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JM Coull completes 47,700 s/f LEED-certifiable building for F.W. Webb Co.

November 23, 2011 - Green Buildings

Design-builder JM Coull, Inc. held a ribbon cutting ceremony at 307 Dorchester Ave. for the completion of one of Boston's first environmentally friendly warehouses.

Jeff Pope, president of F.W. Webb Company and owner of the building, addressed the gathering, noting that his family's company had been in Boston since 1866. He said the 307 Dorchester Ave. facility was "our fourth and finest location in Boston." F.W. Webb is one of the northeast's largest plumbing, heating, HVAC and industrial pipe, valves, fittings, and pumps distributor.

Brian Golden, executive director and secretary of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, applauded the LEED-certifiable facility's environmentally sustainable features, noting that the building "not only looks good and functions well [for F.W. Webb], but is also a model for the city" for future development projects. He said mayor Thomas Menino plans to showcase the building as an example of the type of construction Boston wants to encourage.

The 47,700 s/f facility incorporates a hybrid solar/geothermal system used for heating and cooling the building. Thirty roof-mounted thermal solar panels and a closed-loop geothermal system represent state-of-the-art technology in alternative-energy heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. One additional evacuated tube thermal solar panel provides domestic hot water and a small photovoltaic system augments the electrical supply.

The design team for this project included Design Science International, architect, and Turner Building Science & Design, engineer.

Boston District 2 City Councilor Bill Linehan thanked F.W. Webb for its role in revitalizing the neighborhood. He recalled growing up in housing located across the street from the site of the new facility and how important the local businesses were to the neighborhood. After witnessing so many of the buildings fall into disrepair, he said he was heartened to see a company like F.W. Webb "put down a stake in the neighborhood" and take a leadership role in its improvement.

Andy McBeth, project executive for JM Coull and emcee of the event, said that JM Coull and F.W. Webb had a long history together. He expressed appreciation for the partnership the two companies have enjoyed and recognized the roles of the neighborhood and the Boston Redevelopment Authority in helping this project come to fruition.

"This was a great redevelopment project for the city and the neighborhood and we are very pleased with how it turned out," said McBeth.

The two-story Boston facility includes offices, a self-service supply store and warehouse/distribution center, and the first Frank Webb's Bath Center product showroom in Boston. The F.W. Webb wholesale supply store and warehouse that opened its doors to the trade on November 21st and Frank Webb's Bath Center will open by the end of the year, offering a new resource for area homeowners, designers, architects, and contractors.

