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MOTION CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Birmingham, Ala. – Motion Industries, Inc., a leading distributor of maintenance, repair, and operation replacement parts, and a premier provider of industrial technology solutions, is pleased to announce that it has achieved the 75-year milestone of business success.

“Motion’s success is a reflection of the hard work of all our team members and suppliers, as well as the trust of our customers, since our founding in 1946,” said Randy Breaux, Motion President. “We appreciate the support of everyone who has played a role in our proud history and look forward to exponentially building on our success during the next 75 years and beyond.”



YEARS OF MOTION

Various activities in celebration of this important milestone are planned throughout the anniversary year to engage employees, vendor partners and customers. New [advertising](#) and other communications will highlight the anniversary as well.

Humble beginnings

In 1946, the year following the end of World War II, two friends – a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and a U.S. Navy veteran – purchased the industrial parts supply business Owen-Richards and opened its first location in Birmingham. Over the years, the Company expanded beyond Birmingham, first regionally and then nationally, and finally into Canada and other countries.

“Co-founders William Spencer and Caldwell Marks might be amazed – but not surprised – that 75 years later, the business would grow from that one location to over 700 branches, distributions centers and fabrication/repair centers spanning from North America to the Asia Pacific,” said Mr. Breaux. “Employees would grow in number from the first handful to more than 7,000 employees throughout these global locations; and, sales would grow from \$500,000 plus in year one to over \$5.5 billion annually.”

Service offerings have also vastly expanded over time from mainly power transmission parts sales to a wide and deep variety of product lines, services and technologies that are used every day across diverse industry markets.

This year also marks the 45th anniversary of Motion becoming a subsidiary of Genuine Parts Company (NYSE: GPC) in 1976. Motion’s sales that year were \$93 million, earned from 60 branches in 11 southern states. The number of different items (or SKUs) in 1976 was over 100,000, compared to more than 10 million today. As GPC’s industrial segment, Motion represented 34% of its parent Company’s 2020 net sales.

2021 Initiatives

In 2021, Motion is focused on key technological investments and the expansion of its services to directly benefit its customers. Investments in technology will support enhanced automation in the Company’s facilities. In addition, a world-class hydraulics facility is in construction near Motion headquarters and is scheduled to open in the fourth quarter. Expanded services in areas such as the Automation Solutions and Conveyance Solutions business units are also a priority, as is the Company’s new IIoT solution – P²MRO (Predictive Performance) – which is now offered to customers and already garnering customer savings and efficiencies.

The Evolving Motion Brand

Founded as Owen-Richards in 1946, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Marks renamed the Company “Motion Industries” in 1972. The name conveyed the Company’s purpose of keeping machinery – and industry – in motion.

Today, the Motion team takes deep pride in keeping industry’s operations and machinery running in continuous motion. Coinciding with this 75th milestone, in January 2021, the Company announced a comprehensive rebrand from “Motion Industries” to “**Motion**,” with the intent to solidify the Company’s structure and advance its position in the marketplace. The new, full logo appears on Motion’s website ([Motion.com](https://www.motion.com)), and the transition is progressing across every aspect of the Company.

Find out more of Motion's story by seeing the video and other information here:

[75 Years of Motion](#)

[Download Press Kits](#) (Motion and 75th Anniversary)

About Motion

With annual sales of over \$5.5 billion, Motion is a leading industrial distributor of bearings; mechanical power transmission products; electrical and industrial automation components; hose, belting, and gaskets; hydraulic and pneumatic components; process pumps; industrial and safety products; seals and accessories; and material handling products and solutions. To increase customers' productivity, the Company offers many valued-added services, including engineering, fabrication, repair, and Industry 4.0 solutions across these product groups. In addition, Mi Automation Solutions and Mi Conveyance Solutions were formed to offer a wide range of specialized, related products and innovative solutions for many applications.

Motion has over 500 locations, including 16 distribution centers in North America, and Mi Asia Pacific has nearly 200 locations, including eight distribution centers in Australasia. Motion serves more than 170,000 customers from the food and beverage, pulp and paper, iron and steel, chemical, mining and aggregate, petrochemical, automotive, semiconductor, wood and lumber, medical and pharmaceutical industries.

Motion is a wholly owned subsidiary of Genuine Parts Company (NYSE: GPC). Visit our website at Motion.com. Contact us toll-free at (800) 526-9328.

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