|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| **For Release:** | IMMEDIATE |
|  |  |
| **Contact:** | Jan Ehlen  Business Communications Manager  BMW of North America, LLC  (201) 307-3789 / [jan.ehlen@bmwna.com](mailto:jan.ehlen@bmwna.com) |

**BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC RECEIVES TWO GREEN BUILDING LEED CERTIFICATES**

**Woodcliff Lake, NJ – February 24, 2010...** BMW of North America, LLC announced today two of its Regional Distribution Centers located in suburban Chicago (Minooka, IL) and Eastern Pennsylvania (Lower Nazareth, PA) have received LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certifications from the U.S. Green Building Council.

According to LEED guidelines, both facilities were constructed in an environmental and sustainable way. Highlights include energy and water usage being reduced by more than 20 percent compared to standard building practice. Further, over 80 percent of all construction waste was recycled or otherwise diverted from landfills. Both facilities were noted for using recycled and locally sourced materials, drought tolerant landscaping, and eliminating permanent irrigation systems to reduce the use of potable water.

The facility in Lower Nazareth, PA received “LEED certified” recognition, while the facility in Minooka, IL was awarded “LEED silver certified.” Currently, the two centers serve 279 BMW and MINI dealers in the Northeast and Midwest with next-day delivery of auto and motorcycle parts, accessories and branded lifestyle products.

“We work hard to support sustainable business development in all that we do,” commented Dan Creed, Vice President of Aftersales at BMW of North America LLC. “The two LEED certificates show our environmental thinking goes far beyond vehicle development. In fact, each and every proposal today is measured against the corporate goal of maximum sustainability guaranteeing ecological and social aspects are considered alongside economic factors in the decision-making process.”

To develop and build the Regional Distribution Centers, BMW selected ProLogis, a global leader in distribution facilities with a strong track record and expertise in the area of sustainable development.

“We're committed to developing distribution facilities to the highest environmental standards,” said Jack Rizzo, Chief Sustainability Officer at ProLogis. “Because our environmental philosophies are closely aligned, it was an absolute pleasure to work with BMW and build two high-quality distribution facilities that are both strategically located and environmentally responsible.”

The BMW Group has defined sustainability as a key corporate principle as far back as 2000. Since then, sustainability has been integrated throughout the value chain and its underlying processes – creating an added value for the company, the environment and society. In fact, in 2009, the Dow Jones Sustainability Index named BMW Group the most sustainable automobile company in the world for the 5th consecutive year making BMW the world’s “greenest” automaker.

In the U.S., apart from the recent LEED certifications, the BMW Group has been commended for several other sustainable building projects. In 2006, the BMW plant in Spartanburg, SC - manufacturing site for all BMW X5 and X6 worldwide production - was cited as the “Energy Partner of the Year” by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the intelligent re-use of methane-gas from a local landfill. Today, over 60 percent of the plant’s energy needs are covered by this recycled methane. In 2008, when BMW of North America, LLC opened its new headquarters in Woodcliff Lake, NJ, 30 percent of the $100 million investment was spent on cleaning up the soil contaminated by 100 years of extensive orchard farming. Also in 2008, BMW received certification from the South Carolinian Wildlife Federation for constructing a wildlife viewing area, nature trails and garden behind its Information Technology Research Center located on the Clemson University Graduate Institute campus.

About LEED:  
Developed by the non-for-profit U.S. Green Building Council, LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing building owners and operators a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

For more information: [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed)

About ProLogis:  
ProLogis is a leading global provider of distribution facilities, with more than 475 million square feet of industrial space (44 million square meters) in markets across North America, Europe and Asia. The company leases its industrial facilities to more than 4,400 customers, including manufacturers, retailers, transportation companies, third-party logistics providers and other enterprises with large-scale distribution needs.

For additional information about the company, go to <http://www.prologis.com>.

## BMW Group In America

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and the Rolls-Royce brand of Motor Cars; DesignworksUSA, a strategic design consultancy in California; a technology office in Silicon Valley and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is part of BMW Group’s global manufacturing network and is the exclusive manufacturing plant for all X5 Sports Activity Vehicles and X6 Sports Activity Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 338 BMW passenger car centers, 335 BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 142 BMW motorcycle retailers, 90 MINI passenger car dealers, and 31 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group’s sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

Information about BMW Group products is available to consumers via the Internet at:

[www.bmwgroupna.com](http://www.bmwgroupna.com/)

[www.press.bmw-motorsport.com](http://www.press.bmw-motorsport.com/)

#      #      #

**Journalist note:** Information about the BMW Group and its products is available to journalists on-line at the BMW Group PressClub at the following address: [www.press.bmwna.com](http://www.press.bmwna.com).  Additional information, images and video may be found at [www.bmwgroupusanews.com](http://www.bmwgroupusanews.com).  Broadcast quality video footage is available via The NewsMarket at [www.thenewsmarket.com](http://www.thenewsmarket.com/).