

NEW FRONTIER STRUCTURES, LLC



BUILDING THE FUTURE'S ECO-FRIENDLY STRUCTURES TODAY

by Christopher Cussat

Above: SIPs give you a much quieter indoor environment, which is why the Texas Motor Speedway used NFS' panels for its Broadcast Center in Ft. Worth, TX.

SOMETIMES THERE IS NO GREATER SATISFACTION than building something. Perhaps it is simply a creative spirit that drives the builder, or maybe it is the sheer elation of constructing something tangible and lasting. Whatever the reason, the desire to build became apparent to Paul Knouse, owner of New Frontier Structures, LLC (NFS), several years ago. And not only the desire to build, but Knouse envisioned building energy-efficient, eco-friendly structures. Knouse recalls, "This journey began about five years ago. I was raised working with my hands, and wanted to get out of the office environment."

After Knouse's son graduated from college and showed an interest in starting a business, Knouse decided to show him what starting a new venture was like, and NFS was born. "We began by building several types of alternative housing projects, including steel and insulated concrete forms, but our goal to build energy-efficient structures led us to structural insulated panels." The decision was then made to manufacture the panels themselves. Today, NFS' diverse customer base includes private home owners, contractors, churches, and offices. The company also constructed the television and radio building at the

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Paul Knouse, Owner

Texas Motor Speedway.

NFS' business model is fairly straightforward. Knouse explains, "We look at the total home to make it the best living space possible. This is accomplished by combining green products which are cost-effective and extremely energy-efficient." For example, the company spent three years researching the most advanced heating and air conditioning technologies available, and at the end of the evaluation process, NFS became a distributor for Energy Saving Products. Knouse adds, "Through the use of these products we can provide homes with some of the cleanest air possible."

As far as being innovative, NFS is on the cutting edge of utilizing wind and solar power. In fact, the company combines both energy sources within the same system. "This provides a more constant

source of energy, and through the use of these systems, you can actually be off the power grid," Knouse notes. As a result, the power grid can instead be used as back-up, and excess power can be sent to it, a process which can be done remotely through the internet.

As the company was founded with an eye on the environment, it is no surprise that green practices are construction priorities for NFS. "Our structures use about 70 percent less lumber than standard structures, and our oriented strand board (OSB) is made with new-growth, farm-product trees," notes Knouse. In addition, NFS' structural insulated panels are sent to the job site ready to assemble, which creates very little on-site waste. "We have had job sites that had no more than one garbage can of waste—typical construction creates tons of waste," Knouse proudly

NEW FRONTIER STRUCTURES, LLC AT A GLANCE

LOCATION: Willis, TX

AREA OF SPECIALTY:

Construction of energy-efficient, eco-friendly structures for homeowners, contractors, churches, and office buildings

DEALER LOCATIONS:

Austin, Dallas, Galveston, and Houston, TX; Oklahoma City and Shawnee, OK; Prescott, AZ; Ridgway, CO; Wellsville, UT

AMOUNT OF LUMBER USED PER HOME:

70% less than standard structures

Left: The owner of this home removed his existing roof and added a second story and new roof made with SIPs.

Right: Paul Knouse, owner.



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states. NFS is also currently testing a new magnesium shell that requires very little energy to produce because it mixes and sets at room temperature.

Knouse does not feel the company's commitment to green practices should be valued in terms of competitive advantage. “I have never really thought about it in those terms, and I do not worry about my competitors. Our mission is to provide the best quality of life to our customers at an affordable price, and we are very successful at doing that.” Instead, Knouse acknowledges the practical aspects of environmental consciousness, and how it affects his customers. “Green building is sustainable, energy-efficient, and the right thing to do. Our homes are stronger, cleaner, and quieter—this allows us to use less energy while increasing the quality of life.”

NFS is always seeking to improve and upgrade its products and operations. Knouse explains, “We are constantly looking for ways to become even more energy-efficient and eco-friendly. For example, we are developing new skins for our panels that are water, insect, and mold resistant.” Other future advancements include several off-grid and net-zero projects, as well as upgrading its owner-built kits in order to make them easier and faster to build.

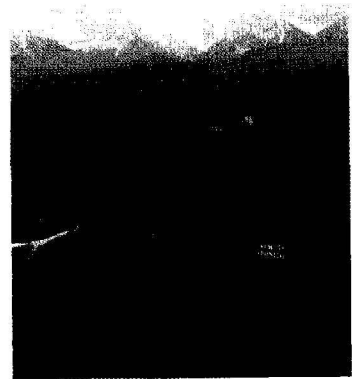
Looking toward the future, Knouse plans to remain on the cutting edge of sustainable building practices, to continue to uphold NFS' high standards, and set even higher goals for the company. “Our success has been based on being the best and maintaining it.” He is convinced that this success is inseparable

from the NFS staff. “We do this through an exhaustive evaluation of new employees and dealers. Surround yourself with great people, train them, and allow them to make mistakes. Constant training and teaching [of employees] is essential because your company is only as good as your people.” GBQ



Our mission is to promote and supply technologically advanced, highly efficient and environmentally friendly building systems.

- **Structurally InsulatePanels (SIPs): New Frontier Building Systems**
- **High Velocity Air Handlers: filtration, heating, air conditioning**
- **High Efficiency Windows and Doors**
- **Recycled Wood Products: furniture, doors, trim, etc.**
- **Solar and Wind Power packages available.**
- **Serving Colorado and the surrounding region.**



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