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**TIMBER TECHNOLOGY BREAKTHROUGH OPENS  
DOOR TO WOOD FLOORING REVOLUTION**

The availability for the first time of timbers from sustainable “softwood” plantations as flooring materials for commercial applications, has received a significant boost following positive test results announced today by Style Limited (ASX: “SYP”).

The environmentally friendly flooring manufacturer said the results enhanced the potential for low density hardwood and pulpwood species - traditionally used for wood chips and paper - to replace tropical hardwoods and artificial surfaces in high-traffic commercial settings, the most lucrative sector of the global flooring market.

The preliminary tests by Style show that inexpensive, fast-growing and replenishable timber species can be processed to produce the world’s first commercial wood floors that exceed the strength and durability of their tropical hardwood rivals – potentially saving tropical forests and native hardwood plantations in the process.

The breakthrough has come after Melbourne-based Style reformulated and trialed its patented “strand-woven” technology already used successfully in the manufacture of hard-wearing bamboo floors, to these “softwood” inputs.

Style’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr Peter Torreele, said the first independent tests of its trial strand-woven wood flooring had demonstrated levels of strength, hardness, safety and versatility that matched or exceeded those of traditional hardwoods, as well as laminate, vinyl and other artificial surfaces.

“We are highly encouraged by these test results, which demonstrate that our existing manufacturing technology will allow us rapid entry into the commercial sector with a natural wood product with superior performance characteristics and very attractive natural visuals” Mr Torreele said.

New patents have been filed and are now pending in China, Europe and the United States for this new “green” strand-woven timber flooring, which Style expects to roll out to the international flooring market during 2009.

“We are delighted by the initial test results, which showed ratings for hardness, density, durability, flammability and moisture content that convincingly outperformed ratings for the strongest hardwoods used in high-traffic commercial applications,” Mr Torreele said.

“The global market opportunities are endless, as the raw material source is 100% sustainable and changing consumer sentiment both in Australia and overseas is increasingly favouring products which exhibit environmental responsibility.”

Style is currently in negotiations with major flooring wholesalers and distributors to finalise research and commercial schedules for the 2009 launch.

“These new products will enable Style to accelerate our drive into the lucrative commercial flooring market, which has very high technical specifications and safety requirements that very few natural materials can actually meet,” Mr Torreele said.

“With the current downturn in global residential markets and various financial incentives by western governments, the commercial building sector is emerging as an even more important market for flooring manufacturers worldwide,” he said.

“The new strand-woven wood products will be the world’s first solid wooden flooring in the commercial segment of the market that is not dependent upon traditional old-growth and native hardwoods,” Mr Torreele said.

“These hardwoods are becoming scarcer and more expensive by the day, and we strongly believe that people who are concerned about the future of the planet will increasingly be on the lookout for more responsible alternatives,” he said.

“Together with our strand-woven bamboo flooring, Style will be in a position to offer a unique “palette” of hard, resilient and beautiful natural solid flooring to builders, architects and designers looking for the “green” factor and open the door to commercial applications where traditional hardwoods weren’t previously considered.”

The new line has been developed as one of a number of initiatives that Style will be rolling out over the coming months as part of a reinvigorated long-term global business strategy.

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