

## Vast Enterprises Wins Two Tekne Awards for Green Building Material

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Vast Enterprises won two Tekne Awards for its environmentally sound composite products and its work with Fabcon Inc. Vast Enterprises' composite masonry products are made from more than 95 percent recycled tires and plastic containers. Vast Enterprises LLC, a material science research and manufacturing company in Minneapolis, Minn., won two Tekne Awards for its green building material. Minnesota High Tech Association, in partnership with Enterprise Minnesota and LifeScience Alley, honors companies and individuals in Minnesota with the award each year for innovation and leadership in technology.

Vast Enterprises won one award in the Cleantech category, which goes to a manufacturer of environmentally sound products that reduce costs, inputs, energy consumption, waste or pollution, and one in the Innovative Collaboration category for its work with Fabcon Inc. The Innovative Collaboration of the Year Award honors any type of collaboration or partnership that demonstrated leadership, dedication and excellence in delivering an innovation to Minnesota's technology economy and/or the Minnesota community in general.

"Winning Tekne Awards in not one but two categories signifies that Vast stands among the top technology companies in Minnesota," said Andy Vander Woude, chief executive officer of Vast Enterprises. "Our composite material science technology enables Vast to produce cost-effective green building products that outperform the older, conventional products they replace."

Vast Enterprises applies its patented technology to transform recycled materials into a new resource for green building: composite masonry. Vast Enterprises composite products include landscape pavers, permeable pavers for stormwater management, deck pavers and brick wall fascia. The products offer a green alternative to molded concrete and clay brick, according to Vast Enterprises.

Vast Enterprises and Fabcon Inc. launched the first precast wall panel with a composite masonry thin brick face. To reduce the environmental impact associated with bricks without sacrificing the appearance of masonry, many builders now turn to thin brick, according to Vast Enterprises. The company also said that manufacturing thin brick in its composite material increases the panel product's advantage in the growing green building market.