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Maine Drilling & Blasting Acquires American Explosives “Seamless Transition” Expected

GARDINER, Maine—Maine Drilling and Blasting has acquired American Explosives Corp., of Deerfield, N.H., its largest competitor in northern New England. "Maine Drilling and Blasting has committed itself to be the best in the industry for nearly 40 years," says MD&B President Bill Purington. "With this acquisition, we have clearly strengthened our position in the marketplace. "By adding American's resources, particularly the company's very capable employees, Maine Drilling and Blasting will be even better able to serve our customers." Stephen Adams, owner of American Explosives, and Pete Smith, a key leader with the company, will work with MD&B to coordinate a "smooth transfer" for both employees and customers. Adams will serve as a consultant for a limited time, aiding employee and customer relations. Smith will be retained as a permanent employee of MD&B. Though American Explosives had been growing rapidly in recent years, a highly competitive market and increasing demands by regulatory authorities created a need to consider a consolidation of resources, says Adams, who started the company in 1996. In particular, maintaining compliance with new laws governing the purchasing, storage and handling of explosives have become increasingly costly. "While larger companies like Maine Drilling and Blasting have the capital and the internal resources to stay in compliance," says Adams, "smaller companies like American are at a distinct disadvantage." Purington agrees: "In today's marketplace, success in the drilling and blasting industry depends in large measure on achieving economies of scale. This consolidation will further contribute to that success."

Sources:

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