

***The Hercules Tire & Rubber Company Acquires Florida-Based
Tire Distributor Inc., USA***

New York, June 22, 2006 – The Hercules Tire & Rubber Company (Hercules), a leading marketer and distributor of private label and branded tires, announced that it is acquiring Tire Distributor Inc., USA (TDI), a tire wholesaler headquartered near Miami, Florida. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

“We are very pleased to bring TDI and its management team and employees into the Hercules family,” said Larry Seawell, president and chief executive officer of Hercules. Seawell added, “We had targeted the Southeast region for expansion given the opportunities for growth in that market, and it was important for us to find a strong operating platform in Florida that would allow us to expand our sales and distribution capabilities throughout the Southeast and into Latin America.”

TDI currently has two distribution locations in Florida which generated sales of approximately \$30 million in 2005, and Hercules plans to open three more distribution facilities in the Southeast over the next 18 to 24 months. As part of the transaction, the two owners of TDI, Christopher “Rocky” McDonough and Tony Lugioyo, are joining the senior management team of Hercules and will serve as general managers of the Southeast division of Hercules.

“We value the approach to partnership that Hercules has demonstrated, and we are excited about the additional product offerings and resources they offer us,” said Rocky McDonough. “At the same time, this transaction allows us to keep our employees, who have been integral to our historic growth. Teaming up with Hercules will give us the ability to become the dominant player in the Florida tire market.”

“We look forward to working with the TDI team to build upon the terrific platform that they have put together as part of our TDW (Tire Dealer’s Warehouse) operations,” said Mike Distel, president of Hercules USA, a division of Hercules. “While the people and great service that TDI’s customers have come to expect will stay the same, our plan is to transition the TDI trade name to our TDW name.”

Hercules was acquired by management and FdG Associates in May 2005, and the company has grown significantly since that time by expanding and strengthening its supply relationships and increasing sales in its existing markets. The purchase of TDI

represents Hercules' first add-on acquisition under the company's new ownership group. The transaction will allow Hercules to increase its leading position in the distribution of private label and branded tires in Florida and throughout Latin America, and to capitalize on new opportunities for growth in the Southeast.

"This transaction will allow us to supercharge our growth in Florida and up the East Coast by focusing resources much more rapidly than we had planned on our own," said Tony Lugioyo. At the same time, we will be able to provide a more comprehensive product and service offering to our loyal customers."

"When we partnered with Hercules' management to purchase the company last May, we set out to help Hercules execute its strategic plan and build upon its leadership position in the tire business," said Mark Hauser, a managing director at FdG Associates. "With the acquisition of TDI, Hercules has taken an important step towards achieving these goals, and we look forward to the company's continued success."

About The Hercules Tires & Rubber Company

The Hercules Tire & Rubber Company headquartered in Findlay, Ohio, is a leading integrated tire marketer and distributor of replacement tires in the United States, Canada and globally in more than 75 countries. Hercules distributes an extensive selection of passenger, light truck, medium truck, trailer, off-the-road, and industrial and specialty tires. Hercules has developed a strong reputation among its customers for its broad range of quality products, making Hercules one of the most sought after proprietary private brand programs. In addition, Hercules distributes over 20 leading national branded tire programs and collectively offers over 10,000 SKUs.

About Tire Distributor Inc., USA

Tire Distributor Inc., USA was founded in 1996 and was purchased by current ownership in 2000. The company, which operates distribution centers located in Medley, Florida (near Miami) and Tampa, Florida, sells product throughout Florida, the Caribbean and Latin America. TDI's product offering includes every type of tire, with the exception of aircraft tires. The company prides itself on its reputation for delivering a broad, competitive and high-quality product platform with excellent customer service from a staff of 42 dedicated employees.

About FdG Associates

FdG Associates is a private investment firm providing equity capital to North American-based middle-market growth companies with sound businesses and unrealized potential. By building a partnership with management and offering creative problem solving and

strategic, long-term planning focused around key corporate initiatives, FdG empowers companies to achieve their full growth potential and increase their equity value.

FdG will typically commit from \$15 million to \$50 million in equity to sponsor management buyouts, recapitalizations and growth-oriented capital investments in private and public companies. The deep and diverse experience of the firm's executive team enables FdG to pursue opportunities in the business and consumer services, distribution, light manufacturing, retail and consumer products sectors.

FdG is headquartered in New York, NY. For additional information, please visit www.fdgassociates.com