

## **Major Distributors of Mining Supplies and Rubber Products Combine Forces**

***Bristol, TN February 11, 2011***

Today, two companies announce their plans to combine their operations whose overriding commitment is to provide customers superior products and services coupled with the industry's most knowledgeable and experienced staff.

In an asset based transaction, United Central Industrial Supply Company headquartered in Bristol, TN, has acquired Gooding Rubber Company which is headquartered in Woodridge, IL. In addition to the Woodridge operation, Gooding operates three additional facilities in the Midwestern United States including locations in Henderson, KY; Marion, IL and St. Louis, MO.

Established in 1974, United Central is a full line, full service industrial distributor whose customers are primarily mining, tunneling and mining-related business.

Established in 1948, Gooding Rubber Company, is a major supplier of industrial rubber products to mining and industrial customers in the Midwestern United States.

With the addition of the Gooding operations, United Central will now operate 28 locations in Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming and Western Canada.

Darrell Cole, United Central's President and CEO stated "The addition of Gooding enhances our ability to better serve the Midwestern mining community with our portfolio of premium products and services designed to help North American mine operators deliver more tons, lower costs, improve safety and enhance operational efficiencies."

Mr. Cole further stated that United Central is extremely excited about the addition of Gooding's knowledgeable employees and highly experienced management team.

Dennis Monarch who has led the Gooding mining division team for the past 15 years will continue to manage the Gooding Mining Division operations. Mr. Monarch emphasized the fact that customers will see a seamless transition based on the fact that the two companies share a tremendous depth of industry experience as well as an enhanced commitment and dedication to provide superior service.

The combined companies will employ approximately 350 people.

United Central was founded in 1974 in Virginia. During the past 37 years, United Central has continued to grow at a steady pace. Past acquisitions including Central Supply Company, Buckhanan Supply Company, Erwin Supply Company, R & H Service & Supply Company, National Mine Service, A & C Cable and Equipment Company, Triune, Inc. and Persinger Supply, have made United Central the leading full-service open-market distributor of consumable mining supplies in North America.

*Additional information is available on the company's websites at [www.unitedcentral.net](http://www.unitedcentral.net), [www.goodingrubber.com](http://www.goodingrubber.com) and [www.nmscanada.ca](http://www.nmscanada.ca) or by contacting Carl Mallory, Director of Marketing at 423-573-7300 or [cmallory@unitedcentral.net](mailto:cmallory@unitedcentral.net).*