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GOVERNMENT STUDY SHOWS EIFS IS THE “BEST PERFORMING WALL”

(West Warwick, RI) – A new study shows that walls clad with Exterior Insulation and Finish systems (EIFS) technology provide “superior moisture and temperature control” when compared with several other common types of wall cladding materials.

Still underway, the government research initiative scientifically compares EIFS with brick, stucco and cement fiber-board assemblies in identical environments. A summary release on the initial findings was issued recently by Achilles Karagiozis, Ph.D., of the Building Envelopes Program of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL).

These preliminary results show that EIFS are a better cladding for buildings than the three other types studied. The conclusion was based on the side-by-side performance of the wall assemblies under conditions that can lead to moisture intrusion and temperature swings. In total, 15 configurations of wall cladding materials were incorporated into a specially constructed building in Charleston, SC for comparison and evaluation over a period of three years.

The goals of the ORNL study were to assess the performance of EIFS for insulating ability and moisture resistance. Field research was conducted for 15 months on a specially made test building constructed with various cladding materials and fitted with

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sensors to record moisture content, humidity, temperature and other variables. EIFS were compared to brick, stucco, cement fiber board siding and concrete block. The results of this study will be incorporated into a computer model designed to analyze the hygrothermal performance of different walls in various climatic conditions.

The tests included an assembly representative of Dryvit's Outsulation[®] Plus MD system, which combines a liquid-applied water-resistive moisture barrier to protect the substrate and high R-value insulation with a highly durable finish layer.

In a statement released by Karagiozis, ORNL's researcher asserts that this new research is "useful ... in demonstrating the superior moisture and temperature control performance of EIFS as compared to with other types of exterior claddings." Among the conclusions it is stated that that "EIFS drainage assemblies with vertical ribbons of adhesive provide a drainage path and air space that contributes positively toward the hygrothermal performance of the walls."

Other findings compare the effectiveness of construction materials used to protect against the intrusion of water and moisture into building walls,. Liquid applied water-resistive coatings, which are roller, trowel or spray applied, were even more effective at controlling moisture movement and accumulation than traditional house wraps for example. In addition, "the use of polyethylene vapor retarders is not a good strategy" in a mixed climate zone, according to the ORNL study.

The study also provides insights as to the best way to insulate buildings. "Insulation is more beneficial when placed toward the exterior," the study found.

The research demonstrates that "the best performing wall system was the EIFS wall consisting of four inches of expanded polystyrene insulation board without stud cavity insulation (no fiberglass) applied over a liquid applied water resistive barrier," according to the study summary issued by ORNL.

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The three-year testing program was initiated and funded through the United States of Energy (DOE) in Washington, D.C. and, in part, by the EIFS Industry Members Association (EIMA), a nonprofit trade association located in Morrow, GA. The study was conducted by ORNL located in Oak Ridge, TN, which is funded by DOE.

For more information on the study contact Stephan E. Klamke, EIMA Executive Director (sklamke@eima.org) or Achilles Karagiozis, Ph.D., at ORNL (karagiozisan@ornl.gov).

About Dryvit Systems, Inc.

Dryvit is the leading manufacturer of highly energy efficient wall systems that offer a small carbon footprint since 1969. Dryvit systems and products have been used on more than 400,000 projects worldwide. For more information about Dryvit systems or products, contact Dryvit at 1-800-556-7752, or on the Web at www.dryvit.com.