



September 6, 2006
For Immediate Release

Contacts: Chris Harrison, 910-323-0290 ext. 303
csharrison@ebenconcepts.com
Jim Mozingo, 910-323-0290 ext. 319
jmozingo@ebenconcepts.com

EbenConcepts, IIG Announce Merger of Employee Benefits Divisions

FAYETTEVILLE – EbenConcepts and Independent Insurance Group Inc. (IIG) merged their employee benefits divisions August 1, 2006, after several months of negotiations. The combined entity operates under the name of EbenConcepts Company, and both continue to be based at 921 S. McPherson Church Road in Fayetteville, the home office of both companies for the past three years.

“This merger creates one of the largest employee benefit firms in North Carolina,” said Chris Harrison, president of EbenConcepts. “Our mission is to offer our customers guidance on the complexities of the insurance market. Because our mission closely matched that of Independent Insurance Group, we felt a natural symbiosis between the organizations.”

EbenConcepts offers solutions exclusive to its benefits portfolio that can help simplify the benefits administration process for employers nationwide.

“Because the health care environment and the marketplace is ever-changing, it can be challenging to stay abreast of the technology, product offerings and carriers in our area,” explained Jim Mozingo, newly appointed vice president of EbenConcepts. “Merging our benefits division with EbenConcepts affords us more opportunities in that arena. It also allows us to remain a strong player with the limited number of carriers in our market, gives us access to exclusive product options and helps us to better fulfill the needs of our clients.”

IIG continues to operate its property and casualty division separately (for auto, home and business insurance), with Mozingo remaining as president of that corporation.

Harrison and Mozingo agreed that there will be much growth opportunity and even more resources for the clients of EbenConcepts. They are dedicated to the industry, having both served as president of the North Carolina Association of Health Underwriters and its local chapter, the Sandhills association, in the past. Through the health underwriters organization, they have worked side-by-side on many legislative initiatives regarding the health insurance marketplace.

– MORE –



EbenConcepts is a team of experienced insurance brokers with 18 offices nationwide. Its portfolio includes group medical, dental, life and disability; individual medical and dental; section 125 (cafeteria plan) administration; critical illness and long-term care policies; and COBRA and HIPAA administration.

– **END** –

Photographs attached as JPEG images:

Chris Harrison, president of EbenConcepts (beard)

Jim Mozingo, vice president of EbenConcepts (no beard)