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Counties Purchase AXION's 100% Recycled STRUXURE Building Materials to Address Aging U.S. Bridges

\$10.5 Billion Is Spent per Year on the Construction and Maintenance of Bridges in the U.S.

NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ -- (MARKETWIRE) -- 03/19/13 -- [AXION International Holdings, Inc.](#) (OTCQB: AXIH), a leader in recycled plastic and plastic composite technologies used to produce ECOTRAX™ rail products and STRUXURE™ building products, announced today that the [St. Lawrence County Department of Highways](#) of New York state has purchased its second order of STRUXURE™ building materials. The order for 6"x24" tongue & groove (T&G) boards is being used to repair and restore bridge decking on the Dean Road Bridge in Clare, New York. As a result of this order 30,000 pounds of plastic have been taken out of the landfill stream, and instead used to manufacture STRUXURE™ boards that will strengthen America's infrastructure.

This is the second STRUXURE™ order from the St. Lawrence County Department of Highways. In addition, AXION is working with this county on two more bridge projects using AXION I-Beams, T&G deck boards and railroad ties. The St. Lawrence Department of Highways' staff of engineers designs bridges, purchases materials, and installs materials with their own maintenance staff.

"When we installed STRUXURE™ boards on a culvert project as an alternative to stay-in-place concrete forms last year, they were easy to install and they have shown to be very durable through the harsh weather conditions we have here in upstate New York. It's a good investment for us because STRUXURE™ is impervious to water and salt, so it doesn't go through the wear and tear that traditional materials do over time. That means once it's in, there will be significantly less maintenance as compared with traditional construction materials. The ease and simplicity of working with the material also saves time during construction, allowing for shorter road closures. We're looking to integrate more STRUXURE™ products into our highway and bridge infrastructure," stated Toby Bogart, P.E., St. Lawrence County's Superintendent of Highways.

STRUXURE™ building materials have been purchased and used to build and repair bridges in several other counties including vehicular bridges in Logan County, Ohio; Wharton State Forest in Hammonton, New Jersey; and in York, Maine; a pedestrian and horse bridge in Ventura County, California; an M1 tank bridge at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and a rail bridge at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

The [American Society of Civil Engineers' 2009 report](#) states that while \$10.5 billion is spent annually on the construction and maintenance of bridges, a \$17 billion annual investment is needed to substantially improve current bridge conditions. According to the Federal Highway Administration, in 2011 [143,899](#) bridges were either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, with a surface area exceeding 89 million square meters.

County and municipal highway departments are faced with the challenge of prolonging the useful life of these bridges and maintaining their safety, which enables the counties to delay the expense of replacing the bridges. Each county department office, on average, manages hundreds of bridges. County engineers are looking for building products that last and require no maintenance.

"We are receiving an increasing level of inquiry on bridge deck replacements for deteriorating wood boards on bridges both domestically and internationally. There is a tremendous need to maintain, restore, and in many cases replace aging bridge infrastructure in the U.S.," stated AXION President and CEO Steve Silverman. "Our STRUXURE™ I-beams and tongue & groove boards provide a durable, high-performance, no-maintenance-required solution that offers a strong ROI relative to traditional building materials. We believe this is a significant growth category for our STRUXURE™ products."

AXION's STRUXURE™ composite building materials do not rust and are impervious to moisture and salt, making them a very strong value for applications in northern climates where salt is dropped on roads in the winter.

Purchasing decision makers at county and municipal highway offices have responded positively to AXION's ability to support product selection and supply for full or partial bridge systems. The variety of structural shapes and sizes in the STRUXURE™ product line are a competitive advantage for AXION.

To read a recent [article](#) in Roads & Bridges Magazine about how STRUXURE™ products can help address America's aging bridge infrastructure, please visit:
http://www.roadbridges.com/sites/default/files/35_onion%20ditch%20bridge_R&B0213.pdf

About STRUXURE™ Bridges

STRUXURE™ Bridges are engineered from AXION's patented, 100%-recycled plastic formulation. Because the recycled structural composite material is inert, STRUXURE™ Bridges will not rot or absorb moisture, and they are impervious to insect infestation, making them ideal in harsh environments. Because of their durability and low maintenance, they are an excellent cost-effective, long-term solution in bridge applications. In boardwalks, short-span vehicular bridges, and multi-span superstructures,

STRUXURE™ is specified for its performance, longevity, and sustainable design. From Scotland to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, STRUXURE™ Bridges are providing long-term, sustainable solutions around the world. For more information about STRUXURE™ Bridges, visit www.axionintl.com/products-composite-bridges.html.

About AXION International Holdings, Inc.

AXION (OTCQB: AXIH) is green technology company, transforming waste plastics into structural building materials. Using 100%-recycled consumer and industrial plastics, AXION develops, markets and sells its recycled structural composite products through its ECOTRAX™ composite railtie and STRUXURE™ building material lines. From the railroading industry to the military to global engineering firms, AXION delivers tested, proven and superior green solutions to infrastructure needs around the world.

www.AXIH.com

Forward-Looking Statements

This release contains "forward-looking statements" for purposes of the Securities and Exchange Commission's "safe harbor" provisions under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and Rule 3b-6 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties that could cause AXION's actual results to differ materially from those currently anticipated, including the availability of materials at favorable pricing, sufficient manufacturing capability and the risk factors identified in AXION's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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