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For Immediate Release

Britco Homes Destined for Indonesia

Britco Structures of Langley, BC has been awarded an initial contract to build 300 homes for Westport, CT-based Save the Children USA for tsunami-affected areas of Indonesia. The first 60 homes are scheduled to be shipped in September to the Aceh province in Indonesia, which was one of the hardest hit areas when the tsunami struck the island of Sumatra on Boxing Day of 2004. The natural disaster caused an estimated \$5.3 billion worth of damage and took more than 167,000 lives. It displaced an estimated 700,000 people and created a need for 100,000 houses for residents who lost their homes.

"The first phase of the project involves the shipment of 300 homes in the fall," says Randy Plewes, the Project Manager at Britco. "This is just the beginning, the entire project calls for us to build up to 3,000 homes over several phases. As project benchmarks are met, Britco will work with Save the Children on planning the next phases."

Save the Children representatives reviewed the first Britco-built home at a special event at the company's Langley facility on Friday, July 21st. A number of dignitaries were in attendance at the event including Mr. Bunyan Saptomo, the Consul General for Indonesia; The Honourable Rich Coleman, BC Minister of Forests and Range and the Minister Responsible for Housing; The Honourable Gary Lunn, Federal Minister of Natural Resources; and representatives from Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII), Forintek Canada Corp., the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), and BC's forest products industry.

"BC has become a world leader for our value-added wood products and we are proud to be a part of this project that will help many people who need shelter as a result of the tsunami," said Minister Coleman. "We know that almost one million homes are destroyed each year due to disasters and we are looking at ways to help these countries rebuild their homes and lives."

"Save the Children has worked in Aceh province for 30 years and remains committed to the long-term development of the province", notes Charles MacCormack, President and CEO of Save the Children USA. "We are delighted to have formed a partnership with Britco and the British Columbia government, including FII, BCIT, and Forintek to help us bring high quality permanent housing to children and families who have suffered so much as a result of one of the worst disasters to ever hit South Asia."

"Britco is very proud to be part of this important reconstruction effort," says Mike Ridley, Vice President, Britco Structures. "In collaboration with Save the Children, we have designed and engineered a cost-effective, permanent and long-term solution that will have a real impact for dislocated families and children who were left homeless in the wake of the tsunami. This is about re-building communities, re-building families and re-building a future for thousands of children in Indonesia."

The project evolved shortly after the tsunami when British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell committed \$8 million towards the relief effort and asked FII to organize a fact-finding team comprised of representatives from several BC forest products companies, Forintek, and BCIT. The six-person delegation visited Indonesia, meeting with local government officials and aid agency personnel in Jakarta and Banda Aceh, a city in the devastated Aceh province. The main purpose of the mission was to determine if, and how, BC forest products and building expertise could be used in the reconstruction efforts.

As a result of the visit to Indonesia, FII requested proposals from qualified vendors for small prototype housing that would meet the needs of the distressed region. This project allowed British Columbia to showcase BC value-added wood products as well as design and construction expertise in small-scale wood frame housing. Britco, which has extensive experience in building homes, industrial and institutional buildings for remote areas, was selected to design a prototype home.

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The homes supplied by Britco will be produced at the company's Agassiz, BC plant and shipped to Indonesia as pre-cut and panelized units. "The homes have been designed to meet the seismic code for earthquakes and to be resistant to insects, especially the Formosan termite which is prevalent in the area," says Plewes. "In addition, we had to develop a design that incorporates a traditional Indonesian look to the homes. The houses we are supplying for the first phase are 42 square metres (approximately 450 square feet) and will be finished on site."

Through FII, the Province will also be financing upwards of \$65,000 to help assemble the houses on site with the BCIT's School of Construction and Environment training program. BCIT will instruct and train Indonesian builders and government officials according to North American standards.

"BCIT prides itself on working closely with government and industry to meet the demand for highly skilled workers, both locally and internationally," said Wayne Stevens, director of BCIT's Canadian Housing and Construction Centre. "We are very pleased to be working in co-operation with FII, Britco and Save the Children to deliver training for this very special project. This partnership between industry, government and education shows the true potential of what we can do when we work together."

Britco Structures specializes in the design and manufacture of commercial, institutional, and residential buildings, including workforce housing for the resource sector, single-family homes, condominiums, apartment complexes and hotels/motels/resorts, as well as offices, schools, daycares and a wide range of custom-design buildings for business and industry.

In addition to their head office in Langley, BC, Britco operates four satellite offices in Canada, which are strategically located in Nanaimo, Kelowna, and Kamloops in BC, and Edmonton, Alberta. The company also has offices in Seattle, WA and Portland, OR to serve the US Market. Britco has up to 130 full time employees at their 92,000 square foot factory in Agassiz, and up to an additional 40 people at their 40,000 square foot factory in Penticton, BC. Another 40 sales, design, project management, and administration professionals are employed at the manufacturing facilities and the company's offices. Britco's products are sold around the world.

Save the Children is the leading independent organization creating lasting change for children in need in the United States and around the world. Save the Children USA is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, a global network of 27 independent Save the Children organizations working to ensure the well-being and protection of children in more than 110 countries.

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