



## **Vicwest Inc. To Meet Growing Demand for Insulated Metal Panels With Additional U.S. Manufacturing Capabilities**

**OAKVILLE, ONTARIO, (October 11, 2011)**– Vicwest Inc. (the “Company”) (TSX: VIC, VIC.DB) today announced it will open its third insulated metal panel (“IMP”) manufacturing facility to meet growing demand for this environmentally advanced building product.

When it opens near the end of 2012, the new 100,000 square foot factory in Little Rock, Arkansas will complement the Company’s dedicated IMP facilities in Hamilton, Ontario and Vacaville, California.

The new facility will produce a complete line of insulated wall and roof panels that match Vicwest Building Products’ existing offering, utilizing a state-of-the-art continuous line manufacturing process to ensure process control and product quality. When fully operational, the facility will effectively increase the company’s IMP capacity by more than 50%.

“We believe that demand for IMP will continue to grow at a double digit pace for the foreseeable future,” said Colin Osborne, President and CEO, “and this investment ensures that we will be able to serve this growth. With the new plant in Arkansas complementing our facilities in California and Ontario, we will now have a very effective geographic footprint and the highest quality IMP assets in North America from which to service our growing customer base.”

The Company commissioned its first IMP dedicated facility in 2006, and then in late 2010, the Company acquired the majority interest in All Weather Insulated Metal Panels of Vacaville, California. Since then, the Company has completed a technology and best practice transfer between facilities to standardize its IMP product offering. Today, the Company’s IMP brands are sold across the U.S. and Canada, and IMP sales now represent approximately 25% of Vicwest Building Products’ revenue.

“This third facility will further enhance our IMP market penetration throughout all major segments of the construction industry – from commercial and industrial to cold storage,” said Emile Mabro, Vice President of Vicwest Building Products. “The Little Rock location was chosen specifically to give us best access to the southern, mid-west and grain belt states, while the people, equipment and automated processes will ensure we continue to set the standard for IMP product quality in the marketplace.”

### **About Insulated Metal Panels**

Insulated metal panels are manufactured composites comprising rigid steel facings and an insulating core. They offer superior thermal resistance, structural integrity and one-step installation compared with field-assembled building insulation systems. IMP is a dominant building material in Europe and other overseas markets, and is gaining rapid acceptance in North America by displacing more traditional building materials and processes due to their unsurpassed insulation capacity, ease of installation and

recyclable material content which makes them ideal for builders using advanced environmental and architectural techniques.

#### **About Vicwest Inc.**

Vicwest Inc. is a leading manufacturer and distributor of building construction products, and steel containment products for agricultural grain, fertilizer and liquid storage. Through its Vicwest Building Products division, the Company fabricates and markets metal roofing, siding and other metal building products under the trade names Vicwest, Mercury Metals, Valley Truss & Metal, RCA Metal and AWIP-Vicwest USA. The Company's Westeel Storage Solutions division manufactures storage solutions for agricultural grain and fertilizer, as well as liquid storage tanks and accessories. These products are manufactured and distributed under the trade names Westeel, Northern Steel Industries and NSI. Through a global alliance, Westeel distributes Buhler Industries-manufactured grain handling equipment in Canada under the Westeel brand while Buhler Industries markets and sells Westeel-manufactured products through its US distribution network. In Canada, Westeel also represents Skandia, Europe's most advanced elevator and conveyor grain handling systems. With approximately 1,100 dedicated employees and strategically located manufacturing facilities, the Company delivers superior quality products and excellent service to customers in chosen markets. Vicwest Inc. is a member of the S&P/TSX SmallCap Index. For more information, visit [www.vicwestinc.com](http://www.vicwestinc.com).

#### **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain statements in this press release constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, management's beliefs, plans, estimates, and intentions, and similar statements concerning anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts. Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "outlook", "objective", "may", "will", "expect", "intend", "estimate", "anticipate", "believe", "should", "plans" or "continue", or similar expressions suggesting future outcomes or events. Such forward-looking statements reflect management's current beliefs and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such statements. Readers are encouraged to review the most recently filed Management's Discussion and Analysis and other disclosure documents filed by the Company with Canadian securities regulatory agencies and commissions. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the Company's forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements contained herein are made as of the date of this press release and except as required by applicable law, the Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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