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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. VIRGIL IRICK JOINS TCNA PRODUCT TESTING LABORATORY

The Tile Council of North America Product Performance Testing Laboratory reports hiring Dr. Virgil (Sonny) Irick for the newly created position of Senior Laboratory Manager. Dr. Irick's responsibilities include managing the laboratory and developing new services.

“We are planning for the future. Our Director of Product Standards and Laboratory Services, Mr. Noah Chitty, has been working on two fronts. There has been growth in both of these areas. While Mr. Chitty will maintain overall responsibility for laboratory services, Dr. Irick will manage the day to day operations. We need Mr. Chitty's expertise on critical industry issues, especially when it comes to revising the ANSI A137.1 standard to reflect advances in ceramic manufacturing,” said Eric Astrachan, TCNA's Executive Director.

Dr. Irick brings to TCNA more than 35 years of varied experience in technical ceramics, metals and composite materials. His research and management assignments have encompassed materials and product development, process engineering, production, laboratory management, and technical marketing. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in ceramic engineering from Clemson University and a Ph.D. in ceramic engineering from The Ohio State University. He began his technical career with 3M in oxide and non-oxide materials research and production support. Dr. Irick was subsequently employed by Lanxide Corporation for approximately 15 years. At Lanxide he was instrumental in development of ceramic and metal matrix composites for a wide field of applications and holds seven U. S. patents. He worked extensively in Europe to license Lanxide's technologies and to establish there technical and commercial partnerships.

Dr. Irick served as Technical Director of Fraunhofer U.S.A.'s Center for Manufacturing and Advanced Materials with emphasis on lightweight metal foams and structures. Most recently he was employed by Touchstone Research Laboratory, Ltd., where he developed continuous ceramic fiber reinforced light metal composites for industrial and military applications.

“We are delighted Dr. Irick has agreed to join our laboratory team. We look forward to expanding our services, building a broader market, and strengthening our relationship with Clemson University's research community,” remarked Mr. Chitty.

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The TCNA Product Performance Testing Laboratory is located in the Clemson University Research Park and is a wholly owned test facility of the Tile Council of North America operated for the advancement of the ceramic tile industry.

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