



BRAZOS PRIVATE EQUITY PARTNERS, LLC

**BRAZOS PRIVATE EQUITY PARTNERS ACQUIRES MAJORITY STAKE  
IN STRATEGIC EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY CORPORATION,  
A TOP U.S. DISTRIBUTOR OF FOODSERVICE EQUIPMENT**

**– Continued Growth, Acquisitions and Expanded Coverage  
Planned for Foodservice Industry Leader –**

Dallas, Texas, Feb. 17, 2005 – Brazos Private Equity Partners, LLC, a leading Dallas-based private investment firm, today announced that it has acquired a majority stake in Strategic Equipment and Supply Corporation (“Strategic”), also of Dallas, one of the nation’s leading providers of equipment, services, supplies, smallwares and fabrication to the foodservice industry, with annual sales of nearly a quarter-billion dollars. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Strategic ([www.strategicequipment.com](http://www.strategicequipment.com)) was formed in 2000 by the merging of six successful independent foodservice equipment and supply businesses, and has completed two additional acquisitions. Since it was founded, the company has sustained an impressive growth rate as well as a ranking as one of the top players in the foodservice equipment and supply industry. Strategic provides turnkey equipment, supplies, fabrication, smallwares and project management solutions for major restaurant chains, supermarkets, healthcare facilities and independent restaurants. Notable customers include Outback Steakhouse, Chick-fil-A, Ruby Tuesday, Publix, Whole Foods and Novation. The company, which operates 15 regional facilities, has been instrumental in opening over 10,000 restaurants worldwide.

Randall Fojtasek, a Brazos Partner, said: “Strategic Equipment and Supply is a major player in the \$8.4 billion foodservice equipment industry—a strong, successful company with an outstanding management team, a blue-chip customer base and, we believe, significant growth potential. We look forward to partnering with CEO Kevin Bruce and his colleagues on the Strategic team, who participated with us as investors in the transaction, to realize that potential by vigorously pursuing a buy-and-build strategy with Strategic as our growth platform.”

Kevin Bruce, who will continue to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of Strategic Equipment and Supply, said: “After another record year—our fourth year in a row of record growth—we’re very excited about our new relationship with Brazos, which will help us reach our broader potential by expanding geographic coverage, enhancing our market position, and providing additional resources for customers.”

Bruce added: “Our number-one priority is serving our customers with responsive, reliable service and support. With Brazos as our partner, we anticipate bringing better pricing to our customers through more expansive growth both internally and through acquisitions.”

(more)

### About Brazos Private Equity Partners, LLC

Brazos Private Equity Partners 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 partners with management teams to invest in manufacturing, consumer products and services, healthcare, media, distribution, and financial service businesses. Since 2002, Brazos has completed twenty transactions, including nine platform acquisitions.

Transactions completed by Brazos, in addition to the acquisition of Strategic Equipment and Supply Corporation, include Comark Building Systems, Inc. (DeSoto, Tex.), one of the leading U.S. specialty manufacturers of single- and multi-floor commercial-grade modular 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., a leading provider of branded workwear and sporting apparel (Cleburne, Tex.). For additional information about Brazos, please visit the firm's website at [www.brazospartners.com](http://www.brazospartners.com).

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