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SEMCo International EPD® system and IERE Earthsure® System Agree to Work Towards Mutual Recognition of Programs for Environmental Product Declarations, EPDs

Stockholm and Tacoma, WA, USA:

SEMCo (Swedish Environmental Management Council) and IERE (Institute for Environmental Research and Education) announced today that they will work together for mutual recognition of their programs for environmental product declarations, EPDs. This effort will help harmonize EPDs in Europe and the United States.

EPDs are ecolabels that disclose quantified information of the life cycle environmental impacts of products, from cradle to grave. The labels are based on the science of life cycle assessment and are governed by international voluntary standards. Their use is expanding rapidly internationally, and there is a strong need to harmonize programs on a global scale.

The mutual recognition process will be accomplished through third party assessment of the two organizations' programs, to assure that there are no substantive conflicts in approach. "We are very pleased with this decision, as it will improve the strength of both programs and decrease confusion in the market," said Rita Schenck, Executive Director of IERE.

The International EPD® system has recently been verified by Intertek Certification according to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 and found to be carried out in a systematic way to fulfill the requirements in ISO 14025. "The verification is important for having the system regularly quality-assured and a check that we are committed to follow all obligations as an EPD program operator", said Sven-Olof Ryding, Managing Director of SEMCo.

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