



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CYCLONE Xi™ EARNs PRODUCT OF THE YEAR HONORS *Consulting-Specifying Engineer Competition Showcases Practical Innovation*

ASHLAND CITY, Tenn. (October 20, 2008) – In its October issue, Consulting-Specifying Engineer (CSE)—a monthly publication with a circulation of more than 46,000 mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineers—named A. O. Smith’s Cyclone Xi commercial water heater as a gold winner in its 2008 Product of the Year competition.

“Competition was fierce this year; the judges had a hard time narrowing the finalists down to three for each category. We take this as a sign that manufacturers are investing more in new-product R&D, which is a huge win for the building industry and the environment,” said Jim Langhenry, CSE publisher.

The innovative design of the Cyclone Xi takes performance to a higher level with up to 96 percent thermal efficiency. Engineered to deliver conventional power-vent or sealed combustion power direct-vent versatility and low NOx emissions in a space-saving design, the high efficiency Cyclone Xi features an Intelligent Control System (ICS), making it the “smartest” water heater in the industry. The ICS with LCD screen—an exclusive A. O. Smith design—is a control that provides detailed status information, allows precise temperature control, and includes built-in diagnostics.

“We’re thrilled that the Cyclone Xi has been recognized by such a prominent industry publication,” said David Chisolm, A. O. Smith water heater brand manager. “A. O. Smith is committed to delivering the highest energy-efficient products to the market, as represented by this new addition to the Cyclone product family.”

In the CSE competition, companies self-nominated their best products introduced or refined in 2007. Three finalists were selected in each of 11 categories by a panel of judges comprised of professional engineers who regularly design and specify HVAC, electrical, fire protection, and plumbing systems. Subscribers to CSE began voting in May to determine the ranking of the finalists as gold, silver, or bronze winners.

About A. O. Smith:

Headquartered in Ashland City, Tenn., A. O. Smith Water Products Company is a leading manufacturer and marketer of residential and commercial water heaters and hydronic boilers. A. O. Smith offers contractors an additional competitive advantage in that the company designs, builds, distributes and field supports the world's broadest and deepest line of residential and commercial water heaters, as well as commercial boilers. This single-source concept simplifies ordering, installation and service and is backed by more than 70 years of research and innovation. For more information, visit www.hotwater.com.