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Richard D. Willett, Jr. Honored with ASPI Customer Executive of the Year Award

The Association of Suppliers to the Paper Industry (ASPI) has named NewPage Corporation's Richard D. Willett, Jr. as its **2008 ASPI Distinguished Customer Executive of the Year**. Willett accepted his award at the ASPI Spring Meeting in Miami, Florida on February 28, 2008. Willett serves as President and Chief Operating Officer for NewPage.

The Distinguished Customer Executive of the Year Award is the highest honor that ASPI can bestow on an individual. It is granted to a paper industry executive who has demonstrated extraordinary effectiveness in working with a range of suppliers to enhance productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness of his or her company using a wide spectrum of supplied products and services.

Headquartered in Miamisburg, Ohio, NewPage Corporation is one of the largest coated paper manufacturers in North America. Prior to his post at NewPage, Willett was executive vice president and COO of Teleglobe International Holdings Ltd. He served as a consultant to Cerberus Capital Management LP with respect to the acquisition of the core businesses of Teleglobe Inc. and its subsidiaries by TLGB Acquisition, an affiliate of Cerberus. Preceding his time at Cerberus and Teleglobe, Willett held a series of positions during 11 years at General Electric (GE). He earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and a master's degree in finance from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

ASPI is the leading association of companies that supply products and or services to the pulp, paper and board industry. Membership participation is comprised primarily of CEO's, owners, and senior management executives. ASPI's unique value proposition is a combination of compelling program content and an influential business network.

Caption for accompanying photo: Left to right: David Withers, ASPI President; Distinguished Customer Executive of the Year recipient Rick Willett; and J-P Beaudoin, Metso.

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