

Friday, November 19, 2010

## **Hurricane Resistant Walls Needed for Exposed Areas in Miami's Intermodal Center**

Wellbilt International's Sure-Board Wall Panel is the Solution to Allow Construction to Move Forward

### *Business Wire*

Any time a facility is built that involves the city or government, it is open to intense evaluations. In this case, Miami's Intermodal Center (MIC) ([www.micdot.com](http://www.micdot.com)), a 1.7 billion dollar project, involves many contractors, engineers and architects. Located next to the Miami International Airport, the MIC is a massive ground transportation hub developed by the Florida Department of Transportation. Every party recognizes the credibility at stake and the opportunity to have their name associated with a project that could lead to future success.

Sequeira & Gavarrete, a Heery International Company ([www.heery.com](http://www.heery.com)), the architects responsible for the MIC's architectural plan required that hurricane resistant exterior walls be used in order to acquire their Temporary Certificate of Occupancy and begin operating phase I (Intermodal Rental Car Center) to the public, while construction of additional phases continue. Concrete walls were originally specified for the fourth floor, and the weight proved to be too much. A solution to decrease the wall weight and provide hurricane resistance became paramount.

Heery Architects and Turner Construction ([www.turnerconstruction.com](http://www.turnerconstruction.com)), the construction contractor, formulated a plan that incorporated Wellbilt International's Miami-Dade approved Sure-Board Wall Panels ([www.wellbiltinternational.com](http://www.wellbiltinternational.com)).

"Our Sure-Board Wall Panel system in this application was not only warranted due to its hurricane resistance but also due to its lightweight nature," stated Alina Van Katwyk, president of Wellbilt International. "The speed and ease of installation compared to traditional concrete and masonry was an added benefit."

When the actual weight calculations were done, the Sure-Board Wall system proved to be 84% lighter than traditional construction methods. Hasan Arouri, P.E., principal, from TLC Engineering ([www.tlc-engineers.com](http://www.tlc-engineers.com)), designed the Sure-Board Wall system for this project.

It only took four weeks for Wellbilt to install its Hurricane Resistance Sure-Board Wall Panel system.

These instances prove that Wellbilt's Sure-Board Wall Panel system outperforms other traditional solutions that would normally cost more, take longer to assemble and are not always reliable in certain natural disasters.