RENOVATION OF 90-YEAR-OLD FARMHOUSE AT NOVUS INTERNATIONAL, INC. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER RECEIVES LEED PLATINUM CERTIFICATION

St. Charles, Missouri, March 11, 2011 - Novus International, Inc. announced that the renovated 1920s-era caretaker’s house at its Green Acres Research Farm in Montgomery City, Missouri has received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) For Homes Platinum certification from the U. S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The house is part of a 12-acre farm that Novus purchased in 2009 for research and to showcase agricultural “best practices” in animal nutrition and production.

“There are not many farmhouses that have achieved LEED Platinum, but this is no ordinary farm,” said Tom Hampton, Manager, Product Research at Novus and Manager of Novus’s Green Acres Farm. “Green Acres Farm is a living laboratory for developing and demonstrating sustainable practices in the animal nutrition industry. Having a LEED Platinum-certified house at the farm underscores our mission of making a clear difference in sustainably meeting the growing global need for nutrition and health.”

The LEED for Homes designation is the newest of the USGBC’s certifications. LEED for Homes is a national, voluntary certification system, developed by national experts and experienced builders that promotes the design and construction of high-performance green homes and encourages the adoption of sustainable practices by the homebuilding industry. Like the other LEED ratings programs, the homes designation uses a point system based on factors such as the home’s relationship to its community, sustainable site practices, water efficiencies, energy efficiencies, material resource use and reduction of waste, improved indoor environmental quality, education and awareness in operations and maintenance, and innovative and unique features.

“As is the case with most 90-year-old homes, this house was not an energy-efficient structure,” said Hampton. “We embarked on a major renovation of the house as part of numerous other sustainability improvements we have made at the farm.”

The project involved a gut renovation of the entire house, and included the reuse of most salvaged materials. The project also used locally-sourced materials, materials with a high-recycled content and materials with low VOCs. The renovation also featured:

• Aggressive moisture control measures to prevent mold and other water-related damage while also increasing overall durability;
• Home sealing with a castor-based foam sealant and treatment with a non-toxic termite barrier;
• High-efficiency plumbing fixtures installed in place of standard fixtures to minimize water demands;
• Energy consumption reduction through the use of state-of-the-art insulation, high-efficiency windows, Energy Star-rated household appliances, a high-efficiency heating, air conditioning and ventilation system and a hot-water-on-demand system which heats water only when needed.
The team of green design and construction specialists on the project included architectural designer Ben Fehrmann, landscape architect Hunter Beckham, Brooks Critchfield, a LEED-accredited professional, Matt Ford, an engineer specializing in designing sustainable heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, and construction contractor Mark Boevingloh of Boevingloh Custom Homes and Contracting.

“Now that the house is completed, we are implementing some simple measures to sustainably maintain it,” said Hampton. “No shoes are allowed in the house, which will reduce the spread of pollutants. In addition, the house will be maintained with non-toxic, environmentally-preferred cleaners and equipment. The home's caretaker also received extensive training to help extend the life of the home and its various components.”

Green Acres Farm: A Showcase for Conservation
Green Acres Farm inspires innovation and sustainability through a commitment to environmental conservation. The flexibility provided by the facilities at Green Acres allows Novus to provide replicable examples of agricultural best practices. Novus made numerous improvements to the farm including:

- Preservation of existing trees and the use of drought resistant and indigenous grasses;
- Elimination of hardscape areas to ensure that all rain water is retained and returned to the site;
- Creation of "rain barrels" to capture and re-direct roof runoff for plant establishment; and
- A wastewater collection system, an engineered wetland septic system, and a fertilizer and mulch area.

Long-range plans call for the home and portions of the farm to be served with an on-site solar energy system featuring a 168-solar-panel array that will generate more than 54,400 kilowatt hours of energy. Other renewable energy-related plans being considered include the establishment of an on-site wind farm.

The USGBC created the LEED platform for the design, construction, operations and maintenance of green projects undertaken in both the commercial and residential sectors. Over the years, a number of standards were created that culminated in the development of a framework governing environmental and energy-efficient practices in both interior and exterior construction and rehabilitation. The voluntary ratings framework was developed in 1998 and has grown to include a variety of certifications for commercial and residential projects.

About Novus International, Inc.
Novus International, Inc. is headquartered in metropolitan St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A. and serves customers in more than 90 countries around the world. An industry leader in animal nutrition and health, Novus's products include ALIMET® and MHA® feed supplements, ACTIVATE® nutritional feed acid, ACIDOMIX® preservative premixture, ADVENT® coccidiosis control, MINTREX® chelated trace minerals, SANTOQUIN® feed preservative, MERA™ MET aquaculture feed additive, AGRADO® feed ingredient and many other specialty ingredients. The ARENAS™ brand (www.arenus.com), a division of Novus Nutrition Brands, LLC, focuses on developing performance products for the equine and companion animal markets. STRATUM™ Nutrition, also a division of Novus Nutrition Brands, focuses on human nutrition through specialty and functional ingredients for manufacturers of foods, beverages and dietary supplements (www.stratumnutrition.com). Novus is privately owned by Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc. and Nippon Soda Co., Ltd. For more information visit www.novusint.com.