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**Cardinals' New Stadium Seems a Sure Bet To Win 2006 MVB* Award
(*Most Visible Brickwork)**

***Local Firm Heitkamp Masonry Leads the Way in Installing Tons of Bricks and Blocks
--Redbird Fans Will 'See Red' Aplenty at Busch Stadium on Opening Day***

Even though the 2006 baseball season officially begins in April, St. Louis' new Busch Stadium seems likely to achieve a place for itself in the record books, thanks to its extensive use of a staple of St. Louis architecture—the red brick, which in itself is an appropriate tribute to the St. Louis Cardinals' "Redbird" colors. In fact, the unprecedented masonry work that St. Louis-based Heitkamp Masonry Inc. is completing at the new Busch Stadium stands out in several ways.

According to Geoff Hart, Heitkamp's project director for the Busch Stadium effort, more than 2.5 million bricks and one million specially created concrete blocks are incorporated into the new stadium, which can likely boast the most brickwork and blocks of any professional baseball stadium in the U.S. It's certainly the most extensive masonry project ever built by Hunt Construction Group, the general contractor for the new stadium and the nation's largest sports venue builder. And the masonry work all had to be done quickly.

"We had only 18 months to lay millions of individual elements," says Hart. "A project of this magnitude and scope requires those involved to 'think outside of the box' to achieve the

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(Heitkamp Masonry/Busch Stadium—add one)

necessary results,” Hart says. To expedite procedures, Heitkamp was named a prime subcontractor and put in charge of seven other subcontractors. The team then developed and applied several new techniques, materials and processes.

In addition to the desired red brick exterior walls, the design called for concrete blocks that would be complementary to the interior elements of the new stadium. Under Heitkamp’s direction, subcontractor Kirchner Block and Brick Inc. fabricated a unique set of blocks with an attractive smooth finish and the desired reddish “autumn” color. And to help Heitkamp expedite the block installation process, Kirchner designed the blocks to be lighter in weight than usual. The blocks could thus be installed by one worker at a time, instead of the two usually required.

Extensive masonry such as Busch Stadium’s also required truckloads of pre-blended mortar and grout for installation. To streamline the dispensing process, Heitkamp used innovative new “load and go” mortar and grout silos, created by local firm Simpson Materials/Spec Mix. This method of dispensing maximized efficiency by enabling the workers to mix the mortar and grout close to separate work areas as needed. The Busch Stadium construction was the first large project in the nation to use the “load and go” silo system.

HOK Sport of Kansas City, a branch of the St. Louis-based architecture firm Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum Inc., is the project architect.

Heitkamp Masonry Inc. has performed award-winning masonry work on commercial, retail, industrial, institutional, residential and restoration projects in St. Louis and regionally. Among Heitkamp’s most recent projects are the Chesterfield Government Center, the Renaissance Hotel renovation, the Edward Jones Data Center and T.R. Hughes Ballpark in O’Fallon, Mo.

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