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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TCNA PRODUCT PERFORMANCE TESTING LAB EXPANDS

The Tile Council of North America, Inc. (TCNA) Product Performance Testing Laboratory is meeting increased demand for product testing by expanding its facility, purchasing equipment, and adding staff.

“Over the past six years, we have seen a steady increase in the demand for our testing services,” said Eric Astrachan, the TCNA Executive Director. “In part, this is due to the growth of new materials coming on the market, and in part, due to our expanding client base.”

“We expect the demand for product performance data will continue to grow. To meet this demand, we expanded the testing area, purchased a new Instron machine, and hired Dr. Virgil (Sonny) Irick as Senior Laboratory Manager,” remarked Noah Chitty, Director of Product Standards and Laboratory Services.

“The TCNA laboratory has grown more than 300% in the number of clients served over the past 6 years,” explained Mr. Chitty. “To better serve our clients now and in the future, we added another 1800 sq. ft. devoted solely to testing.”

The new Instron tester allows for faster results with greater accuracy and an electronic record of the test result. For example:

- It tests larger tiles without needing them cut first
- It better controls the load rate for more accurate readings
- It provides a more detailed examination of the stress/strain relationship.

“We are now evaluating additional equipment to provide further services for the tile industry,” said Mr. Astrachan. “New ISO standards and future changes in the A137.1 standard will require additional test equipment. Mr. Chitty and Dr. Irick are developing recommendations for our board to keep the TCNA lab at the forefront of our industry.”

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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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