



Merchants

INFORMATION SOLUTIONS, INC.

January 29, 2007.

Contact: Jessie Gonzalez Wakefield
602-744-3792 | gwakefield@merchantsinfo.com

Merchants Information Solutions Continues Expansion Through Purchase of Scottsdale-Based ID Advocates

*Move Will Enhance Merchants' Product Offerings,
Allow Company to Tap Into Automotive Industry Market*

PHOENIX, ARIZONA (January 29, 2007) — Merchants Information Solutions has continued its recent growth and expansion by reaching an agreement to purchase Scottsdale-based ID Advocates, the third company Merchants has purchased in the past few months.

ID Advocates is an identity-theft prevention provider with strong ties to the automotive industry and other niche industries. The company had previously partnered with Merchants on identity theft products, but will now become part of the Merchants family.

It's one of a series of purchases Merchants has made over the past few months in order to strengthen its product offerings as a premier provider of identity theft management and recovery services, pre-employment screening and background checks and integrity/behavioral testing services.

The ID Advocates purchase will open new doors for Merchants in several industries, most importantly the automotive industry. Merchants will offer automobile dealers and lenders with the opportunity to provide customers with identity theft protection services as part of their automobile purchase and financing. Merchants will also offer the industry its full portfolio of other services.

Merchants, a Phoenix-based company with a 95-year history in the business community, recently purchased Mesa-based Personnel Profile Employment Screening, Inc. and Oregon-based American Tesco, LLC. The purchases have helped Merchants expand its presence in the marketplace in the growing field of providing companies and individuals with employment background screening and identity theft services.

"We're very pleased to be able to announce the purchase of ID Advocates and to expand our product offerings into the automotive industry and other key industries," said Russ Johnson, President/CEO of Merchants Information Solutions. "This move will allow us to expand one of our core businesses — identity theft management and recovery — and at the same time become a leading provider of our suite of services to a fast-growing marketplace."



Merchants

INFORMATION SOLUTIONS, INC.

Joseph Annoreno, CEO of Ensurety Group, Inc. and Managing Partner of the ID Advocate's strategic team, said the sale will help Merchants continue to fill a void for these services in the local and national business community.

"When a company like Merchants can bring 95 years of experience in the business community to the table, while providing services that are state-of-the-art and designed to help companies competing in today's business climate, that's a unique and formidable combination," he said.

The market for identity theft products in Arizona is a strong one, as the state leads the nation in identity theft complaints and number of victims as reported by the Federal Trade Commission. Merchants is working with companies in a variety of industries locally and at a national level to make their comprehensive identity theft program available to more and more consumers all the time.

Merchants' fully managed identity theft program can support a victim of identity theft by handling the victim's case from beginning to end, until the victim is returned to pre-identity theft event status. Their professionally trained recovery advocates will handle all the action items necessary to restore the victim's good name – no matter how long it takes.

About Merchants Information Solutions, Inc.

Phoenix-based Merchants Information Solutions, Inc. has been in business since 1912, and is a privately held company with more than 2,600 business clients. Merchants is a nationally recognized provider of several key products for individuals and businesses:

- Identity theft management and recovery solutions
- Pre-employment screening and background checks
- Resident Screening
- Integrity testing/behavioral assessments

Merchants also provides consumer and mortgage credit information and a full-service collections services. Merchants is the parent company of Personnel Profiles Screening (www.personnelprofiles.com) and American Tesco, LLC (www.americantesco.com). For more information about Merchants Information Solutions, please visit www.merchantsinfo.com.