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## **SMARTBOX Acquires Big Box Storage, Increases National Footprint to 43 Major Markets**

**RICHMOND, Va., January 7, 2009** – SMARTBOX, one of the fastest-growing portable storage and moving companies, today announces the acquisition of Big Box Storage, a move that increases its national footprint to 43 markets served by 26 franchisees from coast to coast.

With the addition of San Diego-based Big Box Storage, SMARTBOX enhances its West Coast presence with locations in San Diego, Phoenix, Seattle, Las Vegas and Portland, Ore., and also enters the New York City and Washington D.C. markets. SMARTBOX, named to the “Franchise 50” by the *Franchise Business Review*, currently operates in Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, N.C., Chicago, Denver, Fredericksburg, Va., Jacksonville, Fla., Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New Orleans, Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Va., Raleigh, N.C., Richmond, Va., San Antonio and West Palm Beach, Fla.

The acquisition also allows the new company to offer its unique long-distance moving services to nearly 65 percent of the U.S. population.

The combined company initially will be run under the SMARTBOX and Big Box Storage brands, both of which are ranked in *Entrepreneur* magazine’s Franchise 500<sup>®</sup>. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

“Big Box Storage has built a solid reputation for customer service and affordable portable storage and moving,” SMARTBOX President Michael Lowe said. “We see this as an opportunity to solidify our portable storage presence and our place as the clear No. 2 player in the industry.”

Added Brian Hurley, president of Big Box Storage: “Joining forces with SMARTBOX gives us the chance to even better serve our customers. They will still be able to call on Big Box Storage for their portable storage needs, yet be able to take advantage of SMARTBOX’s equally high level of customer service and long-distance moving capabilities.”

Existing customers will continue to do business with their current SMARTBOX or Big Box Storage franchise and will be able to take advantage of long-distance moves to almost anywhere in the country. Through the acquisition and partnerships with other firms, SMARTBOX can handle long-distance moves between the top 65 major markets around the United States.

SMARTBOX, founded in 2003, and Big Box Storage, founded in 2002, offer individuals and businesses affordable and convenient storage and moving solutions. Customers contact the company, which then delivers its flexibly sized storage containers directly to their door. Users pack their boxes according to their schedules, and when finished, they can either keep the boxes at their existing site or call SMARTBOX or Big Box Storage to pick them up for storage at their secure storage centers or delivery to another location – across town or across the country.

“The beauty is that we simplify the moving and storage process while providing an affordable and convenient solution for the consumer,” Lowe said. “Homeowners and businesses alike can take advantage of an efficiently sized portable storage unit that allows them to better match their storage requirements with the storage that they pay for.”

The boxes are 8 feet long, 7 feet tall and 5 feet wide and designed to hold the contents of one to 1½ rooms (3,000-pound capacity). They’re made of wood, which helps protect stored items from changes in temperature and humidity, and are protected by a weather-tight vinyl cover that protects the box and its contents from weather damage. The size of the box is designed to help users compartmentalize, allowing them to pack potentially messy items like garden tools separate from nice items like furniture.

SMARTBOX also offers SMARTCARE, a service that provides users a long-distance moving alternative throughout the United States. Consumers feel confident using a company they can trust, and knowing the competitive quote they are given is a guaranteed price.

**About SMARTBOX**

*SMARTBOX is a leader in the portable self-storage industry, offering individuals and businesses affordable and convenient storage and local and long-distance moving solutions. Based in Richmond, Va., SMARTBOX services nearly 100 million people in 43 markets throughout the United States. SMARTBOX also can handle long-distance moves to 65 major metropolitan areas serving more than 135 million people. For a complete list of locations, please visit [www.smartboxusa.com](http://www.smartboxusa.com).*

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