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For Immediate Release

## **Britco Founders Inducted into Industry Hall of Fame**

LANGLEY: Thirty-two years after starting the Britco Group, its Co-Founders Rick McClymont and David Taft were inducted into the Modular Building Institute's Hall of Fame. The announcement took place at the MBI's annual convention in Las Vegas last week and recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions, demonstrated distinguished achievement and provided new and innovative ideas to advance the \$5 billion a year industry.

Britco was founded by Rick McClymont and David Taft in 1977 with a handful of employees in a 10,000 square foot facility in North Langley with funds borrowed from family and friends. Still Langley-based, the Britco Group today is comprised of: Britco Structures, the largest designer and manufacturer of custom-built mobile and modular buildings in the Pacific Northwest ranking among the top-ten B.C. construction companies with 350 employees and approximately 180,000 square feet of manufacturing capacity at two plants in Agassiz and Penticton; and Britco Leasing Ltd. with the largest rental fleet in British Columbia.

Over the years, Britco has completed a number of major international projects, including a school in Russia and a workforce housing complex for a 600-person gold mining project also in Russia and building 448 panelized homes for Tsunami-affected areas of Indonesia for Save the Children. The Company has also completed large projects in California, Colorado, Hawaii and Washington State.

Said McClymont, "Over the past 32 years, from designing and building structures suitable for the Arctic and the tropics, projects in places like Russia and Indonesia highlight Britco's ability to meet the needs of customers in extremely diverse and challenging markets."

The Russia projects were located in a remote Arctic site where temperatures can reach as low as minus 65°C with 100 km/hour winds in the winter and up to 35°C in the summer. The modules were manufactured to endure the rigors of multiple stages of transport, including trucking 200 kilometers over an ice road before final assembly.

Britco's success in international markets was recognized when it was selected as B.C.'s top exporter in the manufactured products category at the *BC Export Awards* in 2006.

Stated Taft, "From our inception, our goal was clear - strive to meet the highest standards of quality in the products we manufacture and export to markets around the world. This award is really the result of the hard work and effort of our 350 employees and for the commitment to excellence they demonstrate every day."

A recent highlight for McClymont and Taft was Britco being awarded a contract by the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) to design and build accommodations for the Whistler Athletes' Centre, home to Olympic athletes competing from around the world in events in Whistler. Britco is designing and building two permanent facilities, a 100-room Lodge and a 20-unit Townhouse Complex.

In addition, Britco has partnered with VANOC and the Province of BC to relocate and reconfigure 592 temporary rooms in the Whistler Athletes' Village into social housing units after the 2010 Winter Games.

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As part of this innovative *Olympic Legacy Affordable Housing* project, the Britco designed and manufactured temporary accommodations will be relocated and converted to 156 permanent affordable housing units in five communities across the Province: Chilliwack, Enderby, Saanich, Sechelt and Surrey. Additional units will be built and shipped directly to Chetwynd for seniors' housing.

"Britco's modular manufacturing approach to building construction incorporates sustainable and environmentally-friendly construction techniques and we are proud that this will help VANOC build a sustainable legacy well beyond 2010," said McClymont.

According to McClymont it is likely to be the demand for sustainable buildings that will drive the modular industry forward in the coming years. "Factory-built is consistent with the highest standards of environmental sustainability because there is much less material waste, significantly reduced impact on the site and surrounding neighbourhood, and far fewer issues related to water damage."

At the Hall of Fame award dinner, to celebrate their 32 years building Britco, McClymont and Taft took the opportunity to donate \$32,000 to the MBI's scholarship and education program. This donation is representative of Britco's community involvement and is based on the original vision McClymont and Taft had when they started Britco – build a company grounded in a tradition of giving back to the community.

Said Taft, "At Britco we have always recognized that what we do today plays an important role in building the foundation for healthy and thriving communities tomorrow. As we have built our business in markets around the world we were also committed to building stronger communities here at home."

Locally, Britco continues to support numerous community organizations through an employee driven campaign called *Building Stronger Communities*. Through this initiative Britco and its employees focus on assisting organizations that support youth, education, the environment and health.

More recently, Britco was also honoured for outstanding achievement at the *Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year®* 2007 awards for best manufacturing company in the Pacific region. A significant portion of Britco's growth is the result of demand from customers in Alberta, particularly in the oil and gas exploration sector where Britco has emerged as one of the largest manufacturers of workforce accommodation in Canada.

Britco is the largest modular manufacturer in the Pacific Northwest operating plants in Agassiz and in Penticton. In addition to workforce housing complexes, Britco designs and manufactures offices, classrooms, daycares and a wide range of custom-design commercial buildings. Britco also designs and builds the home for the annual PNE Prize Home Lottery.

The Company is headquartered in Langley with branch offices located in Nanaimo and Kelowna and Edmonton, Alberta, [www.britco.com](http://www.britco.com).

The Modular Building Institute is the North-America industry association representing commercial modular builders based in Charlottesville, Virginia, [www.mbinet.org](http://www.mbinet.org).

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