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## John Barr joins James Hardie board

James Hardie announced today that John D Barr has joined the company's Board as an independent, non-executive director.

Mr Barr, a US citizen, has more than 30 years' management experience in the North American industrial sector, including 25 years at The Valvoline Company, eight as President and Chief Executive Officer, in which time the company's revenues doubled.

Between 1995 and 1999 he was President and Chief Operating Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of the Quaker State Corporation, a leading automotive aftermarket products and consumer car care company, now part of Royal Dutch Shell.

Since 1999, Mr Barr has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Automotive Performance Industries, a private US company that provides a variety of logistics services to major automotive manufacturers.

Since December 2002, Mr Barr has served as a director of United Auto Group, the second largest publicly held automotive retailer in the USA, and in August he was appointed to the Board of Directors of Clean Harbors Inc, the leading provider of hazardous waste and environmental management services throughout North America.

James Hardie's Chairman, Mr Alan McGregor, said Mr Barr will bring wide-ranging corporate and operating experience to the Board and has outstanding credentials as a builder of businesses.

"John has real world operating experience which will allow him to engage with senior management on critical strategies. He will challenge our thinking, bring fresh perspectives and a practical, no-nonsense orientation to the key issues facing the company. His career in management roles and as a director shows that he is committed to helping build business that can sustain good performance over the long-term," Mr McGregor said.

"The appointment of Mr Barr, along with the recent election of Mr Peter Cameron and Mr Donald McGauchie, has broadened the Board's professional and commercial expertise and geographic experience, all of which is vital to James Hardie's continuing international development," Mr McGregor said.

End.

Media contacts follow.

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