DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

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Recycled decking breaks into UK market with Major installation at Imperial College London

A composite decking material made from recovered hardwood fibre and recycled polypropylene has scored its first major success in the UK with the unveiling of an important new building on the South Kensington campus of Imperial College London.

Officially opened in June, the Faculty Building was designed by top British architect Foster and Partners and features over 1300 m^2 of the decking, worth about £50,000. The deck extends around the entrance to the Faculty Building and along a raised walkway linking the new Tanaka Business School to the Queen's Lawn.

The installation is also the world's largest for the new material, called CorrectDeck, which is being launched into the UK by Environmental Composites (ECO) of Telford.

Lord Foster, who heads the architects' studio, said at the official opening of the Faculty Building the entire building was "a story of sustainability" on a campus that he viewed as "a city in microcosm." He focused on the recycling aspects of the design, explaining that the ECO CorrectDeck recycled timber and plastic decking covering the outside entrance had never been used in this context before.

More follows

ECO CorrectDeck is a composite timber manufactured from 100% recycled hardwood sawdust and recycled UV-stabilised polypropylene. It was these environmental credentials, along with the superior physical characteristics of ECO CorrectDeck, that led the architects to specify the composite material in place of more conventional options, in this case hardwood.

Excellent slip resistance tested to UK standards and the appearance of the deck were also crucial. The unique “Coastal Grey” colour of the ECO CorrectDeck deck boards blends well with the colour of the building.

ECO CorrectDeck combines a unique polypropylene-based formula with a highly advanced manufacturing process to yield a material with characteristics superior to those of both wooden decking and conventional, polyethylene-based composites. Polypropylene makes the material stronger, stiffer and lighter than other composites, so it can span longer distances and withstand higher temperatures with less expansion and contraction.

Unlike wooden decking, it’s impervious to insect damage and is also extremely moisture resistant. It contains no toxic chemicals and will not crack, splinter, warp or twist. Available in four colours, ECO CorrectDeck needs no special stains or treatments for protection. With all this leading to extremely low maintenance costs, the total cost of ownership is typically lower for ECO CorrectDeck than it is with alternative decking materials.

John Walsh, Assistant Director of Estates at Imperial College, says: "We seek to ensure all our projects deliver environmentally sensitive solutions wherever possible and all products are considered against life cycle analysis."

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Note to editors:

ECO CorrectDeck is being launched into the UK by Midlands-based Environmental Composites. The material is finding increasing uses for commercial and residential decking applications as well as for railings and outdoor furniture. In addition to being environmentally-friendly, ECO CorrectDeck offers considerable cost savings over conventional wood products and other composite materials.

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Caption: *A new environmentally-friendly composite decking material has been installed at Imperial College London. Called CorrectDeck, the material is made from recovered hardwood fibre and recycled polypropylene and extends around the entrance to the Faculty Building and along a raised walkway*