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NEW HUD REPORT IDENTIFIES STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE RESIDENTIAL ROOF SYSTEMS

The Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) recently released a report, "Advanced Residential Roof Systems," identifying strategies to encourage R&D aimed at improving the quality and performance of materials and other systems used in the roofs of residential buildings.

The report, prepared by Newport Partners LLC, a Maryland-based housing technology firm, identified five key strategies for advancing roofing functionality. "The strategies laid out in the report will lead to improved performance, increased functionality and decreased environmental impact of residential roofing systems," said Mark Nowak, manager of the roadmap's development for Newport Partners.

The strategies contained in the report identify research activities for residential roof systems that include: hazard mitigation; improved energy performance; systems that are safer and more efficient to construct; expanded functions of roof systems; and reduced environmental impacts.

Among the visionary approaches described in the report are: the development of "smart roofs" that can change color or other characteristics depending on the climate or time of day in order to conserve energy; a 100-year life span roof, solar electric or wind power technologies integrated into roof systems; and innovative designs that reduce storm water runoff from roofs.

Drawing on a broad base of expertise from within the building and remodeling industry, the manufacturing industry, academia, insurance and government representatives, the research agenda was developed to influence both private and public-sector research and development efforts. "This roadmap will serve as a guide for the future of roofing research," said Michael Blanford of HUD's Office of Research and Policy Development, sponsor of the effort.

PATH is an alliance between the federal government and the U.S. housing industry that focuses on emerging housing technologies that will improve the affordability and value of new and existing homes. PATH is managed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Newport Partners LLC, established in 2002, is a small business dedicated to providing analytical and technical services that support both the housing industry and public sector. Its services range from technology roadmapping and policy analysis to market research, analysis of energy and moisture performance, and code adoption.

For a copy of the full report on *Advanced Residential Roof Systems*, please visit www.huduser.org or www.newportpartnersllc.com.

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