



GUARDSMARK®

Universal Protection Service to Acquire Guardsmark

Merger Produces the Largest U.S.-owned Security Company

Memphis, TN and Santa Ana, CA (12:00 NOON CENTRAL TIME July 28, 2015)—Universal Protection Service, a division of Universal Services of America and a portfolio company of [Warburg Pincus and Partners Group](#), announced today that it has acquired Guardsmark. The companies together create the largest U.S.-owned security company. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Based in Memphis, Tennessee, Guardsmark is one of the world's largest security service companies, with over 125 offices serving more than 400 cities in the United States of America, Canada, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom. Led by Ira A. Lipman, Founder, CEO and Chairman, the company has been renowned for its culture of customer service as the gold standard of sustained excellence and quality leadership in security for more than 52 years. Guardsmark has grown organically without acquisition for 38 years. Headquartered in Santa Ana, Calif., Universal Protection Service has been the fastest growing security services company in the industry, and provides an innovative mix of traditional security services with cutting edge systems and technology. Universal operates nationwide in 100-plus locations, including Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. The combined company will employ approximately 60,000 security professionals across the United States and Canada.

Steve Jones, CEO of Universal Services of America, said, "The culture of both companies revolves around professionalism and customer service. We believe that this will bring great opportunities to our customers and our employees. Ira is a legend in the private security industry and I am honored to have worked with him to put our two great companies together. I am also honored to have him join our company as Vice Chairman of the board. Together we will create the industry leader in the private security arena."

Lipman stated: "The combination of Guardsmark and Universal will establish the largest American owned security services company. Steve Jones is a remarkable leader and clients and employees will benefit from the merger. Never in history has there been a greater need for serious security and our partnership delivers this for our customers."

Bank of America Merrill Lynch acted as financial advisor to Guardsmark. Credit Suisse acted as financial advisor to Universal Protection Service. Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton LLP acted as legal counsel Universal Protection Service. Fried Frank LLP acted as legal counsel to Guardsmark.

About Guardsmark, LLC

Guardsmark is one of the U.S.'s largest security service companies, with offices serving more than 400 cities. Since its founding in 1963 by Ira A. Lipman, Guardsmark has changed the face of the security industry, earning wide acclaim for legendary commitment to excellence and strict adherence to the highest standards. Services provided include security services, risk assessments, executive protection, investigations, consulting and background screening. www.guardsmark.com

About Universal Services of America

Founded in 1965, Universal Services of America combines an innovative mix of tradition with cutting edge systems and technology to keep pace with the ever-evolving needs of today's business environments. Universal employs hands-on, highly experienced management teams and continuous training to deliver consistent, high quality security solutions. Universal has four unique divisions: Universal Protection Service; Universal Protection Security Systems; Universal Building Maintenance; and Universal Fire/Life Safety. www.universalpro.com

Media Relations Contacts

Universal Services of America
Angela Burrell, Public Relations Manager
Phone: +1 714 619 9744
Email: angela.burrell@universalpro.com

Guardsmark
Stephen Kasloff, Vice President
Phone: +1 901-522-6000
Email: KasloffStephen@guardsmark.com