



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **YKK AP America Strengthens Team, Continues Growth and Innovation in Commercial Windows Business**

*New strategic positions created to foster innovation and to drive the advancement of high performance commercial windows and aluminum framing systems*

**AUSTELL, Ga. — May 2, 2011 — [YKK AP America](#)**, the leader in manufacturing high quality architectural products, today announced the appointment of Gary Flemming as Business Manager for Commercial Window Products and the promotion of Richard Braunstein to Director of Product Development. This series of new hires and promotions demonstrates YKK AP's continued growth and commitment to taking its established and ever-growing commercial windows and aluminum framing systems to the next level of performance and market innovation.

Bringing 30 years of experience and expertise in the commercial window business, Flemming is positioned to develop strategic roadmaps for the company's current and future product lines. Prior to joining YKK AP, Flemming served as a Regional Manager at Graham Architectural Products, where he created and managed a plan for the company's impact products. He has also held positions at TRACO, National Certified Testing Laboratories and Wausau Windows and Walls.

"We have long been focused on becoming a player in the commercial window space. By adding Gary to our team we are strengthening our presence and competitive advantage in this market," said Oliver Stepe, senior vice president of YKK AP America. "His past experience and successful track record of overseeing product development, training, sales, marketing and production of commercial window business operations will help drive YKK AP's leadership position in the window industry."

Braunstein joined YKK AP in 2003 as Product Development Supervisor and then went on to serve as Product Development Manager. A representative to the U.S. Green Building Council, he has overseen the design and development of 18 new products as well as the completion of 17 major product improvements over the past five years. In his new role as Director of Product Development, he will manage the product development departments for both the company's commercial and residential divisions. Merging the two groups will enable the company to maximize its knowledge base to its fullest potential.

"With his significant contributions and unique perspective on issues of sustainable design, Richard has played a pivotal role in our company's development over the past decade," added Stepe. "I am confident that he will continue to provide great value and leadership in his new position and strongly support the continued growth of YKK AP."

**About YKK AP America**

YKK AP America Inc. manufactures a complete line of aluminum entrances, storefronts, curtain walls, sunshades, and windows for use in commercial and institutional construction. YKK AP aluminum products are manufactured in ISO 14001 certified facilities in Dublin, Georgia – a standard for businesses that operate in a sustainable manner by reducing pollution and waste. The company has also been recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for Exceptional Leadership in Industrial Energy Efficiency. The company is also a leading producer of window products for use in new construction and replacement in homes and light commercial structures. Its residential products are manufactured in a highly automated manufacturing facility located in Macon, Georgia. YKK AP America is based in Austell, Ga. It is a subsidiary of YKK Corporation of America, whose parent company is global manufacturer YKK Corporation of Japan. For more information, visit [www.ykkap.com](http://www.ykkap.com).

**Press Contacts:**

Brianna Swales

Vantage Communications for YKK AP America

+1 352 224 5086

[bswales@pr-vantage.com](mailto:bswales@pr-vantage.com)

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