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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NEW CONSTRUCTION KITS CONNECT SCIENCE AND FUN**

*May 19, 2010 (Providence, Rhode Island)* – Thames & Kosmos is pleased to introduce the 2010 **Construction Series**, a new line of seven science and building kits designed to cultivate a challenging and participatory learning experience in and out of the classroom. Developed to engage young scientists through both individual study and creative collaboration, this new collection is currently available for pre-order and is scheduled to arrive in stores this September.

The Construction Series joins the existing line of award-winning Thames & Kosmos products, which includes over 60 kits in eleven different science and technology-based categories. With emphasis on the hands-on assembly of multiple models familiar to our everyday lives, the Construction Series literally builds accessible pathways between science and its practical applications. Each kit demonstrates how different forms of energy, particularly renewable energy, can power a broad range of vehicles, tools, and machines. But first, students must build each model from the ground up, using the trademark Thames & Kosmos full-color, easy-to-read manuals as a guide through a world of scientific principles and processes.

The high-quality plastic building pieces in these sets — including gears, axles, pulley wheels, sprockets, and frames — have been specifically designed to enable children to easily assemble functional models that really work, effectively combining physical science, engineering, and mechanical skills in a comprehensive, tactile way. This same construction system has been used in Thames & Kosmos science kits since 2005, making the individual pieces compatible not only with the other Construction Series kits, but with ten existing Thames & Kosmos products including all four Physics kits, Wind Power, Hydropower, and several Little Labs kits. Students can design their own custom models using the pieces in any one kit, and greatly enhance their model-building potential by combining two or more kits.

Thames & Kosmos' first kit dedicated to wireless remotes, **Remote-Control Machines**, uses a unique six-button infrared unit, complete with easy-to-activate touch sensors that simultaneously control three different motors, moving each of them forward or in reverse. In addition to forming the ten suggested models — including a car, crane, plow, and robotic arm — the motors can be combined to make complex machines in a number of configurations limited only by the imagination! *(Contains three motors, remote control unit, battery holder, 182 building pieces, and 48-page full color manual; retails for \$69.99).*



With **Electric Generator**, students construct and power 11 electric vehicles and machines — including a racecar, “flying” car, propeller airplane, and portable camping torch — by transforming mechanical work into electricity with a hand-cranked generator. By altering crank time and frequency, students observe how their actions influence the performance of each vehicle as they strive to create the fastest model. Plus, the hand-cranked generator doubles as a hand-powered LED flashlight! *(Contains 122 building pieces and a 36-page full color manual; retails for \$39.99).*



**Elastic Power** stretches the possibilities for a simple rubber band while exploring the principles of potential and kinetic energy. After forming the 11 different models outlined in the 48-page full color manual — including a catapult, motor bike, trolley, and paddleboat — students can use the 170 building pieces to create their own unique vehicle. And don’t worry about fuel; all you need is a rubber band under the hood! *(Retails for \$39.99).*



In keeping with Thames & Kosmos’ dedication to alternative energy and sustainability, the four remaining kits explore the ways in which energy can be harvested from our natural resources. **Air + Water Power** investigates pneumatic-hydraulic engine systems with different air and water-powered systems: water-jet propelled cars and hydro-pneumo (“air pressure” and “water pressure”) powered engines. With 15 different models, this kit is sure to inspire hours of friendly competition inside or outdoors! *(Contains 48-page full color manual and 165 building pieces; retails for \$39.99).*



**Wind Power 2.0** takes a closer look at electricity-generating turbines and generators. As the wind spins the turbine, the electric generator begins to rotate, charging two standard AA batteries that can be used to power six different models and other battery-operated devices. Adjust the angle and number of wind turbine blades to light an LED, and race to see who can charge their batteries the fastest! *(Contains two styles of wind turbine blades, a gearbox with three different gear ratios, 40-page full color manual, and 133 building pieces; retails for \$39.99).*



**Solar Power** invites students to join in the exploration of one of the world's fastest growing energy technologies. The special solar panel consists of three solar cells and generates 1.5 volts of electricity (equivalent to a AA battery). The combination solar panel and battery holder allows you to switch out the solar panel for a AA battery, and is positionable in order to maximize exposure to the sun. Use the solar panel to charge up rechargeable AA batteries, power the six suggested kit models or energize your own vehicle designs! *(Contains a combination solar panel and battery holder, 24-page full color manual, and 177 building pieces; retails for \$39.99).*



For a greater challenge, try **Solar Power PLUS**, a gigantic photovoltaic science lab that navigates the fundamentals of solar energy, the conversion of light into electricity, and circuits. This kit includes two of the special solar panels from the Solar Power kit, that when connected, generate up to 3 volts of electricity to power 22 different models. Whether outside on a sunny day or inside under a high-wattage incandescent light bulb, this kit challenges and entertains with problem-solving and creating thinking. *(Contains solar panels, 48-page full color manual, and 265 building pieces; retails for \$79.99).*



As with all of our products, the Construction Series comes backed by the Thames & Kosmos brand, which over the years has become synonymous with cutting-edge science and technology kits, superior quality of product, beautifully-designed manuals and packaging, full-time access to our knowledgeable technical support and friendly customer service teams, and an unwavering commitment to improving science education for young scientists of all ages.

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High-resolution product images can be downloaded from the Thames & Kosmos website at: [http://www.thamesandkosmos.com/dealer/d\\_imagesli.html](http://www.thamesandkosmos.com/dealer/d_imagesli.html)

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#### **PURCHASE & CONTACT**

The Thames & Kosmos Construction Series line is available for preorder now and will arrive in specialty toy, hobby, gift stores, museum stores, educational and home-school suppliers, toy and gift catalogs, and online stores in September 2010. For a complete list of retailers, visit the "Where to Buy" section of our website at [www.thamesandkosmos.com](http://www.thamesandkosmos.com). All Thames & Kosmos kits comply with all U.S. standards for toy safety, including the new regulations recently imposed by the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. Parents are encouraged to enjoy the products and overall experience alongside their children. For more information, please contact our Customer Service team at [order@thamesandkosmos.com](mailto:order@thamesandkosmos.com).

**ABOUT THAMES & KOSMOS**

Thames & Kosmos, a privately held company in Providence, RI, was founded in 2001 with the mission of improving informal science education by publishing high-quality science and technology related products for children of all ages. Thames & Kosmos places emphasis on teaching concepts and skills through hands-on modeling of real-world devices and processes, and by offering comprehensive, meaningful reading materials for a rich learning experience in a broad range of topics including: alternative energy, chemistry, biology, physics, electronics, natural history, and earth science. For more information, visit [www.thamesandkosmos.com](http://www.thamesandkosmos.com).