ORLANDO, Fla. (Feb. 24, 2004)— An express route to the future of housing was the focus for a group of PATH assembled researchers at the Housing Research Agenda Workshop held Feb. 12-14 at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Funded jointly by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH), the workshop helped advance PATH’s ongoing mission to improve the affordability and value of America’s homes through technology.

“The NSF-PATH partnership has broken new ground in housing research,” said Dana Bres of the Office of Policy Development and Research of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. “Prominent universities across the nation are examining diverse housing issues ranging from process improvements and product innovations to systems integration and beyond.”

Particularly exciting to PATH and gaining worldwide attention is the extraordinary “instant house,” also referred to as the “cake-mix” house. Dr. Behrokh Khoshnevis of the University of Southern California presented the home building technique that will make it possible to build a house from foundation to roof in less than 24 hours. “Automated Construction by Contour Crafting” consists of robots that deliver concrete through a jet.

“NSF’s partnership with PATH to stimulate housing research was, in fact, a groundbreaking direction for the National Science Foundation – its first major research initiative focused on housing,” said Dr. Perumalsamy N. Balaguru, program director of NSF’s Division of Civil & Mechanical Systems. “Before NSF became involved, housing research did not command a high priority within academic institutions and many committed university researchers and professors struggled to gain a foothold in the area.”

PATH’s partnership with NSF has raised housing research to a new level and has attracted attention and resources to this much-needed work. One of the largest hurdles for the housing industry is determining the most effective way to cut development time to market. Theodore Koebel, director of the Center for Housing Research at Virginia Tech and lead author of PATH’s "Diffusion of Innovation in the Residential Building Industry," discussed the substantial social, economic, and environmental benefits associated with the diffusion of innovation in the residential home building industry.

“Together, we have successfully awarded 33 grants to 21 principle universities since this program began in 2000 – a noteworthy accomplishment,” said Bres. “
Participants in the workshop included prominent university researchers from across the nation including: Arizona State University, Ball State University, Cornell University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Louisiana State University, Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, Northwestern University, Oklahoma State University, Penn State University, Purdue University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rutgers University, Texas A&M University, University of Central Florida, University of Delaware, University of Georgia, University of Maine, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri-Rolla, University of Southern California, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Villanova University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Washington State University. Researchers from State Farm Insurance Companies and the National Association of Home Builders Research Center also participated in the workshop.

“With each discovery and recommendation, the potential uses in further research and industry development should be considered,” said Bres. “The question that the housing industry must ask is ‘What’s next for this research?’ Let’s keep these exciting results from gathering dust on a shelf – or on an isolated hard drive.”

About PATH:
The Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) is a public-private initiative dedicated to accelerating the development and use of technologies that radically improve the quality, durability, energy efficiency, environmental performance, and affordability of America’s housing. Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), PATH offers a wealth of information and other tools for builders, developers, housing providers, and homeowners primarily through the PATH Web site, www.pathnet.org.

About NSF:
The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering, with an annual budget of nearly $5.58 billion. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to nearly 2,000 universities and institutions. Each year, NSF receives about 40,000 competitive requests for funding, and makes about 11,000 new funding awards. The NSF also awards over $200 million in professional and service contracts yearly. Visit NSF’s Web site at www.nsf.gov.

August 28, 2003

**NSF Announces Housing Research Agenda Workshop**
The National Science Foundation (NSF) Housing Research Agenda Workshop will be held February 12-14, 2004, in Orlando, Florida.
Principal Investigator:
Dr. Matt Syal, Michigan State University

Co-Principal Investigators:
Dr. Mark Hastak, Purdue University
Dr. Michael Mullens, University of Central Florida

**Focus Areas and Leaders**

*Construction Management and Production*
Leader: Dr. Michael Mullens, University of Central Florida
Co-Leader: Dr. Mark Hastak, Purdue University

*Structural Design and Materials*
Leader: Dr. Steven Cramer, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Building Enclosures, Utilities, and Energy Systems*
Leader: Dr. Eric Burnett, Penn State University

*Community and Economic Impacts of Housing Technology*
Leader: Dr. Theodore Koebel, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

*Systems Interactions and "Whole House" Approach*
Leader: Dr. Carlos E. Martín, Arizona State University
Co-Leader: Mr. Michael O’Brien, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

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