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**RNL-designed Research Support Facility a 2011 AIA COTE Top Ten Green Project**

*The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Committee on the Environment (COTE) selects ten projects that epitomize sustainable design*

April 20, 2011, Denver, Colo. – The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) **Research Support Facility (RSF)** at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado has been selected as an AIA COTE Top Ten Green Project. Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the COTE Top Ten Projects program celebrates projects that exemplify sustainable design solutions arrived at through an integrated approach to architecture, natural systems and technology.

Richard L. von Lührte, FAIA, LEED AP, president of RNL, greeted the announcement by saying, "this distinction further validates the **Research Support Facility's** status as a national showcase for sustainable design – the **RSF** demonstrates how high-performance buildings can be aesthetically compelling and acquired at a competitive cost. We see this project and all the AIA COTE Top Ten projects as game changers for the industry."

With the goal of creating the largest commercial net-zero energy structure in the country, the **Research Support Facility** was designed to serve as a blueprint for a net-zero energy future and influence others in the building industry to pursue low energy and net-zero energy performance. At 222,000 square-feet, the building is a model of sustainability; integrating high performance design features and practices, demonstrating green construction techniques, and working to capture the public's imagination for applying passive design, energy efficient technologies and renewable energy on large-scale commercial buildings.

To learn more about the Research Support Facility visit the AIA COTE Top Ten Green Projects website at <http://www.aiatopten.org/hpb/>.

The AIA COTE Top Ten Green Projects will be honored at the AIA 2011 National Convention and Design Exposition May 12-14 in New Orleans.

The **Research Support Facility** was delivered by the design-build team of RNL and Haselden Construction. Stantec served as the project's energy consultant and mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineer.

**RNL** is a global, full-service design firm specializing in sustainable, integrated design. Founded in 1956, **RNL** offers a continuum of design services, including architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, urban design and planning. **RNL** has offices in Phoenix, Denver, Los Angeles and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. For more information, please visit [www.rnldesign.com](http://www.rnldesign.com).

**Stantec** provides professional consulting services in planning, engineering, architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, surveying, environmental sciences, project management, and project economics for infrastructure and facilities projects. Services are offered through approximately 10,000 employees operating out of more than 150 North American and International locations. For more information, visit [www.stantec.com](http://www.stantec.com)

**Haselden Construction** was founded in Colorado in 1973 and delivers sustainable projects throughout the intermountain West. The company builds a diverse range of project types including office, education, healthcare, mountain resort, gaming, and municipal facilities. Haselden Construction is ranked in the Top 40 regionally and Top 400 nationally by McGraw Hill Construction. For more information, visit [www.haselden.com](http://www.haselden.com).

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