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Address 100 Barr Harbor Drive | PO Box C700 | West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959 | USA
Phone 610.832.9500 | *Fax* 610.832.9555 | *e-mail* service@astm.org | *Web* www.astm.org

European Office 27-29 Knowl Piece, Wilbury Way, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 0SX | U.K.
Phone +44 (0)1462 437933 | *Fax* +44 (0)1462 433678

For Immediate Release
Release #6261

Press Contact: Barbara Schindler
610/832-9603; bschindl@astm.org
www.astm.org

ASTM International Name Change Reflects Global Scope

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa., 11 December 2001—ASTM, one of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world, has announced a change in its name. The change to **ASTM International** reinforces the openness of the ASTM standards development process to worldwide input as well as reflecting the global application and use of ASTM standards.

Today, membership in ASTM International exceeds 30,000 technical experts from more than 100 countries who comprise this worldwide standards forum. "From its inception, the ASTM method of developing standards has been based on consensus without borders," notes ASTM International's President James A. Thomas. "Our process ensures that interested individuals and organizations representing industry, academia, consumers, and governments alike, all have an equal vote in determining a standard's content."

Charles Ludolph, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe in the United States Department of Commerce, commented, "ASTM standards play a vital role in international trade. ASTM's open process welcomes individuals throughout the world. As a result, ASTM facilitates the development of standards that can be used on a worldwide basis and play a vital role in aiding global trade."

The founding principles of openness have contributed greatly to the acceptance and use of the ASTM standard the world over. Known for their high technical quality and market relevance, forty percent of the ASTM standards distributed go outside the United States.

To facilitate global input into the standards development process, ASTM International uses on-line technologies that further encourage open participation

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and responsiveness to industry needs. They include Internet-based Standards Development Forums enabling 24/7 access worldwide, on-line balloting, electronic minutes and templates, and state-of-the-art distribution methods.

ASTM International's efforts to build global cooperation in the standards development process were the focal point in a number of recent events:

22 Countries Attend ASTM International Open House

ASTM International hosted a two-day Open House on November 29 and 30 with leaders of the National Standards Bodies of some 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as Canada. "ASTM is highly engaged throughout all parts of the world. By hosting the standards leadership of these regions, we hope to collaborate even further in the future," explains Kathleen (Kitty) Kono, ASTM Vice President, Global Cooperation.

Memoranda of Understanding Signed with Colombia and Uruguay

In October, ASTM signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the national standards body of Colombia, Instituto Colombiano de Normas Tecnicas y Certificacion (ICONTEC). The document enhances the ability of ASTM and ICONTEC standards to support the needs of the Colombian people, continue growth of the Colombian economy, and aid in the development of Colombian national standards for health, safety, and the environment.

On November 26-28, ASTM International President Jim Thomas visited the offices of ICONTEC in Bogota and delivered a speech on the standardization system in the United States and its relationship with technical regulations for a workshop on conformity assessment systems in the U.S. and Colombia.

An agreement between ASTM and the Uruguayan national standards organization, the Instituto Uruguayo de Normas Tecnicas (UNIT), was signed on November 14 by UNIT's Director, Pablo Benia, and ASTM's Jim Thomas. The signing was witnessed by the U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay, Martin J. Silverstein;

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the President of UNIT, Carlos Guiria; and the President of Uruguay's Engineering Association (AIU), Eduardo R. Alvarez. The MOU will promote communication between the two organizations, promote knowledge of the standards development activities of each organization, and strengthen the Uruguayan national standards system. During ASTM's visit to UNIT in Montevideo, Uruguay, Jim Thomas addressed a conference with a presentation titled ASTM Standards and Their Importance in the Commerce of the Americas.

ASTM Technical Committees Increase Global Efforts

ASTM's technical committees, which represent industry fields ranging from metals to the environment, have a long history of international activity. Most recently, Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials and Applications signed an MOU with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) highlighting the acceptance and use of globally accepted standards, such as those of D01, to meet the needs of all stakeholders in the paint and coatings industry.

Meanwhile, global activity in several other ASTM committees continues to strengthen. Committees experiencing increased global participation are: A01 on Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys, D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants, D24 on Carbon Black, D30 on Composite Materials, E28 on Mechanical Testing, and F24 on Amusement Rides.

New Logo and Tag Line Reinforce ASTM Name Change

Along with a name clarification, the ASTM International logo is enhanced graphically to underscore the international message. In addition, the tag line "Standards Worldwide" is incorporated into the revised logo, offering continuity and reinforcement to the organization's image.

For more information on the global activities of ASTM International, contact Kitty Kono, Vice President, Global Cooperation (phone: 610-832-9687; fax: 610-832-9599, or via e-mail: kkono@astm.org).

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About ASTM International

Founded in 1898 as the American Chapter of the International Association for Testing and Materials and most recently known as the American Society for Testing and Materials, ASTM International is a not-for-profit organization that provides a global forum for the development and publication of voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, systems and services. ASTM standards are accepted and used in research and development, product testing, quality systems, and commercial transactions around the globe.

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