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### **GUARD Insurance Group Announces Its Intention to Make a Major Expansion into the Florida Workers' Compensation Market**

**Wilkes-Barre, PA and Bradenton, FL, December 12, 2006** - Susan Shoval, President of GUARD Insurance Group, announced today GUARD's intention to make a major expansion into the Florida workers' compensation market through the development of a strategic relationship with Employee Leasing Solutions (ELS), a Bradenton-based Professional Employer Organization.

"After conducting a thorough review of ELS's operations, we believe their approach to client selection/evaluation, their commitment to safety engineering and loss control, and their focus on best practices, claims handling and return to work programs mirrors GUARD's approach to workers' compensation management," Shoval said. "Our similar approaches to workers' compensation make this an ideal match for us, and we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with ELS," she said.

"We cannot think of a better partner for our workers' compensation program than GUARD Insurance Group," said Bill Mullis, principal shareholder of Employee Leasing Solutions. "This represents a significant step forward in our overall business plans and will only further strengthen our workers' compensation program," Mullis said.

GUARD's intention is to establish a workers' compensation program to cover employees of ELS effective January 1, 2007, pending any necessary regulatory review or approvals.

A copy of this release can be found at [www.GUARD.com](http://www.GUARD.com) or [www.myels.com](http://www.myels.com).

GUARD Insurance Group of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, is one of the largest mono-line workers' compensation insurers in the country and is rated A- (Excellent) by A.M. Best. It has a financial size category of "VIII."

Employee Leasing Solutions is a professional employer organization located in Bradenton, Florida that provides a wide range of services, including workers' compensation insurance, through its co-employer relationship with its Florida-based clients. ELS currently services nearly 2000 clients with an employee base of over 20,000 workers.

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