

BRANSCUM CONSTRUCTION ANNOUNCES ALLIANCE WITH NATIONAL FIRM

Branscum Construction, one of Kentucky's leading full-service construction companies, has announced it will partner with general contracting and construction management firm Pepper Construction to form a new Kentucky-based company, Branscum - Pepper Construction, LLC.

Branscum Construction founder and President Stephen Branscum said he is excited about the new company. "This move significantly increases Branscum's ability to expand its services in Kentucky and the Mideast and Southeast regions of the United States. The additional support, experience and expertise Pepper provides will create opportunities to pursue larger and more complex projects."

The new company, Branscum – Pepper Construction, LLC is separate and distinct from Branscum Construction Company and Pepper Construction Group.

"Branscum Construction will remain as it has always been with the same personnel, focus and mission in designing, managing and constructing landmarks for the future by building for excellence," says Branscum.

"We have been looking for the right partner for several years, one that shares our values and commitment to safety and quality," adds Branscum. "We interviewed a number of companies but none rose to Pepper's level in terms of the qualities we were looking for in a business partner."

Pepper Construction (www.pepperconstruction.com) is a general contracting and construction management firm that primarily serves the non-residential and private sector markets including healthcare, retail, institutional and educational markets. Founded in 1927, Pepper is a privately-owned company whose 2007 gross revenues totaled \$1.2 billion. Pepper Construction Group is headquartered in Chicago and serves clients from offices in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Texas. The majority of work with Branscum will be facilitated through Pepper Construction Company of Indiana.

Pepper's reputation has been proven in the market and recognized publicly. Pepper was the first Chicago contractor to receive the Better Business Bureau's Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics and Pepper Construction of Indiana received the 2008 Excellence in Ethics award from the Indiana Subcontractors Association. The Loyola University Family Business Center recently named Pepper the Family Business of the Year for its commitment to family, business and the community. The most notable indication of Pepper's reputation is their client loyalty: more than 80 percent of the company's business is from repeat customers.

Pepper Construction Group CEO Dave Pepper said, "This partnership with Branscum is a promising step for both companies. Branscum shares our commitment to quality, to building relationships with clients and communities we serve, and to our people who make any success possible. We look forward to building this partnership and to the new opportunities it will foster."

Branscum (www.branscumconstruction.com) has evolved over its 30-year history from a general contracting firm focused on a few market segments into a full-service construction company that provides general contracting, design/build and construction management services throughout Kentucky and the mid and central United States.

Branscum and its subsidiary companies, Branscum Construction South LLC, Precision Erection Company, Inc., and Branscum – Pepper Construction, LLC have offices in Russell Springs, Kentucky and Destin, Florida.

Ransdell Chapel, recently completed by Branscum on the Campbellsville University campus, has been recognized for excellence by the Associated General Contractors of Kentucky and the Kentucky Masonry Institute.

Stephen Branscum received the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation Excellence in Entrepreneurship award in 2007. Branscum is vice chairman of the University of Kentucky board of trustees.