a leading nonprofit that helps those left homeless by wars and natural disasters.

Through a new charitable partner agreement, Worldwide Shelters recommends the custom-made, steel-framed shelters from VersaTube as a first choice for organizations serving some of the 43 million people annually in need of housing. In return, VersaTube rebates a portion of Worldwide’s volume purchases back to the nonprofit through credits so it may help rebuild more communities and lives.

Worldwide Shelters has already invested more than $8 million in response to the need for transitional housing and has provided more than 14,000 disaster relief shelters to families around the globe.

The charitable partner agreement follows the successful collaboration of VersaTube and Worldwide in Zimbabwe this past year. Worldwide donated six VersaTube structures as classrooms for children at the Daniel Academy at the Voices of Peace orphanage near Harare. There, community and other volunteers used local materials (rock, water, mix and bricks) to construct walls around the steel tube frame, which is covered by a sheet metal roof.

The successes VersaTube and Worldwide have experienced together resulted from relationships fostered at the Aid and International Development Forum (AIDF) in 2011, where executives of both organizations cemented their plans. Both are set to participate in the upcoming AIDF event at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. on June 6-7.

“Hurricane Tomas slammed Haiti nine months after the 2010 earthquake. After the storm, VersaTube’s Series 1100 disaster relief shelter was still standing. It was the only one built to endure hurricane-force winds,” said Jeannie McMahon, executive director of Worldwide Shelters of Glenwood, Maryland. “VersaTube builds a great structure. They are simple to assemble and can be built with no power tools, which is a real plus. We are pleased to recommend this product to the humanitarian community.”

“The beauty of the VersaTube transitional system is that you are quickly providing a safe and secure haven for a family while also giving them a foundation for their future permanent home,” said McMahon, whose agency provides authoritative recommendations of best practices to those in disaster relief. “The steps to permanence can be completed using local practices, materials and labor.”

Worldwide Shelters participated in a study of transitional shelters by U.S. Navy post-grad students at Quantico, Virginia, this past summer. According to the study, “The authors performed a systems engineering analysis and verified the analysis with the acquisition and partial testing of the final design of the Humanitarian Assistance Shelter System (HASS). The HASS was developed in response to a need for a rapidly deployable mid-term shelter solution.”

The VersaTube Series 1100 was selected the most capable among more than a dozen disaster relief shelters
studied.

In addition to the charitable partner agreement, VersaTube National Sales Manager Peyton Cascio announced that the company plans to introduce a new, enhanced tubular steel “transitional shelter” modeled on the success of the Series 1100 at the upcoming AIDF show.

This new engineered building system (Model TSF-12160804) is earthquake, hurricane, fire, mold and insect resistant and customizable.

“Our new concept is designed to meet post-disaster “first response” shelter needs and provide the frame and roof for a permanent structure. Our lightweight and durable poly-blend fabric sidewalls provide safety and security pending the construction of more permanent exterior walls,” Cascio explained. “It lends itself to a variety of sustainable applications. And it is comparable in cost to short-duration dome tents commonly used in disaster relief efforts.”

“We are pleased that we have earned the trust and confidence of Jeannie and her organization through the performance of our products over time,” he said. “We look forward to a mutually beneficial long-term relationship with Worldwide Shelters. We look forward to working with relief advocates and agencies to stage our transitional shelter for rapid deployment.”

“And we look forward to sharing the details of our Zimbabwe adventure and our other Versatube Building Systems success stories with participants at the AIDF next month.”

About VersaTube Building Systems: VersaTube Building Systems designs, manufactures, distributes and markets pre-engineered steel framing components and systems for residential, agricultural, commercial and light industrial building and shelter applications. The company’s patented “Slip-Fit” connections simplify assembly and reduce construction time. The 18-year-old, privately held company operates from corporate offices in Collierville, TN., and manufacturing operations in both Collierville and Casa Grande, AZ. More information is available at www.versatube.com.

About Worldwide Shelters: Worldwide Shelters is a 501(c)3 organization which provides humanitarian support to people in critical need of adequate shelter and serves as an authoritative source and resource to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), charities, foundations and others active in emergency response and disaster relief. More information is available at www.worldwideshelters.org.

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