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## **Wausau's Curtainwall Highlights San Francisco's Moscone West Convention Center's Three-Story, Luminescent Lobby**

Wausau, Wis. – Contributing to Moscone West's newest expansion, Wausau Window and Wall Systems engineered and manufactured the glass and aluminum curtainwall that encapsulates the San Francisco convention center's transparent, three-story lobby.



Described as “glowing, luminescent and breathtaking” the structure was designed as a joint venture between three San Francisco-based architects – Gensler, Michael Willis, and Kwan Heni. As a freestanding structure, Moscone West had multiple objectives: to serve as a convention center, to enhance the city's diverse and impressive array of architecture, and to complement its two neighbors – Moscone North and South. And, it needed to accomplish all this using only a small, two-block, 11-acre parcel of land.

The expansion encompasses almost 800,000-square-feet of space at the northwest corner of Howard and Fourth streets, just west of the existing Moscone Center. Moscone West boasts three levels of flexible spaces for exhibition, meeting and ballroom functions over a full basement. Although only three stories tall, the 125-foot structure is the same height as many nine- or ten-story buildings.

Construction on the \$186 million dollar expansion began in 2000 and was completed in June 2003. The Convention Center received 89 pre-opening bookings and brought \$958 million to the city. Working with general contractor Hunt Construction Group, Minneapolis-based glazing contractor Enclos Corp. called on Wausau Wall and Windows Systems early in the project.

“We had come up with a system which could work with the architect's design during the pre-bid process,” says Kevin Mannen, Enclos Corp. project manager for Moscone West. “The design called for curtainwall to be hung from architecturally-exposed structural steel. We knew we needed to partner with a window manufacturer who could provide the engineering, quality and delivery we needed to stay on time and on budget. Since we had worked with Wausau before, we knew that they would be up to the task.”

To solve the challenge, while meeting the deadline, Wausau engineered, assembled and glazed a unitized curtainwall system using Viracon glass and aluminum frames up to 10-feet wide. The system showcases custom, acute-angle and radius-panel corners fabricated to be an integral part of the unitized system. Additionally, the high-performance glazing and low emissivity glass exceeds standards set by California Building Code Title 24 for energy efficiency and green buildings, one of several steps the Center has taken to achieve resource efficiency and sustainability.

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Mannen emphasizes that, due in part to the unitized system, Enclos was able to finish the project ahead of schedule. "Although coordinating the installation of the 284 tons of glass used in the building's structure was at times challenging, our early finish helped Hunt Construction Group to stay on track for a spring 2003 completion date. Wausau's engineering skills and quality products had a big part in that."



Along with its ease-of-installation, Wausau's curtainwall also helped achieve the desired architecture aesthetic for the lobby – a signature component of Moscone West's design. Although the rest of the center was created as private space to be used solely by convention attendees, the lobby was designed to be open to the public and interactive with its urban setting.

A broad canopy extends over the lobby's main entry, providing protection from the elements and encouraging the public to enter. Once inside the lobby, visitors are surrounded by numerous, inviting features including a zig-zagging elevator that reaches all three floors, four retail spaces that open to the sidewalk and a 101-foot-tall, carved redwood tree sculpture. When lit in the evening, the transparent and semi-transparent curtainwall used on the lobby's façade make the building seem to glow.

*Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For 50 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction.*

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