Press Release:

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Hardee Equipment Joins Forces With TBEI –

The New Truck Body & Equipment Industry Leader

Eden Prairie, MN

Hardee Equipment of Lakeland Florida is pleased to announce its sale to Truck Bodies & Equipment International (TBEI) the industry-leading manufacturer of dump truck body, hoist, and related equipment. The fusion of Hardee with TBEI's portfolio of quality brands -- Crysteel, Ox Bodies, and Rugby Manufacturing -- further positions TBEI as the standard-setter in the design, manufacture, delivery, and servicing of a broad portfolio of high-precision and high-performance truck body and hoist equipment.

Hardee Equipment was founded in 1965, and is headquartered in Lakeland, FL. Its product line includes steel and aluminum dump bodies (classes 5-8), flat beds and flat bed dumps, roll off hoists, cranes and service bodies, and a range of other truck mounted equipment.

"We're thrilled to be joining forces with such a talented team of industry pros," comments Casey Hardee, Hardee's former President. "TBEI's resources and reach will ensure that our customers continue to get great service and cutting edge engineering support," he continued.

"Hardee's strategic location in the Southeast, and its excellent manufacturing capabilities, make it a great fit for TBEI," comments Dale Pilger, CEO. "With now 8 high-performing production facilities, and a broad portfolio of top-notch products, we can continue to improve our breadth, reach and speed in serving our valued customers, across North America." Pilger continued: "Our mission is to raise the performance bar across the industry, and the integration of Hardee Equipment within our operations is just another step forward towards that goal."

What can Hardee customers expect? "The same respected products, delivered with enhanced service and speed," said Pilger, "and new levels of product engineering and quality." The company's mission, he continued, is "to be the unmatched industry leader, to grow, and to help our customers grow profitably...We'll judge ourselves by our ability exceed our customers' expectations."

TBEI is now comprised of 5 major brands. Ox Bodies, headquartered in Fayette AL, is a leading manufacturer of medium and heavy-duty (Class 6 - 8) dump bodies and accessories. Crysteel Manufacturing, headquartered in Lake Crystal, MN, is a cutting edge manufacturer of Class 3 - 7 bodies, and conversion and trailer hoists, with a particular emphasis on municipal and utility applications (through it's J-Craft brand). Rugby Manufacturing, headquartered in Rugby ND, is a top-tier manufacturer of light and medium duty (Class 3 - 7) dump bodies, and conversion and trailer hoists. TBEI

established corporate headquarters in Eden Prairie, MN. The combined divisions represent annual revenues of more than \$200M.

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