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Tobacco Technology, Inc. announces *FAST* Alliance

Eldersburg, Maryland: Tobacco Technology, Inc., (TTI), a global tobacco flavoring house, proudly announces the formation of the *FAST* Alliance – a first of its kind industry collaboration with peers dedicated to the tobacco industry. *FAST* or “Flavor Applications Solutions for Tobacco” addresses the challenges of new product development and the ability of mid-tier players to lead the curve on innovation.

The goal of *FAST* is to develop new technologies for the application of flavors in tobacco products and/or tobacco product components and packaging. TTI’s team of experts gathered their industry colleagues to find a way to respond quickly and creatively to changing requirements and new challenges - challenges such as flavor contamination of machinery and goods that can occur during primary and make-pack processing. The formation of the *FAST* alliance helps solve problems and also creates new product development opportunities for components of tobacco products which are completely unique. Virtually any tobacco product component can be flavored. New technology currently in development by the *FAST* Alliance will allow customers to bring new products to market with the same efficiencies they enjoy with established products.

The core members of *FAST* are:

- SPI Developments - a machinery company involved in fluid control and automation systems (www.spidevelopments.com);
- Titan Adhesives - an adhesive company, and 2006 winner of the Golden Leaf Award from Tobacco Reporter for “Most promising new product introduction.” (www.titanadhesives.com);
- Southlake Corporation - the North American distributors for SPI Developments and experts in machinery in their own right (www.southlakecorp.com); and,
- TTI (www.tobaccotech.com).

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In addition to this core group, *FAST* will work with on a project basis with select companies which cannot officially join the Alliance at this time. These companies include a major producer of board and pack stock to the tobacco industry; a packaging company; a company which produces cellulose acetate tow; and a producer of industrial gums. Projects undertaken by *FAST* involve both specific charters from customers as well as proprietary developments within the alliance.

TTI's headquarters is in Eldersburg, Maryland, outside Baltimore, Maryland, USA, and the Asia Pacific office is based in Shanghai, PRC. It is a privately owned flavor house dedicated exclusively to all aspects of the global tobacco flavoring business. TTI is staffed by experienced scientists and industry leaders committed to developing custom and widely accepted signature flavor images for its clients' products. TTI is a member of the Tobacco Merchants Association (TMA), CORESTA, and the Cigar Association of America, among other industry affiliations. TTI can be found on the World Wide Web at www.tobaccotech.com.