

MID AMERICA BRICK RECEIVES FINANCING TO RE-OPEN FORMER A.P. GREEN BRICK PLANT

Up to 80 new jobs to be created in Mexico, Missouri

MEXICO, MO., June 1, 2010 - Mid America Brick President and CEO Frank Cordie announced the completion of financing that will be used to re-open the former A.P. Green brick plant in Mexico, Missouri. Mid America Brick will re-commission and operate the manufacturing plant on the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1910.

A.P. Green Refractories was once among the largest fire brick manufacturers in the world. Mid America Brick will produce face brick for residential and commercial construction at the manufacturing plant. When fully operational, Mid America Brick will create up to 80 new jobs and produce over 60 million bricks per year.

Mr. Cordie, a 35-year brick industry veteran, stated “the formation of Mid America Brick has been a work in progress for four years. There has been a tremendous amount of dedication, teamwork and support to make this start-up possible. In particular, I’d like to thank our Mexico investors, the city of Mexico, State Representative Steve Hobbs, State Senator Wes Shoemyer, Governor Jay Nixon, U.S. Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer, and U.S. Senator Kit Bond.”

Advantage Capital Partners of St. Louis provided critical organizational and financial support along with Environmental Liability Transfer of St. Louis; Rand Capital of Buffalo, NY; and Community South Bank in Knoxville, Tenn.

The innovative financing package also includes local, state and federal grants and loans including the city of Mexico Neighborhood Improvement District; Missouri Department of Economic Development CDBG block grant, action loan, and Enhanced Enterprise Zone; Missouri Department of Natural Resources Brownfield Tax Credits; Small Business Administration 7(a) loan; USDA Business & Industry loan guarantee; and job training. Advantage Capital Partners assembled and coordinated the financing package that also includes state and federal New Markets Tax Credits.

Mr. Cordie also noted, “Mid America Brick has assembled an outstanding team of brick industry veterans with over 200 years of experience to operate what will be Missouri’s largest face brick plant. This team and our central location will enable us to produce quality products and distribute them cost-effectively throughout the Midwestern United States. To further enhance these competitive advantages, Mid America brick will provide superior customer service.” Mr. Cordie expects to begin production by the spring of 2011.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for Mid America Brick will be held later this summer.

###