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W&O OPENS BRANCH IN HOUMA, LOUISIANA

Centrally-located facility able to deliver pipe, valves and fittings to area shipyards and oil and gas facilities in less than a day

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., January 14, 2008 – W&O, the nation’s largest supplier of marine valves, pipe, fittings, engineered products and valve automation solutions, today announces the opening of its newest facility in Houma, Louisiana.

The 12,000 square foot facility is W&O’s 14th branch in the United States, the second in Louisiana and gives W&O five facilities in the Gulf of Mexico region.

The Houma facility distributes valves, pipe and fittings for regional shipyards and the offshore oil and gas industry. Nathan Thomassie, Jr. is the operations manager.

Because of the central location, the Houma facility will enable W&O to provide same-day service to area shipyards, oil platforms and drilling rigs.

“Our customers communicated a need to have a centrally-located distribution facility to provide the best maritime supplies and solutions in a timely fashion, and with our new branch in Houma, Louisiana, we are able to meet those needs,” said Jack Guidry, W&O President and CEO. “In many cases we will be able to supply our customers in less than an hour. In time-critical businesses, such as the oil and gas industry, every minute counts. We understand that and look forward to meeting and exceeding our customers’ needs.”

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ABOUT W&O

W&O, a division of Pon Equipment + Power Systems, is the nation's largest supplier of valves, pipe, fittings, engineered products and automated valve systems for the marine and offshore industries. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida the company has 14 nationwide stocking locations and one international location in Belgium. W&O is committed to providing integrated solutions for the marine industry including the U.S. Navy, commercial shipping companies, barge owners, cruise companies, offshore industry and shipyards all across North America and Europe. For more information about W&O, visit www.wosupply.com.

ABOUT PON

Pon is an international trading group engaged in a wide variety of activities, which can be divided into two overall groups: Pon Automotive and Pon Equipment + Power Systems. We supply products which complement each other in terms of type and quality. Pon employs over 9,000 people at some 500 branches distributed throughout eleven countries.

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