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INSTANT UPRIGHT SPONSORS NIALL MELLON TOWNSHIP HOUSING PROJECT FOR THE SECOND YEAR

For the second year running, Instant UpRight, the Dublin based manufacturers of the world's leading aluminium mobile tower brand INSTANT sponsored the Niall Mellon Township Housing project in South Africa.

Pat Kennelly, Operations Director for Instant UpRight and Algirdas Pikturna, Technical Director for Ramirent, Lithuania represented Instant UpRight this year at the Building Blitz in Site C in Khayelitsha. Algirdas was the winner of the 'Instant UpRight Sponsor a Building Blitz volunteer' competition valued at €5,000 which was held at our BBT Summit last year.

Since 2002 Niall Mellon has brought thousands of volunteer construction workers to South Africa to build homes in some of the poorest parts of the country. Last November over 2,000 volunteers (an increase of 67% on the previous year) travelled to the township of Khayelitsha, Capetown to build 253 houses in just one week.

The largest township in Capetown, and the third largest in South Africa, Khayelitsha is also the most marginalized and poverty-stricken township with the majority of residents having no access to clean water, electricity or sanitation. Basic education and health care facilities are lacking. The unemployment rate officially stands at a staggering 50% but in reality the figure is sadly much higher. Khayelitsha also has one of the highest incidences of HIV/Aids infection in all of South Africa – this is a country that the United Nations Aids Foundation recognizes as having the second highest HIV/Aids rates globally (after India). Whilst some 27% of adults are HIV positive, amongst expectant mothers this figure may be as high as 40%.

Background to The Niall Mellon Trust

The Niall Mellon Township Trust's primary aim is to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged people living in the townships of South Africa by replacing shacks with low cost, high quality housing. Additional support includes community facilities and technology

infrastructure. The Trust employs 22 people in Ireland and between 1,700 and 2,000 in South Africa. Employment and training of township residents is a vital component of their work.

2014 – Target 500,000 new homes annually

A massive 2.4 million families are living in shacks in South Africa. These shacks lack basic amenities such as running water, electricity, and sanitation. The South African Government currently delivers approximately 250,000 units a year. As many as 500,000 houses will need to be built annually in order for the South African government to meet its target to provide all South Africans with adequate housing and eradicate township by 2014.

The Instant Connection

Instant UpRight sponsored Instant Span Towers and Snappy Work Platforms for the Building Blitz providing safe and speedy access solutions for plasterers, plumbers and painters. Lightweight and portable, the towers and Snappy played an integral part in the construction and finishing of 250 new homes so congratulations to Pat and Algirdas and the 2000+ volunteers who made it all happen. For Instant UpRight sponsoring the NMTT is integral to our policy of giving back to the community and this Trust meets our three CSR objectives namely – the charity is Irish in origin, International in scale and sector related to our products.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

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Images attached:

Image 1: Algirdas Pikturna Ramirent with Trust founder Niall Mellon

Image 2: Thousands of volunteers arrive for their first day at Khayelitsha site

Image 3: Instant UpRight sponsored Instant Span Towers and Snappy Work Platforms for the Building Blitz

Image 4: Another unique application for the Instant products

Image 5: A massive 2.4 million families are living in shacks in South Africa

Image 6: Pat Kennelly, Operations Director, Instant UpRight with local school kids.

Image 7: Algirdas Pikturna, Ramirent visits the local school