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Alkan Shelter Awarded Patent for ISO Corner Fittings for Composite Shipping Containers

***Releasable ISO corner fittings facilitate easy maintenance
that can extend containers' service life.***

Fairbanks, Alaska – October 24, 2006 – Composite shelter company Alkan Shelter LLC has been awarded a United States patent* for its International Standards Organization (ISO) corner fitting to a composite shipping container. The releasable attachment invented by Alkan facilitates easier maintenance and repair of load-bearing ISO fittings, making the fittings more likely to remain in good operating condition for longer periods of time.

“A primary consideration in the regular repair and maintenance of these fittings is how easy it is to detach and re-attach them,” said Gerald Myers, founder and CEO of Alkan Shelter. “If the ISO corner fittings can be easily detached and re-attached to the shipping containers, maintenance and repair will take less time, effort and cost.”

ISO corner fittings bear tremendous loads: they must be able to support the entire weight of a container and its cargo in static and dynamic load situations. Worn or damaged fittings can present disastrous safety risks, so their regular maintenance and repair is critical. ISO fittings kept in good operating condition also extend the service life of the much more expensive and harder-to-replace shipping containers.

Unfortunately, the bolts, rivets and welds used to connect ISO corner fittings to conventional metal shipping containers can be difficult to remove and re-attach, making frequent maintenance less likely.

Alkan's ISO corner fitting, specifically designed for removable attachment to a composite-material shipping container, uses a post that is anchored in the container's composite frame. The ISO corner fitting is then attached to the post with a connector assembly that may be engaged and disengaged as needed. The post itself is designed to both secure the post in the container's frame and transfer directly to the container any tension or compression loads applied to the corner fitting. This load transfer ability further extends the service life of the corner fittings and the container.

“This fitting solves the problem of how to attach ISO corner fittings that are easy to maintain and repair – especially for composite containers, where bolted, riveted and welded attachments are particularly problematic,” Myers said.

Alkan’s patented ISO corner fittings are designed for use with the company’s carbon-composite Non-Expandable ISO Shelter – the first shelter system able to meet Department of Defense (DoD) requirements for 9-high stackability. The carbon and hybrid composite materials used in all of Alkan’s tactical shelters and containers have significant advantages over conventional materials, such as exceptional structural strength and stiffness with low density, high corrosion resistance, low maintenance requirements, greater fuel efficiency and improved life-cycle costs.

*U.S Patent No. 7059488B2

Designing for a Decade

Alkan has been designing, manufacturing and supplying shelters to government, military and commercial customers for over a decade — improving product effectiveness by applying architectural and engineering principles and utilizing composite materials. The company has designed and produced composite shelter solutions for a variety of applications and configurations.

Previous and current customers include: U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center, U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, Los Alamos National Laboratory, National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Past and current commercial customers include General Communications Incorporated (GCI), Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Golden Valley Electric Association and ITT Industries.

About Alkan Shelter, LLC

Alkan Shelter LLC is a privately held limited liability corporation registered in the States of Alaska and New Mexico, with headquarters in Fairbanks, Alaska. It was originally formed in 1991 as Centec Mobile Systems, LLC. Conceived and created with an architect’s sense of design, attention to detail and efficient use of space, the Alkan family of shelter products provides an invaluable reassurance to their customers: the comfort of knowing they have selected the highest performing shelter available in the marketplace today. First requested by the National Science Foundation for use at the South Pole and Antarctica, and then modified, tested and perfected for years in the rugged and harsh conditions of the vast Alaskan wilderness, Alkan shelters have endured the greatest test of all — surviving the many extremes that nature, man and geography can deliver. For more information, visit www.alkanshelter.com.

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