



## Hunt Midwest

# PRESS RELEASE

### **Vanguard Packaging Moves into Eco-Friendly Corporate Headquarters and Manufacturing Facility in SubTropolis** New building earns the company a Capstone Award for excellence in green design

KANSAS CITY, Mo – February 23, 2010 – Vanguard Packaging has completed a move to a brand new, state-of-the-art corporate headquarters and manufacturing facility at Hunt Midwest SubTropolis, the world's largest underground business complex.

The 250,000-square-foot building consolidates two former locations, which Vanguard also leased at SubTropolis, into a single location that minimizes any environmental impact by enhancing efficiency and using less materials, energy, and development space.

"Because we were spread out over several buildings, we had too much cost and waste associated with moving product between locations," said Mark Mathes, chief executive officer for Vanguard Companies.

The green design of Vanguard's new building earned the company a 2010 Capstone award, which recognizes real estate development projects that enhance the Kansas City metropolitan area.

"Vanguard sets an example for sustainable facilities not only in Kansas City, but around the country," said Ora Reynolds, president of Hunt Midwest Real Estate Development. "They are well deserving of the recognition this award brings. Hunt Midwest is proud to say that Vanguard is located in SubTropolis."

According to Mathes, the eco-friendly benefits of the underground can't be duplicated in a surface building. For example, SubTropolis' geothermal properties translate into zero energy consumption for heating and minimal for cooling. In fact, Mathes noted that Vanguard would likely spend about \$50,000 per month during the winter to heat a similar above-ground building, but thanks to Mother Nature, the heating cost is zero.

SubTropolis' 270-million-year-old limestone foundation, roof and support pillars provide a naturally sustainable framework for development, greatly reducing the need for concrete, steel and aluminum. Additionally, the new facility's underground location doesn't add to storm-water runoff.

High-efficiency T5 lighting, motion-activated light switches, and water-saving fixtures add to the energy-conserving features of the building. Vanguard now reclaims more than 95 percent of its waste stream.

"The move into our new building immediately resulted in improved productivity," Mathes said. "The facility also gave us the layout we needed to replace manual material handling and scrap collection with fully automated processes that have resulted in immediate improvements. We really feel like we've done what's right for our future and the environment's future."

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## About SubTropolis

As the largest underground business complex in the world, Hunt Midwest [SubTropolis](#) sets the standard for subsurface business developments. SubTropolis was created through the mining of a 270-million-year-old limestone deposit. In the mining process, limestone is removed by the room and pillar method, leaving 25-foot square pillars that are on 65-foot centers and 40 feet apart.

The pillars' even spacing, concrete flooring and 16-foot-high, smooth ceilings have been specially engineered and carefully designed to provide an efficient layout for light manufacturing, distribution and warehouse operations. SubTropolis is completely dry and brightly lit, with miles of wide, paved streets, and all entrances at street level. The complex has nearly 5 million square feet of leasable space.

Among the many benefits tenants enjoy are low lease rates that are 30-50 percent less than above ground facilities; low utility costs that offer 50-70 percent savings in total energy costs; and the largest foreign trade zone under one roof in the United States. SubTropolis is home to more than 50 local, regional, national and international companies, which operate underground and employ more than 1,500 people.

## About Hunt Midwest Enterprises

[Hunt Midwest Enterprises, Inc.](#) is a Kansas City, Missouri-based company comprised of two wholly-owned subsidiaries: Hunt Midwest Real Estate Development, Inc., developer of over 6,000 acres of commercial, retail, industrial and residential property, and owner/developer of SubTropolis, the world's largest underground business complex; and Hunt Midwest Mining, Inc., 50% owner of the region's largest supplier of crushed limestone, Hunt Martin Materials, L.L.C.

Hunt Midwest, a privately held company, is owned by the Lamar Hunt family. The Hunt family business is a diverse portfolio of entities involved in real estate, sports/media, energy/resources, private equity, and investments. Marquee entities include the Kansas City Chiefs, Hunt Midwest, Chicago Bulls, Pizza Hut Park, FC Dallas Soccer Club and United Center.

## About Vanguard Packaging

Vanguard Packaging is an independently owned manufacturer of point-of-purchase displays, retail packaging and corrugated boxes. In addition to the corporate headquarters facility at SubTropolis in Kansas City, the company has offices in St. Louis and Bentonville, Ark. Vanguard emphasizes the creation of high-quality products through the use of sustainable business practices, and has become recognized as the most sustainable packaging company in North America.

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