



media release

28 March 2002

James Hardie Board Appointment

James Hardie today announced the appointment of Mr James Loudon as a consultant to the Board.

Mr Loudon has a distinguished finance and construction industry background having held a number of senior executive positions in these sectors.

Mr Loudon served as Group Finance Director of Blue Circle Industries Plc, one of the world's largest cement producers, from 1987 to July 2001. Prior to this he was appointed the first Vice-President of Finance for Blue Circle's companies in the United States in 1983.

Mr Loudon began his career with Rio Tinto before joining the investment bank, Samuel Montagu & Co. (now part of HSBC). He also held a senior position at the major shipping company Overseas Containers Ltd. (now part of P&O), before joining Blue Circle Industries Plc in 1977.

Mr Loudon is currently Deputy Chairman of Caledonia Investments Plc and a non-executive director of Malayan Cement Berhad. He also chairs the Blue Circle Pension Fund Investment Committee and is a Governor of the University of Greenwich.

James Hardie's Chairman, Mr Alan McGregor said: "Mr Loudon brings to the Board extensive construction industry and finance expertise that will be of great benefit as we continue to capitalise on our significant growth opportunities for fibre cement around the world."

"Europe has been identified as one of our fibre cement growth opportunities and Mr Loudon's experience in this region will be particularly beneficial." Mr McGregor said.

Mr Loudon was educated at Eton College in England and graduated from Magdalene College, Cambridge in 1965. He obtained an M.B.A. from Stanford Graduate School of Business, California in 1971.

Mr Loudon's appointment follows the earlier appointment of the eminent scientist, Dr. Gregory Clark in December 2001 as a consultant to the Board.

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