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Press Alert

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UNIVERSAL'S FABRIC STRUCTURE PROVIDES WEATHER RESILIENT WAREHOUSING IN ST. CROIX, VIRGIN ISLANDS

St. Croix, Virgin Islands is a tropical paradise to many, but with high winds expected at any time and the threat of damaging rains an ever-present possibility, paradise was the farthest thing from Howard Traeger's mind as he looked for a warehouse solution to safeguard his customer's PVF materials. His company, Traeger Brothers, an industrial distributor based in Miami, Florida, was approached by site contractor TVPI to provide a solution to store these components securely for Hovensa LLC, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

Enter Universal Fabric Structures (UFS), a Quakertown, Pennsylvania-based manufacturer of fabric structures who, for over 30 years, has been offering quality industrial structures to satisfy a variety of project requirements.

As most people were preparing for the 2005 Christmas and New Year's holidays, UFS was working closely with Traeger Brothers, to fulfill their immediate need for this warehouse facility in St. Croix.



UFS designed an Aluminum Hall (AH) structure to meet all their specifications and, a mere two weeks after receiving the order, deployed their resources and shipped all components to erect the structure at the customer site in St. Croix. UFS sent Curtis Mita, senior project manager, to St. Croix to oversee the project. With five on-site personnel waiting to assist Mita upon his arrival, the building was complete and ready for use in six short days.

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a Weldeman Company

“Our customer, TPVI, a contractor who was doing work with Hovensa, needed to erect a warehouse quickly since they already had material on the way from Europe,” said Howard Traeger, president of Traeger Brothers and Associates, Inc. “We went with a fabric structure as it was not subject to the building and zoning approvals of traditional construction, and such approvals would have delayed the erection of the warehouse way beyond our due date.”

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UFS Virgin Island Warehouse

ADD ONE

To get the job done, UFS supplied a 50' x 130' Aluminum Hall with a 12' x 12' roll-up door and a single, steel personnel door. The fabric they used was a Ferrari 702 white opaque for the side walls, and a Ferrari 702 white translucent for the roof sheets. Fabric was sealed to the existing surface for a weather-tight seal.

“We were very pleased with the flexibility of the design and the willingness on the part of UFS to think outside the box to solve our dilemma,” added Traeger.

Not many relocatable structures can hold up to the rugged weather conditions that are sometimes experienced in the Virgin Islands – the UFS structure is able to sustain hurricane type winds and the fabric is resistant to UV degradation. The use of an aluminum frame in the structure, was the first experience Hovensa has had with such a lightweight, highly relocatable structure – an option they found very attractive as compared to the many structures they have used in the past that were made of heavy steel and not able to be relocated.

The AH Model that Universal used for this project is the work horse of the Universal line of fabric structures. The AH Series offers a versatile, durable building option for temporary or semi-permanent shelter needs where speed of installation or relocation is essential. It is designed to be relocatable, airtight, attractive, expandable, flexible, and reliable. The basic product structure can be easily tailored to meet the project specifications both in terms of fabric, size and accessories.

About Universal Fabric Structures

Universal Fabric Structures, Inc. is committed to providing on a global basis high quality, cost effective, engineered fabric structure systems based on customer-driven needs. Established in 1983, the company has delivered on this commitment providing solutions for military, sport, industrial, and event applications. Projects include rapid-deploy, relocatable military structures, Sporthall facilities for tennis, soccer, swimming, multi-sport and professional football teams, All-Site industrial applications for warehousing and containment, and Pavilion structures for events and gaming.

About Traeger Brothers & Associates, Inc.

Traeger Brothers & Associates, originally known as the Cuban American Export Company, has become one of Miami's foremost trading houses. Traeger Brothers is known from Latin America and the Caribbean to Africa and Europe. In addition to supplies for petroleum refineries, water and electric utilities, and construction companies, Traeger also supplies a wide array of telecommunication and computer products. Everything they sell is competitively priced through an advanced computer database that queries thousands of vendors worldwide.

About Hovensa

HOVENSA, a joint venture between a subsidiary of Hess Corporation and a subsidiary of Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA), operates a world-class merchant refinery in St Croix, USVI. The facility is one of the most modern refineries in the United States and, with crude oil processing capacity of 495,000 barrels per day (BPD), is one of the largest in the world.

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A high resolution electronic photo accompanied this release.