



THE HOME DEPOT CANADA ACQUIRES LEADING COMMERCIAL LIGHTING DISTRIBUTOR

Montreal, February 1, 2005 -- The Home Depot Canada, the country's largest home improvement retailer, confirmed it has completed the purchase of Litemor, Canada's largest national commercial lighting distributor. The acquisition expands the company's reach into the Canadian professional marketplace, particularly in the commercial and institutional sectors. Terms were not disclosed.

Litemor has become part of The Home Depot Supply Canada, a division of The Home Depot, focused on serving the diverse needs of its business-to-business customers. The Home Depot Supply Canada is part of The Home Depot's growth strategy to better fulfill professional customers' needs by offering products and services that complement the retail store environment. The Home Depot Supply offers specialized products and services to property managers, commercial contractors and facility maintenance professionals in the United States and Canada.

Founded in 1969 and headquartered in Montreal, Quebec, Litemor operates 13 branch locations and employs 250 people in both the United States and Canada.

"We are very excited about having Litemor join The Home Depot Canada team," said Annette Verschuren, president of The Home Depot Canada and EXPO Design Center. "We were attracted to Litemor because of its leadership team and the similarity of its supplier base. Acquiring Litemor creates a platform for The Home Depot Supply's future growth in Canada and establishes a solid national presence in this market."

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The company named Ron Turk as president, The Home Depot Supply Canada, to guide the integration of Litemor into The Home Depot Supply Canada platform. Turk comes to the Canadian Division from The Home Depot Supply in the United States, where he was most recently EVP of Business Development and Strategy, reporting to Jim Stoddart, president of that division. "Litemor's leadership team will continue to play an integral role in growing the business," stated Turk. "Our combined team has the knowledge and resources to maximize the growth opportunity in Canada and become the country's leading supplier to the professional customer."

Founded in 1978, The Home Depot® is the world's largest home improvement specialty retailer, with fiscal 2003 sales of \$64.8 billion. The company employs approximately 325,000 associates, including 24,000 in Canada, and has 1,853 stores, including 115 in nine Canadian provinces. Its stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: HD) and is included in the Dow Jones Industrial Average and Standard & Poor's 500 Index.

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