

Republic Receives Equity Financing from Chase Capital

Chicago-based Republic Windows and Doors LLC announced that Chase Capital Corp., a division of JPMorgan Chase & Co., has acquired a minority interest in the company.

"We had been searching for an investor that believed in Republic's potential for growth and valued our longstanding reputation as an innovator in the building products industry," says Barry Dubin, Republic's chief operating officer. "We found that partner in Chase Capital."

According to Republic, the infusion of equity capital allowed it to restructure its trade debt while providing the additional capital it requires to:

- Continue improving manufacturing efficiencies and quality through the acquisition of additional production equipment;
- Extend its portfolio of window products to include windows designed specifically for the distribution market; and
- Pursue strategic partnerships to maximize shareholder value.

"We chose Republic as our first equity investment because it has worked very hard over the past 15 months to reduce its costs and improve its quality, timeliness and productivity, while maintaining its customer base," says Dave Schabes, co-head of Chase Capital, which began investing in mid-size businesses in January. "We are confident that the company can continue to build on this significant progress."

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DAC Doubles Capacity

DAC Products Inc. in Rural Hall, N.C., purchased the assets of 21C Retail Arts, a manufacturer of display cases. With its capacity now more than doubled, the company says it will offer an enhanced product line and increased services to include everything from point of purchase fixtures to complete showroom layout and design services.

► www.dacproducts.com

Lupus Capital Acquires Laird Security Systems

Lupus Capital Plc. in London has finalized the acquisition of the Laird Security Systems Division, which includes the U.S.-based Amesbury Group.

Amesbury, which designs, manufactures and distributes products and solutions for the fenestration industry, says it complements Lupus Capital's existing Schlegel Building Products activities in the United States and offers the potential for selling Amesbury products through Schlegel's international distribution network.

Schlegel produces urethane foam and woven pile for the door and window market and sells its products in more than 75 countries. Schlegel's U.S. operations will be managed under the Amesbury Group's Sealing Solutions Division under the overall leadership of president Rich Koopmann.

Lupus Capital seeks to use the Amesbury Group as a platform for growth and plans to work with management to drive operational improvements through the business, to pursue organic growth opportunities and new product development and to make add-on acquisitions where they will add value, according to information from Amesbury.

"The opportunity to combine Schlegel's product range and expertise with our existing operations in the [United States] is a very positive development for the business and our customers," Koopmann says. "Our primary goal is to ensure a smooth transition and nothing less than an enhancement to your current relationship with either company. Schlegel is an excellent company with values and people similar to ours. We are very excited about this alliance and look forward to offering a full range of products to the industry."

► www.lupuscapital.co.uk

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Construction Glass Industries Corp. (CGI) in Miami sold its assets to CGI Windows and Doors Inc., a corporation controlled by Cortec Group Fund IV, L.P. in New York, which was created purposely for the acquisition.

► www.cgiwindows.com