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## Manufacturers' association formed for building enclosure products

**T**he Building Enclosure Moisture Management Institute, or BEMMI, was recently formed and officially began operation Jan. 1. BEMMI is organized to represent manufacturers and suppliers of drainage space materials used in exterior walls in the residential and commercial building construction markets. The mission of the organization is to promote the growth of the engineered rainscreen products industry to improve moisture management in building enclosures through technical advocacy.

BEMMI members formed a Technical Committee, which is working on several industry issues, and have identified several national and state code issues as top priorities for the Institute. John Woestman, a member of the BEMMI staff with extensive experience in the codes and standards and building products arena, will serve

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as BEMMI's technical director.

"The formation of the BEMMI will assist manufacturers with representation in the major code and standards organizations," said Executive Director Michael D. Fischer. "As an industry, rainscreen producers will be able to speak with one voice to the regulators, code officials and in the standards bodies to promote this rapidly growing building product used to provide both drainage and ventilation in high-performance building enclosure systems."

BEMMI membership recently elected Michael Coulton, the director of marketing and product development for Benjamin Obdyke, as president of the Board. Others named to officer

positions include Vice President Marcus Jablonka of Cosella-Dörken and Steve Samec of Masonry Technology, who was tapped to serve as secretary/treasurer.

"I am proud to be asked to lead this new initiative," said Coulton. "BEMMI will be poised to advance consensus standards for new technologies and products that will provide a means for producers of rainscreen products and systems to promote sound building science and construction methods."

Richard Lolley, CEO of Advanced Building Products, applauded efforts by industry members to collaborate on technical issues.

"Working together in a consensus process will allow the industry to succeed at a level we could never do by going it alone," said Lolley. He added the collaboration will accelerate acceptance of rainscreen science into mainstream building practice.