

**Structural
Board
Association**



*Representing the
OSB Industry*

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For Immediate Release

SBA's 2004 OSB World Symposium Lauded as a Great Event by Participants

Markham, Ontario, May 31, 2004 – Industry participants are highly complimenting the Structural Board Association (SBA) for the successful completion of its 2004 OSB World Symposium & Exhibition II, held in world-renowned Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada from May 17 to 19, 2004. Over 100 delegates participated in the two-day proceedings, which were in part co-sponsored by the TECO Corporation, Associated Chemists, Borden Chemical, Huntsman Polyurethanes, and Canadian Willamette.

Over 20 quality speakers provided much appreciated and timely information about a wide array of topics starting with the state of the economy and the OSB industry in North America and Europe, and how possible opportunities and threats, and product substitution may have an impact on the future growth of the product and its penetration in residential and industrial markets. The need was demonstrated for a strong industry association like the SBA to help the OSB industry properly address these issues.

Recent research in Europe and North America reported at the meeting could be the catalyst for the development of new structural applications or products with higher material properties. On the manufacturing side improved resin formulations and wax emulsion systems, use of highly sophisticated robotics and on-line measuring tools were some of proposed solutions that could lead to improved plant productivities.

The need for more focused education programs in wood technology was also discussed as a solution to providing more qualified plant personnel. Finally, important information was shared on proper plant fire safety issues, and the regulatory environment in which plants will have to operate in the future.

Industry participants such as Brad Farquhar and Bob Rosebrugh of Grant Forest Products had the following respective comments: "This is the best meeting that I have attended in many years" and "The SBA's attention to details in organizing meetings to be a success for its participants is truly remarkable." Brian Newman of Borden Chemical said: "The presentations were of a consistently high caliber, very contemporary and useful to both the producers and associate members or suppliers to the industry. The outlook for the industry is very encouraging."

A number of very interesting exhibits were present at the Symposium. Exhibitors displayed featured new products, technical consulting services, print media, technical industry training programs and research posters. As an integral part of the educational process of the Symposium, these exhibits offered participants the perfect means for a free exchange of ideas.

Heri Baum, of Specialty Wood Journal had this to say: " I strongly believe that our involvement in the SBA pays higher dividends than in other similar organizations. Their meetings are very informative, and I encourage OSB producers to support their activities."

Founded in 1976, the Structural Board Association represents leading Oriented Strand Board (OSB) mills around the world. The Association is incorporated in Canada and the United States. As the structural wood panel industry's authoritative source for OSB product and technical information, the SBA manages an extensive market and member driven OSB technical development program.

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