



**Ceramic Tile and Stone Consultants, LLC**  
P.O. Box 965  
Jamul, CA 91935-0965  
[www.CTaSC.com](http://www.CTaSC.com)  
tel: 619-669-2967; fax: 619-669-2968; info@CTaSC.com

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

## NEW STONE PRODUCT INDUSTRY REPORT RELEASED

### *Findings Show Stone Sector Continues to Grow Significantly...*

**San Diego, CA (March 30, 2006)** – Ceramic Tile and Stone Consultants, LLC (CTaSC) and Catalina Research Inc. have announced the release of their most recent collaborative effort, the *Stone Product Industry Report 2006*. This 214-page study is a compelling examination of the current U.S. stone market that tackles a wide range of subjects from quarrying to fabrication to end-user data.

Statistics have revealed that over the past decade the current \$6.8 billion U.S. stone product industry has continued to grow significantly. The factors affecting demand include a decline in average stone product prices, the result of improved quarrying and fabrication techniques as well as an increase in the availability of lower-cost imported stone. Sales of stone used in residential applications have also benefited by record new single-family home construction and remodeling markets, supporting the notion that homeowners want more durable, high quality and prestigious building components, and that they are willing to pay for them.

The *Stone Product Industry Report 2006* presents data collected from U.S. government agencies, proprietary research sources and competitor intelligence sources in an organized and comprehensive way that can be used by business managers to anticipate trends and to grow their companies. Valuable information is offered on U.S. and Canadian production by stone types, shipments, exports, trends and forecasts; U.S. imports by countries of origin and stone types; stone quarry, processor and fabricator revenues, operating costs, capital expenditures, profitability and

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*[Stone Product Industry Report 2006 – continued]*

competitive environment; industry capital expenditures and machinery costs; U.S. economic factors affecting stone demand; U.S. construction of residential and nonresidential buildings and household demographics; U.S. stone sales by end-use market and application; and results from a web survey conducted among leading U.S. importers, distributors and fabricators. There are also sections specific to products such as countertops, engineered stone, pre-cast concrete stone, stone flooring, and more.

The web survey was conducted in the fall of 2005 using online technology that ensured the anonymity of participants. Importers, distributors and retailers were asked a variety of questions including sales by types of stone, customer and application, and slab and tile sizes. Fabricators were asked about shop size, equipment types, brands and value, purchase and selling price of stone, annual sales, and types of products and stone that are fabricated. Each group was asked to indicate their business performance during 2005 and their forecast for 2006.

CTaSC founder Donato Pompo gave a sneak preview presentation of the new stone report at the 2006 BSI Building Stone Institute convention held in San Diego on March 2<sup>nd</sup> where he was a BSI guest speaker.

CTaSC is a ceramic tile and stone industry consulting firm that provides market research and business planning services nationwide.

Catalina Research is a market research firm specializing in the construction material and building equipment sectors.

For more information, contact Donato Pompo of CTaSC at 619.669.2967; [Donato@CTaSC.com](mailto:Donato@CTaSC.com) or visit [www.CTaSC.com](http://www.CTaSC.com) for additional report content and purchase information.

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