

## **SOUTHERN STAR CONCRETE, INC. ANNOUNCES MAJOR PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

IRVING, TEXAS – June 1, 2007 – Southern Star Concrete, Inc. (“Southern Star”) is nearing the completion of two major plant improvement and upgrade projects in the DFW Division.

A project to upgrade the Denton Plant, part of the Farris acquisition of November 2005, is in the final stages of completion. The estimated final cost of the project is approximately \$200,000. Included in the upgrade were the laying of 44,000 square feet of concrete in the yard, construction of a 75,000 gallon settling pit and two retention ponds to control storm water runoff from adjacent property and supplement well water during peak production times, the enlargement of the material storage bins and the refurbishment and improvement of the plant office building. In addition to improving the aesthetics of the property, these improvements ensure compliance with environmental permits. Part of the project also included setting the entrance gate back 60 feet from the I-35 service road for truck safety and surfacing the road into the plant to control dust and cleanliness.

The Melissa Plant, also part of the Farris acquisition, is undergoing a major renovation and construction project. Due to property development adjacent to the plant which created new zoning compliance and the need for a new satellite maintenance shop to service the northern tier of DFW plants, this extensive plant upgrade was commenced in the summer of 2006. The cost of this major project will be approximately \$1,000,000. In addition, a second batching plant is being added on the Melissa property

to better serve the growing northeast quadrant of DFW; this project includes several improvements. The major improvements underway are: grading and paving of 50,000 square feet concrete in the yard; construction of new water containment/recycling pits; installing 3 new 60 X 120 foot material storage bins; relocation of fuel storage tanks; running water and gas lines to connect with city facilities, and; the construction of an 8 X 1,000 foot screening wall between the plant and developing property to the east of the plant.

Tommy Abbott, President remarked that, “This commitment to improve and beautify these facilities shows Southern Star’s commitment to continue its leadership role in the DFW ready mix market and our conscientious desire to be a good neighbor in the communities where we have facilities”.

Southern Star ([www.southernstarconcrete.com](http://www.southernstarconcrete.com)) is a subsidiary of Cementos Argos of Colombia, South America ([www.grupoargos.com](http://www.grupoargos.com)). Argos USA, the US headquarters of Cementos Argos, is located in Miami, Florida and in addition to Southern Star Concrete operates several other business units in the Southeast United States.