BRAZOS PRIVATE EQUITY PARTNERS, LLC

**SHELTER DISTRIBUTION, INC., A BRAZOS PRIVATE EQUITY PARTNERS PORTFOLIO COMPANY, ACQUIRES FOREST SIDING SUPPLY, A BUILDING PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTOR**

**Dallas, Texas** (January 4, 2005) — Brazos Private Equity Partners, LLC, a private investment firm based in Dallas, Texas, today announced that Shelter Distribution, Inc., a Brazos portfolio company based in McKinney, Texas, has acquired Forest Siding Supply, a building products distributor with 14 branches located in eight Midwestern and Southwestern states, including Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois and Arkansas. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Founded in 1954, Forest offers a comprehensive line of vinyl siding and accessories as well as windows, doors and other building products. Forest focuses primarily on the residential remodel and retrofit market, while also serving the growing residential new construction market.

Jeff S. Fronterhouse, a Brazos Partner, said: "The acquisition of Forest, like Shelter's three previous add-on transactions, is consistent with Shelter's buy-and-build growth strategy. Shelter is successfully pursuing a strategic plan to expand its geographic footprint, diversify its product mix, implement operational improvements, and consolidate its leadership position in served markets. Shelter will continue to pursue further acquisition opportunities and operational initiatives to realize the company's considerable potential."

Ronald R. Ross, Shelter's Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are very pleased to have had the opportunity to acquire Forest, and to add its 14 branches in eight Midwestern and Southwestern states to our growing network of building product distributors. As a result of this acquisition, Shelter's branch network now consists of 50 locations in 14 states, and our product portfolio will achieve further expansion into vinyl siding and accessories. We plan to continue to explore attractive, complementary acquisition opportunities."

**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 cash flows, and significant growth potential. Based in Dallas, Brazos – in close alliance with incumbent and affiliated management teams – invests in manufacturing, consumer products and services, healthcare, media, distribution, and financial service businesses.

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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 (sold to a financial buyer in May 2004);
- Lone Star Overnight, L.P. (Austin, Tex.), an intra-regional express package delivery business serving Texas and Oklahoma;
- Shelter Distribution, Inc. (McKinney, Tex.), one of the largest distributors of residential and commercial roofing products, siding, and related accessories in the Midwest and Southwest;
- 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.

**Contact**
Roy Winnick
Kekst and Company
212-521-4842
roy-winnick@kekst.com

Shelter Distribution, Inc.
Garold E. Swan
214-585-0530

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