

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Staples and Office Depot to Contest FTC's Attempt to Block Acquisition

Understanding how this affects Today's Business Solutions as a Tier 1-MBE Supplier

Houston, TX – December 08, 2015 – On Monday, December 7, the FTC announced that it intends to challenge the Office Depot and Staples merger. Both companies intend to oppose the FTC's efforts to enforce this decision and plan to demonstrate that the merger creates an unparalleled opportunity to better service customers in this intensely competitive market.

Even though Staples and Office Depot disagree with the FTC's interpretation of the competitive landscape, the companies proposed divesting more than \$500 million in commercial business in an effort to complete the transaction. The FTC rejected this solution, even though it would strengthen a national competitor, further enable a host of independent office products dealers, and help minority and woman-owned businesses compete for national commercial customers.

Staples, Inc. (Nasdaq: SPLS) and Office Depot, Inc. (Nasdaq: ODP) have issued an open letter to customers after the U.S. Federal Trade Commission announced their decision to challenge the merger of the two companies.

This Smart News Release features multimedia. View the full release here:

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20151207006145/en/>

Where does TBS fit in?

As a Tier 1 minority supplier who utilizes Office Depot as our wholesaler, this news does not affect our current day-to-day operations. Today's Business Solutions is a family-owned, independent office supply provider that partners with Office Depot/Max for distribution of office supplies. We have many relationships with industry leading manufacturers and distributors and will continue to bring you the best solutions from all partners. We look forward to continuing to service your procurement needs and expand upon our current offerings with you.

It is also important for you to know that Office Depot and Staples will continue to operate as two completely separate companies.

About Office Depot, Inc.

Office Depot, Inc. is a leading global provider of products, services, and solutions for every workplace – whether your workplace is an office, home, school or car. Office Depot, Inc. is a resource and a catalyst to help customers work better. We are a single source for everything customers need to be more productive, including the latest technology, core office supplies, print and document services, business services, facilities products, furniture, and school essentials.

Office Depot, Inc.'s common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol ODP. Additional press information can be found at: <http://news.officedepot.com>.

About Staples: Staples makes it easy to make more happen with more products and more ways to shop. Through its world-class retail, online and delivery capabilities, Staples lets customers shop however and whenever they want, whether it's in-store, online or on mobile devices. Staples offers more products than ever, such as technology, facilities and breakroom supplies, furniture, safety supplies, medical supplies, and Copy and Print services. Staples also offers free shipping for Staples Rewards Members, in most cases overnight. Headquartered outside of Boston, Staples operates throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. More information about Staples (SPLS) is available at www.staples.com.

About Today's Business Solutions: TBS is your everyday business solution for office supplies, paper, technology products, office furniture, and sustainability solutions. With a nationwide distribution network and unparalleled customer service, we provide business to business service for healthcare, education and corporate clients. Today's Business Solutions is a minority-owned and Texas Historically Underutilized Business, established in 2003.

For more information, visit www.tbs-op.com.

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