



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESILIENCE CAPITAL PARTNERS NAMES NEW OPERATING ADVISOR

CLEVELAND, OHIO – July 15, 2008 - Resilience Capital Partners, a leading private equity firm, announced today the addition of Michael Merriman as Operating Advisor.

Mr. Merriman's experience includes serving as Chief Executive Officer of Lamson & Sessions Corporation ("LMS" – NYSE), a \$560 million manufacturer of thermoplastic conduit, fittings and electrical switch and outlet boxes, until its sale to Thomas and Betts ("TNB" – NYSE) in November 2007. Prior to Lamson, Mr. Merriman served as Chief Financial Officer of American Greetings Corporation ("AM" – NYSE), a \$2 billion consumer products company specializing in greeting cards, gift wrap, party goods and other social expressions. From 1995 through 2004, Mr. Merriman was the CEO of Royal Appliance Mfg Co., a manufacturer of vacuum cleaners with over \$400 million in sales, with brands including Dirt Devil. At Royal Appliance, Mr. Merriman conducted a turnaround through accelerating new product development, implementing global sourcing, and creating an aggressive marketing strategy. Then, he led the process to sell the company to its largest supplier. Earlier in his career, Mr. Merriman was a partner at Arthur Andersen. Mr. Merriman, a certified public accountant, graduated magna cum laude in 1978 from John Carroll University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

In his new position at Resilience Capital Partners, Merriman's responsibilities will include analyzing and closing new investment opportunities and add-on acquisitions. In addition, he will spearhead the strategic planning and business growth activities of select portfolio companies.

"Michael Merriman is a proven CEO and has generated top and bottom line growth by transforming internally-focused companies into market driven organizations. Operating partners are critical to our strategy of building a world-class private equity firm and we are pleased to welcome Michael to the team," said Bassem Mansour, Co-CEO of Resilience.

"Michael embodies the traits we look for in an operating advisor. He has a successful track record of building and motivating teams to create winning cultures with successful business strategies that yield positive financial results," said Steven Rosen, Co-CEO of Resilience.

"I am delighted to be joining Resilience Capital Partners, which has a proven niche in investing in special situations across a range of industries," said Mr. Merriman. There are many promising opportunities, especially in the middle market, and I look forward to working with the Resilience team to build value at their portfolio companies."

About Resilience Capital Partners

Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, Resilience Capital Partners is a leading private equity firm specializing in investing in lower middle market companies in a broad range of industries. Resilience's value oriented investment strategy is to acquire companies with solid business prospects in a wide variety of special situations including underperformers, corporate divestitures, turnarounds, and orphan public companies. Since its inception in 2001, Resilience has acquired 16 companies with total revenue in excess of \$1.5 billion. For more information, please visit www.resiliencecapital.com.

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