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## PRESS RELEASE

### Deceuninck North America (DNA) Prevails in Trade Secrets Case

After a two-week jury trial Deceuninck North America won a \$1.158 Million Verdict, plus attorneys' fees, in a trade secrets case against a former employee and the company he went to work for, Sensibuilt Building Solutions.

**Monroe, OH, March 25, 2010:** Deceuninck North America (DNA) sued the former vice president of its decking business and the deck manufacturing company he went to work for, Sensibuilt Building Solutions, for numerous claims including the misappropriation of trade secrets. When DNA first learned that the former employee had gone to Sensibuilt, a forensics review of his work computer ultimately led to the discovery that he had downloaded more than 2,000 of DNA's most confidential documents onto a flash drive in the weeks just prior to departing the Company. During this process the employee also stripped many of those documents of data that would track their use and subsequently "wiped" clean his home computer's memory, further impairing discovery.

Through computer forensics, DNA identified the employee's use of key documents pertaining to the Company's deck trim product which occurred at the same time the employee was developing a similar deck trim product for its competitor, Sensibuilt. Additionally, DNA's attorney, Thompson-Hine of Cincinnati, obtained an adverse inference instruction regarding spoliation of evidence which allowed the jury to assume that the employee took the steps he did to conceal evidence. Relying

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primarily on an unjust enrichment theory, DNA prevailed on its misappropriation claims against both the employee and Sensibuilt, as well as its fiduciary duty and spoliation claims against the employee himself. DNA was awarded \$783,000 in compensatory damages and \$375,000 in punitive damages, plus attorneys' fees.

“While I greatly appreciate the jury’s verdict, the fact remains that we will never really know what damage was done our Company,” states Mark Parrish, President and CEO of Deceuninck North America. “Let there be no doubt, however, that DNA has developed trade secrets of immense commercial value which established us as the industry leader we are today, that these secrets are protected under legitimate contracts we defend tenaciously, and that the financial stability of DNA and our Belgian parent permit us the resources to do both.”

#### **About Deceuninck**

Deceuninck® North America is part of the Deceuninck® Group, an integrated global organization specializing in compounding, tool fabrication, design, development, extrusion, finishing of PVC-U window systems and composite applications for the building industry. The company is active in more than 75 countries worldwide, has 33 subsidiaries (production and/or sales) and is supported by 2,810 personnel, 660 of whom are in Belgium. In 2008, Deceuninck Group achieved consolidated sales of 629 million Euros. Deceuninck® North America encompasses fully-integrated design, compounding, tooling, extrusion and quality assurance disciplines for the production of vinyl window and door systems and composite applications for the building industry at its corporate headquarters in Monroe, Ohio.

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