



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **A. O. Smith solar water heater earns 2009 Golden Brick real estate award**

**ASHLAND CITY, TENN. (July 20, 2009)** — A. O. Smith’s new solar water heating system for high-rise apartments has received China’s 2009 Golden Brick Award for Real Estate.

The solar water heating system, the first developed specifically for high-rise applications, received an Innovation Award in the Green Energy Saving and Environmental Protection category. The awards competition was sponsored by “The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Business Herald,” China’s leading commercial newspaper, in association with the National Association of Industry and Commerce Real Estate Chamber of Commerce.

The award program is designed to promote “the internationalization process of China’s real estate, showing the outstanding achievements of the real estate industry,” according to the newspaper.

A committee of 10 experts from the real estate industry evaluated the nominations based on a number of criteria including enterprise reputation, brand awareness, and a record of introducing innovative products to the China real estate market.

The new A. O. Smith water heaters, introduced earlier this year, make use of proprietary solar collector and temperature control technology to boost performance in winter and regulate water temperature in summer. Balcony mounting overcomes the lack of rooftop space often encountered in Chinese high-rise applications.

The new product line was developed at the company’s Global Engineering Center in Nanjing, China. A. O. Smith engineers designed a unique solar collector, electronic temperature regulator, and flow control for the units which include an electric “booster heater” for overcast days.

A. O. Smith’s Nanjing operation is one of the leading suppliers of residential and commercial water heaters to the China market. Its extensive product line includes wall-hung electric units,

gas and electric storage-type water heaters, and combination appliances for hot water and hydronic heating applications,

**About A. O. Smith Corporation**

A. O. Smith Corporation, with 2008 sales of \$2.3 billion, is a global leader applying innovative technology and energy-efficient solutions to products marketed worldwide. The company is one of the world's leading manufacturers of residential and commercial water heating equipment, offering a comprehensive product line featuring the best-known brands in North America and China. A. O. Smith is also one of the largest manufacturers of electric motors for residential and commercial applications in North America.