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## FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

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### German Products Made in the USA

**Norfolk-** The Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) announced today that East Coast Container Trading (ECCT), L.P., a subsidiary of German companies CHS (Bremen) and WCT (Hamburg), has found a home for its newest international production company partnering with Colonna's Shipyard in the production of mobile containerized solutions. The joint venture is intended to produce state of the art modular building units for the demanding US special container market. Initial production began at the assembly facility in Norfolk on Wednesday, July 25th.

Colonna's, a family owned and operated business founded in 1875 and currently under the direction of W. W. Colonna, Jr. , is primarily engaged in the repair, overhaul and conversion of vessels for the United States maritime market. In January of this year, the company established a container assembly division to support the joint venture.

With more than 20 years of experience in the container business, ECCT's containers can be used as temporary housing for disaster relief or permanent accommodations such as office units. Units can also be customized to hold specialized equipment such as mobile gas stations and emergency rooms. "Easily transported worldwide, these special state of the art 'Knock Down Style Elements' scheduled for assembly in Norfolk, will undoubtedly help meet the growing US demand for modular buildings," commented Harald Ritzau, Vice President of Sales.

"We are proud to have found a location in Hampton Roads to produce excellent German engineered products for the U.S. market," says ECCT President Carsten Leopold. "We are confident that our decision to come to Hampton Roads secures not only the future of manufacturing in the USA, but also places us among a thriving maritime community."

Since their initial meeting in Bremen in 2004, HREDA Project Manager Thomas Clemens continued to assist the German based company in their site search and selection. Alliance President, Jones Hooks commented that "ECCT's location and operations manifests the success of the Alliance's international marketing strategies. East Coast Container Trading and Colonna will take manufacturing to a higher level."

ECCT L.P. is represented by its own sales staff with office space at 500 Plume Street in Norfolk and welcomes inquiries or scheduled visits of their new assembly facility.

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