



Press Release

Media contact:
Anna L. Barcelos
Marketing Communications
Norgren Systems
(401) 996-8589
abarcelos@norgrensystems.com

For immediate release

AEI ACQUIRES NORGREN SYSTEMS BRINGING DYNAMIC PRODUCT, SERVICE AND SUPPORT SOLUTIONS TO THE LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRY

FAIRLEA, WEST VIRGINIA - December 21, 2005 (PR Newswire) – AEI (Appalachian Electronic Instruments, Inc.), a leading manufacturer of electro-mechanical systems for various industries including mining, textiles, and medical devices has acquired the assets of Norgren Systems. Details of the transaction were not disclosed. Based in Mountain View, CA, Norgren Systems developed laboratory automation equipment primarily for Proteomics research including ultra high-speed colony pickers and colony spreaders. AEI will continue the Norgren Systems brand and products immediately adding third-party services such as contract field service, warranty service as well as contract manufacturing and redesign services. Norgren Systems will operate out of AEI's Fairlea, West Virginia headquarters.

A recent entrant into the pharmaceutical/biotech industry with Norgren Systems, AEI has a successful track record of acquiring and growing new businesses in various sectors. “AEI’s 50-year history, business acquisition experience, and complete in-house engineering, manufacturing and machining resources backed by our longstanding reputation of reliability, integrity and commitment will enable Norgren Systems to offer select high quality products and

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services to the life sciences industry.” said Larry Nickell, AEI’s president. Larry continued, “We don’t want to be the biggest company, but we will be the best company to have as a partner.”

Norgren Systems’ products are currently in use at major pharmaceutical organizations and in research labs at several universities. Additionally, the company leveraged a sizable SBIR grant to develop a new product solution for an emerging pharmaceutical company. Larry concluded, “Some companies may not have the budget, space or people to develop and service their products. Norgren Systems develops strategic partnerships with these companies, ultimately utilizing AEI’s resources to help bring their products to market.”

About Norgren Systems

Norgren Systems, a division of Appalachian Electronic Instruments, Inc. (AEI), is an innovative developer of laboratory equipment and provider of product related services for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Leveraging AEI’s extensive history, vast internal resources and commitment to personal relationships, Norgren Systems provides the Life Science market an array of personalized product services. From one system to 500, Norgren Systems is changing the dynamics for contract manufacturing, product design and review and contract product support. For more information, visit www.norgrensystems.com.

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