

## **NET ZERO ENERGY BUILDING COMPANY OPENS HOUSING MANUFACTURING FACTORY AND STIMULATES GREEN JOB CREATION**

ZETA Communities makes strategic acquisition to scale its net zero energy platform and create green jobs

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – September 21, 2009 – ZETA Communities (ZETA), a net zero energy (NZE) building company, today announced that it will re-open a 91,000 square foot, state-of-the-art, precision-building facility in Sacramento, California to produce net zero energy, high quality, affordable multi-family housing and commercial structures. As a company driven by social entrepreneurship, ZETA is meeting national priorities to stimulate a new green economy by creating green collar manufacturing jobs and technology. This will reinvigorate the housing market, reduce overall consumer costs, conserve natural resources and, in the long run, strengthen the United States' national security by reducing its dependence on fossil fuels.

Across the nation, both on- and off-site construction companies are shuttering due to both the credit crunch, and outmoded and unsustainable business practices. For example, within the past four months, three housing manufacturing plants closed in the Sacramento, California region, resulting in the loss of 400 jobs. ZETA purchased one of these plants and will hire more than 200 employees during the next two years, including re-hiring laid off employees from these recently closed plants. Transitioning the employees to contributors of the new green economy, ZETA will train workers in their clean tech factory in energy efficient, low waste and resource efficient building methods and NZE technologies.

Forward-thinking developers and public agencies are recognizing that a sustained housing market recovery will require significantly improved building efficiencies in terms of energy, construction time and economic metrics. These developers are seeking out ZETA as a solution to repositioning their projects and differentiating

their products to capture pent up demand as the housing market begins to rebound. Moreover, ZETA completes off-site fabrication and installation in less than 50 percent of the time compared to site-built, allowing these progressive developers to be first-to-market as it recovers. ZETA's Sacramento facility, "zFab", is fully equipped with technology built ahead of industry standards and provides the company with state-of-the-art equipment to fulfill demand for 400 to 500 units per year, in a controlled environment. ZETA's project pipeline will create hundreds of jobs, save energy and revitalize the local economy with measureable long-term benefits.

ZETA is currently working with developers on projects ranging from military base conversions, urban infill, transit-oriented development, educational campuses, senior housing and national park projects. The Sacramento factory was originally created as a cutting edge, lean and versatile production facility for energy efficient and sustainable buildings. ZETA is taking it one step further to produce NZE, high indoor air quality, and cost competitive products, delivering the next generation of sustainable communities today.

"The built environment consumes 51 percent of U.S. energy, of which 39 percent is attributable to operations. ZETA is providing one of the first nationally scalable solutions to the unsustainable environmental impacts of residential and commercial buildings," said Naomi Porat, CEO, ZETA Communities. "We made an important decision to find and acquire this new production facility enabling ZETA to produce multifamily housing for the mass market. In turn, this will bring green jobs and economic benefits to local communities as part of the solution for energy independence and climate change. Today, we are bringing the future of construction and U.S. clean tech manufacturing to the building industry and proving that there is no price penalty for living in zero energy, zero carbon, green homes."

ZETA is committed to first using efficient design, materials and mechanical systems to conserve 60 percent of the structure's energy load and then providing

on-site renewable energy sources to achieve the additional 40 percent energy reduction load on the grid. ZETA's whole house system controller (thermostat), zTherm™, is a pivotal innovation in ensuring that the highest level of energy efficiency is achieved by optimizing the mechanical system including heating, cooling, ventilation and indoor air quality. ZETA's demonstration home has been tested by the Department of Energy's (DOE) Building America Program consultants, Building Science Corporation, in addition to achieving a LEED Platinum rating, HERS Index of zero, 240 GreenPoint rating, Energy Star and EPA Indoor airPLUS certifications, thereby validating its success in building a true NZE home. ZETA's new zFab will now provide developers with an opportunity to partner on the development of large scale projects that deliver these same results.

## **INDUSTRY SUPPORT**

"I've seen energy strategies come and go for nearly 30 years and believe that the only way to energy independence and economic recovery is through a true commitment to energy efficiency. The built environment is the biggest negative contributor to climate change and I am proud to see a California-grown company at the forefront of taking this challenge head-on," Dian Grueneich, commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission. "I believe California can lead the way to net zero energy and that we can show the rest of the country that we don't have to wait another 10 years to get there. With companies like ZETA making the investment to create affordable, innovative technologies and scale their net zero energy solutions, we have the opportunity to lead by example and make smart choices that will put us on a path towards a renewable energy future."

"In my 13 years at the helm of the nation's largest manufactured home builder, I can say with certainty that this new factory puts ZETA in a strong competitive position relative to the industry," said Walt Young, former CEO, Champion Enterprises (NYSE:CHB). "When you couple the material and time benefits of precision building with ZETA's compelling net zero energy platform and

technology, you have very efficient and environmental structures that dramatically exceed the quality and performance of both site and factory-built, non-green structures. As an industry veteran, I see this as a transformational milestone for the building industry.”

## **ABOUT ZETA COMMUNITIES**

ZETA produces net zero energy multifamily housing and mixed-use structures for sustainable communities, focusing on urban infill, transit-oriented development, public land development and educational campuses. ZETA's precision-built structures, produced in its clean-tech off-site production facility, exceed the performance of site built at no additional cost while minimizing resources, waste and CO2 emissions. ZETA delivers the next generation of housing and communities today by addressing three key challenges to the building industry: the increasing cost of energy, inefficient building methods and the high cost or unavailability of capital. As a result, many forward-thinking developers and public agencies are seeking new options to build energy efficient, cost effective and highly durable buildings, while minimizing holding costs through reduced construction timeframes. ZETA delivers a unique solution to meet the needs of these market leaders.

Together with its developer partners, ZETA is transforming the conventional method of construction to a technology-driven model that meets the demands of the future. ZETA is part of the solution for energy independence and climate change.

The ZETA demonstration home is on virtual tour at: <http://zetacommunities.com/virtualtours.php>

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Press Office  
Nandita Geerdink  
Resolution Communications  
415.269.4493  
[nandita@resolutioncommunications.com](mailto:nandita@resolutioncommunications.com)  
[media@zetacommunities.com](mailto:media@zetacommunities.com)

Business Development  
Andrew Silverman  
ZETA Communities  
415.946.4084 ext. 402  
[asilverman@zetacommunities.com](mailto:asilverman@zetacommunities.com)  
[info@zetacommunities.com](mailto:info@zetacommunities.com)