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**PITMAN COMPANY ACQUIRES CHARRETTE LLC**

**Expands Market Opportunities For Both Companies  
In Fast-Growing Segments of Graphics Industry**

**TOTOWA, NJ, July 5, 2006** — Pitman Company, the leading independent North American graphic arts supplier, today announced the acquisition of Charrette LLC, the premier provider of digital and traditional imaging supplies, equipment and services to the graphics, corporate and technical design marketplaces, and the largest provider of wide-format inkjet equipment, supplies and services in the U.S. Terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

Charrette LLC becomes a division of the Pitman Company and will continue to operate under the Charrette name. John J. Ford III (“Jack”), president and CEO of Charrette LLC, continues to head the new division.

Headquartered in the Boston suburb of Woburn, Massachusetts, Charrette has 22 locations with 404 employees. Charrette continues its operations across the country as before, now serving customers nationwide as a division of the Pitman Company.

Founded in 1964, Charrette has consistently been in the forefront of the introduction of the industry’s new wave of imaging and printing technologies. The company today offers 40,000 inventoried items and full access to more than 100,000 products used in design and wide format imaging applications. The company’s expanding online catalog offers in excess of 10,000 searchable products.

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In announcing the completed acquisition transaction, Joe Demharter, president of the Pitman Company, said, “Pitman’s purchase of Charrette represents a major advance in our company’s strategy for expansion into new, fast growing industries. With a strong sales, service and distribution organization model, and an extensive product portfolio that complements ours, Charrette offers extraordinary cross-marketing potential. Charrette brings an extended industry perspective that can provide our customers with opportunities to explore channels for their business growth through an additional range of products and expertise.”

Mr. Ford noted, “As a division of the Pitman company, Charrette now has access to an additional nationwide network of resources that enables us to reach a wider spectrum of customers while providing continued high-level support and products to our existing customer base. We’re pleased to be part of a visionary company that has built its success, as we have, on a commitment to quality, service and leadership for our customers and suppliers.”

Charrette is the industry’s largest supplier to the pay-for-print market that comprises color labs, sign shops, screen printers, digital print and repro shops. It also serves customers in graphic design firms, architectural, engineering and construction firms, large corporations, professional photographers, schools and museums.

### **About Charrette LLC**

Charrette LLC ([www.charrette.com](http://www.charrette.com)), headquartered in Woburn, MA, is the country’s largest independent provider of imaging products to the graphics, corporate and technical design marketplaces. Founded in 1964, the company has 22 offices throughout the U.S. Charrette offers a diverse product line that ranges from large-format printers, CAD and graphics media to high-quality small format printers and specialty media, drafting and graphic arts supplies, design furniture and storage products. The company also provides technical services, training and support.

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**About Pitman Company**

Now with more than a century of service as the leading independent North American graphic arts industry supplier, the Pitman Company provides the full spectrum of product and system solutions, service and support for both digital and traditional prepress and pressroom operations. Pitman also offers tailored product solutions for the specific requirements of printing market segments such as newspaper publishing and packaging production. Pitman.com, the company's e-commerce operation, is the world's largest online printing and equipment supplies store. Headquartered in Totowa, New Jersey, Pitman Company has branch locations with modern distribution facilities across the United States.

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