



Atlanta convention surpasses attendance expectations
-GlassBuild America welcomes more than 7,000 industry members-

ATLANTA (Oct.19, 2009) - The economic downturn did not dissuade nearly 400 exhibitors and 7,124 industry professionals from participating in the GlassBuild America: The Glass, Window & Door Expo. The event exceeded attendance expectations by 18% and welcomed fifty-seven first time exhibiting companies at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC).

"GlassBuild America had a strong event in Atlanta," said Denise Sheehan, Vice President, NGA Industry Events. "Our show is an economic barometer for the commercial glazing and residential window and door industry. Solid attendance signals a positive turn around for the economy."

Listed as one of the Top 200 trade shows in the U.S. by Tradeshow Week magazine, GlassBuild America is the largest gathering of glass, window and door professionals in North America. Atlanta has hosted GlassBuild America seven times in the past fifteen years and the convention will return in 2011.

"GlassBuild America and Atlanta enjoy an incredible partnership," said William Pate, president & CEO of the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau. "Every other year the destination anticipates the return of GlassBuild by improving attendee value, attractions and amenities."

The GWCC received many upgrades since they last hosted GlassBuild in 2007. The Center looks a bit different with the completion of projects that were needed due to a tornado that hit all three buildings in March 2008. Building A, the original building which opened in 1976, was a major focus. Escalators, door hardware and handrails were replaced, and the bathrooms renovated. Roofs over Buildings A and B were replaced, as well as 4,500 pieces of glass throughout the GWCC. Other items replaced include 280,000 square feet of carpet, 350,000 square feet of acoustical ceiling and all of the furniture in public spaces of the 3.9 million square foot facility. Stairs and elevators in the Red International Parking Deck were upgraded, as well as new sod on International Plaza and new interior plants inside the facility.

"Congratulations to Denise Sheehan and her staff for an outstanding job in these economic times to surpass expected attendance for GlassBuild America in Atlanta," said Mark Zimmerman, General Manager of the Georgia World Congress Center. "Denise has been a great partner for the Georgia World Congress Center and city of Atlanta for many years. She has solid backing from the community for all she has accomplished in growing GlassBuild."

2009 GlassBuild America: The Glass, Window & Door Expo

- Location: Georgia World Congress Center
- Dates: September 30 -October 2, 2009
- Estimated preshow attendance: 6,000
- Estimated preshow economic impact: \$6,280,200
- Estimated final attendance: 7,124
- Estimated final economic impact: \$8,270,000

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