



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact: Linda King, SPRI Managing Director
SPRI
77 Rumford Avenue, Suite 3B
Waltham, MA 02453
Tel: 781-647-7026 Fax: 781-647-7222
E-mail: info@spri.org

SPRI Releases Industry Statistics Showing Dramatic Growth of Sheet Membrane Roofing

Waltham, MA, January 2007 — On the eve of its 25th anniversary in March, **SPRI (Single Ply Roofing Industry)** has released statistics showing the dramatically increased acceptance, growth and enhanced field performance of single ply and modified bitumen roof systems. SPRI represents sheet membrane and component suppliers to the commercial roofing industry.

“In the last 25 years, SPRI has helped support the commercial roofing industry through a wide variety of standards-writing, technical and research efforts,” says Paul Larson, SPRI President. “It is gratifying to see statistics that document the dramatic growth and market acceptance of these low-slope roofing systems and components.” Larson is also Program ITW in Glenview, IL.

Last year, SPRI member companies shipped out more than 3 billion square feet of sheet membrane roofing. This is more than double what was shipped in 1984, according to past SPRI President John Brinkmann.

According to independent market research from Infometrics Inc., Duluth, MN, in 1979, single-ply roofing systems accounted for only 10% of the U.S. low-slope roofing market. This percentage increased to 25% in 1983, one year after SPRI's founding. In addition, while the use of single ply and modified bitumen systems has increased dramatically over the years, field performance for these membranes has also significantly improved.

Data from Cleveland, OH-based research firm Penn & Associates shows that while single-ply roofing represented less than 30% of the average roofing contractor's dollar volume in 1984, roof failures and callbacks with these systems were initially higher. Today, Penn estimates that single ply and modified bitumen represent 67% of the average roofing contractor's annual volume. With more than twice the volume, total failures and callbacks with these systems have dropped nearly 20% since 1984. Industry experts like Rene Dupuis, President of Structural Research Inc., Middleton, WI, attribute the improvement in single-ply performance to enhanced material quality and better installation techniques. Dupuis has researched single ply and modified bitumen field performance for more than 30 years.

EPDM roofing systems fueled single-ply growth in the 1970s and 1980s. According to Infometrics, EPDM accounted for most of single ply's volume early on, with a low-slope roofing market share of 19% in 1980. In 1985, Springborn Laboratories of Enfield, CT, put single ply's market share at 48% and modified bitumen's share at 12%, with EPDM still representing 60% of all single-ply sales.

Today, energy efficient white membranes, such as TPO and PVC, are becoming more popular. In particular, TPO (thermoplastic polyolefin) is the hottest product in the single-ply market, with double-

digit growth rates over the last several years. In a 2006 survey conducted by a leading trade publication, almost 75% of contractors said they were pleased with the performance of TPO roofing. Most roofing contractors also predicted that single-ply systems will experience the most growth again in 2007.

The popularity of single-ply roofing systems also led to increased participation among roofing suppliers within SPRI. By 1987, 111 member companies had joined SPRI—36 membrane suppliers and 75 associate members.

“There were six people at SPRI’s first technical committee meeting, recalls SPRI Past President Tom Petrarca. “By 1985, we had more than 50 people working in that committee. SPRI has really become known as the voice of the single-ply roofing industry.”

In 1987, when Hugh Kenney assumed the role of SPRI President, he emphasized, “SPRI’s main mission is education and standards development.” Since its inception, SPRI has developed scores of technical publications and roofing manuals, as well as a number of SPRI/ANSI standards.

SPRI was formed on March 3, 1982 and was led in its first year by President Frank Poley (Carlisle SynTec), Vice President Brent Elder (Huls America, now HPG), Executive Vice President Carl Wangman and Secretary Jerry Pearman (Tamko Roofing Products).

For more information about SPRI and its activities, visit the SPRI’s Web site at www.spri.org, or contact the association at info@spri.org.