



## **AURORA CUSTOM HOMES OFFERS EDUCATIONAL TOURS OF ITS ULTIMATE GREEN HOME**

PONTE VEDRA, Florida (Oct. 2, 2009) – Aurora Custom Homes has begun construction on an ultimate green home in Ponte Vedra Beach that is being built to receive LEED®, Green Built Homes of Florida and Energy Star certifications. As the custom builder continues to install and implement energy efficient products into the home, it is offering the public a unique educational opportunity to tour the home and learn about its sustainable design and products.

“To truly understand the benefits of an eco-friendly home, I believe homebuyers need to visually see the green building materials going into the residence to comprehend how they can lower energy bills and reduce the impact on the environment,” said Michael Lenahen, president of Aurora Custom Homes and Certified Green Professional, a designation issued by the National Association of Home Builders. “We are providing educational tours of the home, by appointment only, to allow the public a behind-the-scenes look at how to build a sustainable home that is energy efficient and limits the use of natural resources.”

Part of the green building educational process is understanding how various products in the home can help reduce energy consumption. During the tour, Aurora Custom Homes can demonstrate the benefits and advantages of energy efficient materials already installed in the home, such as Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF) for the exterior walls of the home, photovoltaic solar cells integrated into the roof tile design to generate electricity, and spray foam insulation to significantly reduce heat build-up in the attic.

Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF) are nine-inch wide polystyrene building blocks filled with concrete and reinforcing steel rods to provide superior strength and insulation value to the home while reducing the demand for forested wood products. ICFs are also energy efficient, LEED® friendly, resistant to high wind speeds and termites, and compatible with any type of construction process or building materials.

“Among the most discussed qualities of ICF homes is that they are extremely well insulated and energy efficient,” said Matt Joseph, director of marketing at ICF Wall Systems & Supplies, Inc., the company Aurora Custom Homes is working with on the product installation. “ICF homes also provide unsurpassed safety and structural integrity via solid, vertical and horizontal steel-reinforced, concrete core walls that can be

engineered to withstand even the most catastrophic events such as hurricanes, fires and tornadoes.”

Another feature of the green home is its photovoltaic solar panels that are integrated into the roof design to generate electricity from the sun. Designed to be inconspicuous among the concrete roofing tiles, these solar panels transform sunlight into clean and renewable electricity saving homeowners thousands of dollars in energy bills over the lifespan of the roof.

An additional energy saving product in the home is the spray foam insulation that is used in the attic spaces. Aurora Custom Homes is installing *SEALECTION*® 500 by Demilec USA on the underside of the roof sheathing to stop the transmission of hot air at the plane of the roof. According to its website, the product is applied as a liquid and expands within seconds to 120 times its volume to fill every surface area providing superior energy efficiency and improved air quality by eliminating hot air penetration through the roof.

Lenahen said additional green building products will be implemented in the home over the course of construction including: geo-thermal water-to-air heat pumps, dual- speed air handlers, energy recovery ventilators (ERV), heat recovery units, a closed- loop plumbing system, dual-flush toilets, Low-E windows and Energy Star appliances, a power distribution system capable of charging electric powered cars, motion sensors and timers to operate exhaust fans, a home automation control system, collection of rain water into an underground cistern for irrigation, and a concrete paver driveway.

Aurora Custom Homes is currently building the Ponte Vedra Beach residence and expects it to be complete in 2010. The concept for the green home began two years ago when owner Robert Hart contacted Aurora Custom Homes to build a sustainable, environmentally friendly home that would be energy efficient while limiting the use of natural resources. Hart is the founder and former CEO of Globeleq, an operating power company solely focused on providing clean, reliable and affordable electricity to the emerging markets of Africa, the Americas and Asia. Hart and his wife currently reside in Houston, Texas, but will relocate to Ponte Vedra Beach when the home is complete.

To schedule an educational tour of the Ponte Vedra area green home, call Michael Lenahen at (904) 246-5400.