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HEADLINE: TEXAS AND SOUTH KOREA SIGN ENGINEERING LICENSURE AGREEMENT

Austin, Texas, March 10, 2016 – An agreement between Texas and South Korea was signed in Austin today which will streamline mutual recognition of engineering qualifications and licensing arrangements to work on projects in both jurisdictions.

The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for engineering services was signed by Dr. Daniel Wong, P.E., Chairman, and Dr. Lance Kinney, P.E., Executive Director, of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, and Mr. HongTaek Yong, Director General, of the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning of Korea, and Mr. ChangWoo Kim, Executive Vice President of the Korean Professional Engineers Association (KPEA).

The agreement will open up opportunities for Texas Professional Engineers to provide engineering services in South Korea by making it much easier for suitably qualified engineers to be licensed with KPEA.

This agreement demonstrates the Texas Board's continued leadership in international licensure. The MRA is the first for engineering services under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and follows similar agreements providing for mutual recognition of engineering licensure between Texas and Canada, Mexico, and Australia and a Memorandum of Understanding with Japan.

The Chairman of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, Dr. Daniel Wong, P.E., said, "I am extremely proud of the Texas Board in this agreement with the Country of Korea. Texas is leading the U.S. in the global recognition of engineering licensure and exchange of professional services."

The Korean Ministry of Science, ICT, and Future Planning stated that "This accord is expected to raise the international stature of local professional engineers and increase overseas demand for them."

ABOUT THE TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS (TBPE):

The role of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (Board) is the protection of the public by licensing qualified engineers, enforcing the Texas Engineering Practice Act, and regulating the practice of professional engineering in Texas. Currently, more than 60,000 licensed engineers offer engineering services in 27 engineering disciplines. The Board handles over 750 enforcement cases per year, and provides a system of rules and regulations for the ethical and acceptable practice of professional engineering.

The mission of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (Board) is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people in Texas by regulating the practice of engineering through licensure of qualified individuals and compliance with the laws and rules.