



December 22/29, 2008

Teragren expands manufacturing plant

Liz Switzer

Teragren has expanded its manufacturing capabilities with a new 240,000-square-foot plant in the Zhejiang Province of China to produce its Synergy Strand bamboo flooring and strand panel products.

The facility, which currently employs 120 people, will be dedicated to Teragren's proprietary re-engineered hot-press manufacturing method, XCORA Superior Strand Bamboo technology. The plant will also produce the company's newest addition to the Synergy line, a floating floor version of wide-plank strand bamboo that features a Valinge-patented, glueless self-locking system, according to the company.

"We have dedicated considerable research and development efforts toward reengineering our manufacturing process to create higher quality strand products," said David Knight, president and CEO. "The application of this patented technology in bamboo is the wave of the future - it offers infinite possibilities in the building and construction industries - from interior to exterior building and structural products. Our reengineering efforts have produced harder, more moisture resistant and stable strand products."

The facility also generates energy from the byproduct of bamboo sawdust created during the manufacturing process. The byproduct fuels boilers that power 30 drying kilns, a 90-foot conveyor oven, a high-capacity hot press, caramelizing tanks and heat for the factory. The smoke generated from the boiler is filtered to keep particulates from entering the atmosphere, according to Knight.

Teragren owns the exclusive patent rights to four strand bamboo patents in the U.S., U.K., Brazil and Mexico. Strand bamboo is a compressed material fused with an environmentally friendly adhesive.

"Synergy products comprise a significant portion of Teragren's flooring sales and we anticipate that demand will grow even more rapidly as a result of the increased durability and stability, and greater installation options," Knight added. "We look forward to applying our resources to more strand bamboo products."

Teragren's existing manufacturing facility in Anji employs about 700 people to provide milling and finishing to the Synergy flooring product line and to manufacture Teragren's traditional lines of bamboo flooring, panels and veneer.