

<MISA Acquires Michigan-Based Home Building Materials Company>

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Marubeni-Itochu Steel America Inc. (MISA), an MISI local subsidiary in the United States, has announced its acquisition of Quality Edge Inc., a company headquartered on the outskirts of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Quality Edge has continued to chart swift growth in the U.S. housing roof and exterior wall materials building business. The purchase was finalized on June 30 in the U.S. MISA invested approximately 5 billion yen to obtain the firm.

The U.S. building material market comprises one of the core strategy sectors for MISA, based on its projections that growth in steel demand will firmly continue in the years to come. This is greatly supported by the rising U.S. population. In 2004, MISA negotiated, through its subsidiary Clark Cincinnati, Inc., the acquisition of local building materials firm Dale Industries, thereby establishing itself as the second largest industry player in the steel-framing field.

The addition of Quality Edge to the MISA home building materials business is expected to generate considerable synergy between members of the MISA Group. One case in point is Clark Western Building Systems, Inc., a group member scheduled to begin operations next January through the merger of Clark in the Midwest and Western Metal Lath Inc. in the West.

MISI is determined to use this move to steadily heighten MISA's presence on the U.S. building materials market, particularly the home building materials market, with the ultimate goal of expanding MISI earnings.

<Quality Edge, Inc. Corporate Profile>

- (1) Company name: Quality Edge Inc.
- (2) Established : 1989
- (3) Plant location : 2712 Walkent Drive, Walker, Michigan 49544, USA
(Suburb of Grand Rapids, Michigan)
- (4) Sales : 10 billion yen
- (5) Employees : 130
- (6) Business activities: Manufacture of roof material accessories, wall facing accessories, gutters and other home building materials.

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