



BRAZOS PRIVATE EQUITY PARTNERS, LLC

BRAZOS PRIVATE EQUITY PARTNERS ADDS THREE DEAL PROFESSIONALS

Dallas, Texas, October 4, 2004 – Brazos Private Equity Partners, LLC, a leading Dallas-based private investment firm, today announced that three investment professionals have joined the firm: Glenn W. Askew III as a Vice President, F. Russell Beard Jr. as an Associate, and Charles von Faber-Castell as an Analyst. The Brazos investment team now numbers 12 professionals, including Partners Randall S. Fojtasek, Jeff S. Fronterhouse, Patrick K. McGee, and Michael D. Salim.

Mr. Salim said: “All of us at Brazos are pleased to welcome Glenn Askew, Russell Beard, and Charlie Faber-Castell to our team. The added depth of our professional staff will enhance our ability to source, analyze and execute transactions, and to continue to grow our portfolio of companies.”

Glenn W. Askew III, Vice President

Mr. Askew was previously employed from 1999 to 2004 as a vice president in the investment banking division of Goldman, Sachs & Co. in New York. At Goldman Sachs, he completed numerous advisory and financing transactions in multiple industries and developed industry knowledge regarding consumer product and retail companies. Prior to joining Goldman Sachs, Mr. Askew worked from 1994 to 1997 in the energy industry in London and the United States. Mr. Askew received a BBA with high honors from the University of Texas in 1993 and an MBA from the University of Chicago in 1999.

F. Russell Beard, Jr., Associate

Mr. Beard was previously employed from 2002 to 2004 as the financial analyst to the chief financial officer of Helm Financial Corporation, a leading San Francisco-based operating lessor of locomotives and railcars. At Helm, Mr. Beard analyzed and supported corporate restructuring and refinancing initiatives, developed Helm’s financial operating model, and reviewed acquisition candidates. Prior to Helm, Mr. Beard was an analyst from 2000 to 2002 in the mergers and acquisitions group of Thomas Weisel Partners in San Francisco. Mr. Beard received a BS in engineering science and economics, with honors, from Vanderbilt University in 2000.

Charles von Faber-Castell, Analyst

Prior to joining Brazos, Mr. Faber-Castell worked in 2003 as a financial intern in the commercial credit and derivatives areas of Commerzbank and the private asset management group of Castell Bank, both located in Nuremberg, Germany. Previously, he interned in 2002 with the global athletic footwear manufacturers Puma A.G. and Adidas A.G. in Germany. Mr. Faber-Castell received his BBA in economics, with financial applications, from Southern Methodist University in 2003.

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About Brazos Private Equity Partners, LLC

Brazos Private Equity Partners, LLC specializes in leveraged acquisitions and recapitalizations of established middle-market companies with strong and proven management teams, predictable and growing cash flows, and significant growth potential. Based in Dallas, Brazos – in close alliance with incumbent and professional management teams – invests in manufacturing, consumer, healthcare, media, distribution, insurance, and service businesses. Since 2002, Brazos has completed eighteen transactions, including the following platform acquisitions:

- Comark Building Systems, Inc. (DeSoto, Tex.), one of the leading U.S. specialty manufacturers of single- and multi-floor commercial-grade buildings;
- Rennhack Marketing Services, Inc. (Grapevine, Tex.), a leading national provider of premiums and incentive marketing services;
- Lone Star Overnight, L.P. (Austin, Tex.), an intra-regional express package delivery business serving Texas and Oklahoma;
- Shelter Distribution, Inc. (Dallas, Tex.), one of the largest distributors of residential and commercial roofing products, siding, and related accessories in the Midwest;
- National Surgical Care, Inc. (Chicago, Ill.), a company formed to acquire and develop ambulatory surgery centers across the United States;
- Republic Group of Insurance Companies (Dallas, Tex.), a provider of property and casualty insurance focused primarily on the Texas market;
- Cheddar's, Inc. (Dallas, Tex.), an owner and operator of casual dining restaurants across the United States; and
- Walls Industries, Inc. (Cleburne, Tex.), a leading provider of branded workwear and sporting apparel.

For additional information about Brazos, please visit the firm's website at www.brazospartners.com.

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