

EPA Presents Award for New Environmental Technology

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Reno NV - For four consecutive years, *Hearth & Home Magazine* had issued the *Vesta Challenge* to hearth product manufacturers for the creation of a low-emission, wood-burning fireplace retrofit technology. For the first three years, the challenge had not been met. Again in 2009, *Hearth & Home* challenged the hearth industry to develop a retro-fit technology that would dramatically reduce particulate emissions in wood-burning fireplaces without creating any smoke spillage or adversely affecting indoor air quality.

On Friday, March 20th in Reno, when the Annual Vesta Awards were held at the 2009 HPBA Expo, a winner of the coveted Vesta Challenge Award was finally announced. Was the successful company a major fireplace manufacturer with an unlimited R&D budget? No! The winner was a small technology company from Albuquerque, NM, *Clear Skies Unlimited Inc.* Conclusive test data indicates that *HearthCAT Fireplace Technology* from *Clear Skies* reduces particulates in open hearth masonry fireplaces by 70% and provides emission reduction in low mass fireplaces by almost 90%. The award was presented to *Clear Skies Unlimited* by Mr. Gilbert Wood from the *US Environmental Protection Agency* US EPA.

The *HearthCAT* System was tested at *Omni Test Laboratory* in Portland OR. The *Omni* test report was submitted to a panel of judges for review as part of the *Vesta* procedure. The *HearthCAT Fireplace Technology* reduced particulate emissions in an open hearth masonry fireplace to 3.2 g/kg. This technology has application potential in millions of fireplaces nationwide. The manufacturer projects an installed cost of \$500 per unit.

For more information on the Vesta Challenge Award go to www.VestaAwards.com or contact *Hearth & Home Magazine* @ (1-800-258-3772).

For technical information on testing contact *OMNI Environmental Services* (503)-643-3788).

To email *Clear Skies Unlimited* regarding the *HearthCat Fireplace Technology*, contact David Kelly @ k30521@prodigy.net.

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