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SUPER E CONFIRMS ITS POSITION AS THE ONLY COMMERCIALY SUCCESSFUL ECO CONSTRUCTION SYSTEM IN THE UK

The Government of Canada today announced the completion of the 500th Super E® (1) house in the UK, more than all the alternative eco housing systems, such as PassivHaus, Huf Haus, Light House, BedZed and RuralZed, combined.

The milestone was reached by UK Super E® builder Berkeley Homes, in partnership with BSW Alouette and makes Super E the most commercially successful efficient construction system in the UK.

Jeff Culp from the Super E® office comments, "As far as viable low or net zero energy housing systems are concerned we are streets ahead of the competition. There are lots of schemes out there like PassivHaus, Huf Haus, Light House, BedZed, and RuralZed and all of them are trying to demonstrate that admirable goals are achievable, but none of them have successfully entered the mainstream of UK housing, except Super E®.

Jeff continued, "Five hundred homes may not seem like a lot when compared to the overall construction industry in the UK but this is misleading as the industry has only recently started to experiment with energy efficient systems. To reach 500 homes in such a relatively short space of time is a huge achievement that we are very proud of."

Changing Perceptions

When Super E® arrived in the country in 2000 it faced a big challenge. Attitudes toward construction in the UK seemed inflexible and issues related to sustainable construction weren't even on the radar.

Jeff Culp from the Super E® office comments, "When we started to promote the Super E® system in the UK people looked at us like we were completely crazy. There were some very unfounded perceptions that needed to be addressed and we have spent a lot of time through training programmes, marketing, PR and giving key note presentations at leading industry events and architectural universities.



Through education, Super E® has gone a long way towards changing those initial perceptions and of course with climate change the need was finally apparent that our ideas needed to be incorporated into Part F and Part L legislation.

"Of course there is a great deal more that we would like to see happen as far as legislation in the UK goes. The new code for sustainable homes is still lacking in a number of areas pertaining to what constitutes a healthy home. The main thing is that there is debate and awareness and we are very happy to have played a part in that."

-End-

Notes to Editor

(1) **Super E®** buildings use the best quality designs, products and systems that meet strict performance and warranty standards, ensuring an extremely durable building in any climate.

The Government of Canada's **Super E®** programme was developed for international markets by Natural Resources Canada and is being delivered in partnership with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canada Wood and the Canadian High Commission. Together with the expertise of the National Research Council of Canada, these agencies work closely with the industry to accelerate the research and development of world-leading, energy efficient and healthy housing technologies.

The British government's report, 'There Today, Here Tomorrow' endorsed Canada's energy-efficiency 'know-how' and recommended many of its 'tried and tested' best practices.

(2) The companies that build **Super E®** homes in the UK include: DGS Construction, Interhabs UK, Sunley Holdings plc, Berkeley Homes Ltd., Kelsey Housing Association Ltd., Merlin Timber Frame Ltd., Calford Seaden, Woodco Scotland, Alan Drewell Ltd., Alec Macleod, Eco Concept Ltd., Oakwood Builders & Joinery Ltd. and Crendon Timber Engineering Ltd.