



Valley National Gases Announces Two Acquisitions, Plans to Continue Its Strategy of Growth through Selective Acquisitions

Independence, OH, October 2, 2008 -- Valley National Gases, LLC announced today that it has signed an agreement to acquire General Welding Supply and its affiliates, a distributor of industrial, medical, and specialty gases, bulk propane, and welding supplies with locations in Martins Ferry, Dover, and Ashtabula, Ohio, and Erie, Pennsylvania. Valley also announced it has completed the acquisition of L.P. Gas Company, a distributor of propane with one location in Bridgeport, West Virginia.

Michael Ziegler, Chief Executive Officer of Valley National, stated, "Valley National Gases is committed to continuing our strategy of growth through selective, high-quality acquisitions in regions that complement our operations. The acquisitions of General Welding Supply and L.P. Gas Company are a great addition to our existing business in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, and will further enhance our service capabilities throughout the region."

Joost Thesseling, Principal at CI Capital Partners LLC, said, "Valley National has made eight acquisitions since CI Capital Partners' acquisition of the Company in February 2007. Acquisitions made to date have expanded the Company's territory to include Indiana, Maine, and New Hampshire, and have strengthened existing operations in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. The Company plans to continue its strategy of selective acquisitions with the aim of growing into new territories as well as within the areas it already serves."

Valley National Gases, headquartered in Independence, OH, is the largest privately-held packager and distributor of industrial, medical, and specialty gases, welding supplies and propane. Valley National Gases operates 96 branches in 18 states, with 12 production and distribution centers in the eastern United States.

Valley National Gases, LLC was acquired in February 2007 by New York-based private equity firm CI Capital Partners LLC, formerly known as Caxton-Iseman Capital LLC. In addition to Valley, current CI Capital Partners portfolio companies include Ply Gem Industries, Inc., one of the largest North American manufacturers of residential siding, and fifth largest U.S. window manufacturer; KIK Custom Products, Inc., the largest North American contract manufacturer of branded and retailer-branded consumer products; American Residential Services, LLC, a leading provider of HVAC and plumbing services; Prodigy Health Group, Inc., a rapidly expanding health care services company; Conney Safety Products, LLC, a full-service distributor of safety products; and CoVant, a federal IT services company led by the former executives and board of directors of Anteon Corporation.

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