

fibers; apply fire retardants, biocides, and anti-static fluids; and blend fibers. After the polypropylene and latex carpet backing is separated from the carpet fiber, it will be reclaimed and sold to product manufacturers who don't require highly pure resin, according to Bradford.

The technology is currently in its second trial run, Bradford told *EBN*, and the factory equipment to undertake full-scale production at Interface's facility in LaGrange, Georgia, will arrive from overseas in July 2007. The capacity of the process will be 20–30 million pounds (9–14 million kg) per year, said Bradford, although that output includes mixing in virgin nylon, so only an unspecified portion—likely a small fraction—will be recycled content. "This year we're getting our feet under us," he said, noting that the technology will become a platform for Interface. "It'll start out in one product and will grow throughout the other products."

Fiber expert Perry Lin of Perry Lin Consulting, who has observed these developments without direct involvement, told *EBN*, "this is really nothing new—it simply hasn't been attractive before." As Bradford noted, the high cost of oil makes the technology more attractive, although he said it is still somewhat more expensive than making virgin fiber, due to energy and process costs. However, recycled content has become more important to carpet buyers, especially in states such as California with recycled-content purchasing requirements: "if you have a carpet that doesn't have post-consumer recycled content in it, you almost can't sell it," said Lin.

—Tristan Roberts

For more information:

John Bradford
Vice President for Research and Development
InterfaceFLOR, LLC
Atlanta, Georgia
770-437-6800
www.interfaceflor.com

Newsbriefs

ASTM Releases Standard for Investigating Residential Indoor Air Problems—ASTM International has published a new standard for investigations of indoor air quality problems in residential buildings. Standard D-7297 contains guidelines for an initial assessment of possible indoor air quality problems and a subsequent three-phase process for finding the sources of any problems. A first-phase walk through the house is followed by more extensive, second-phase investigations of the airflows in the house, the heating and cooling systems, the potable water supply, and other possible sources of contaminants. The third phase of the protocol calls for detailed measurements of air quality to determine the types of contaminants, including volatile organic compounds, pesticides, and dust. Standard D-7297, which references several other testing standards, is available at www.astm.org/standards/.



PATH Debuts Concept Home—The Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH), a program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development, has completed its first "concept home," which opened to the public in June 2007 in Omaha, Nebraska. Designed to showcase green building technologies and products and promote the market acceptance and affordability of these technologies, the home features a foundation built with insulated concrete forms, a panelized wall, roof, and truss system, and high-performance windows. Graywater is filtered and sterilized, then used for clothes washing, irrigation, and toilet flushing. The house will remain open to the public until July 2007, when it will be turned over to its new owners. PATH plans to build its next concept home in Charleston, South Carolina. More information is available at www.pathnet.org.



Connecticut Expands Ban on Pesticides on School Grounds—Both houses of the Connecticut legislature and Governor M. Jodi Rell have approved a bill expanding the state's ban on pesticide use on school grounds and playing fields. A similar bill, passed in 2005, prohibited the use of pesticides on public and private elementary school grounds starting in 2006, but gave schools until July 2008 to eliminate the use of pesticides on



The PATH Concept Home in Omaha, Nebraska, is designed to bring market acceptance of advanced homebuilding technologies. The home will be turned over to its owners in July 2007.

Photo: Newport Partners, LLC