

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **International Wind Firm Selects SAP from Sapphire**

**Knight & Carver to implement SAP Business One from Sapphire Systems**

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**Los Angeles, USA – 27 November 2008.** Sapphire today announced that it is to supply and implement the SAP Business One business management solution at Knight & Carver Wind Group.

An internationally recognized wind blade fabricator and service producer for utility-scale wind plants, Knight & Carver Wind Group is well-respected in the wind energy industry for its innovation and quality, working closely with the world's largest wind energy producers. The fast-growing Wind Group has service projects at wind farms throughout the U.S. and the world. The Wind Group evolved from the company's proven composite expertise in the yachting new-build and repair industries. In recent years, Knight & Carver Wind Group has serviced, rebuilt and fabricated thousands of blades.

Knight & Carver had a requirement for a new financial accounting and business management solution to replace the existing outmoded and inefficient system, along with various Excel spreadsheets, that the company was using. The company has grown significantly, particularly over the last 6 years, and needed a complete ERP system to create a solid foundation for future growth. Each aspect of company operations is being up-graded, step-by-step, with the clear-cut goal of providing the highest professional service and employee satisfaction – so a user-friendly system was a 'must have'.

The specific objectives for a new business system were to cope with vastly increased transactional volumes and possible changes in the business processing model; support on-line real time financial transactions in a single integrated system with management based KPI's; and to support the wind blade production and wind service business functions in a single system.

Ian Caswell, Managing Director at Sapphire, commented: "Implementing SAP Business One will provide new capability and operating efficiency throughout Knight & Carver's whole business, as well as the ability to integrate with any specific third party systems that might be required in the future, such as applications for logistics and remote field ticket reporting. The management team will benefit from complete visibility of the company and reporting on things such as job-costing data in a timely manner."

"We're excited to enter this new phase of our company's rapid growth, and are pleased to partner with Sapphire's proven team of professionals." said Sam Brown, President/CEO of Knight & Carver. "In choosing SAP Business One, we've greatly upgraded and streamlined our total operations, allowing us to better serve our customers in every way. As a state-of-the-art company in a fast-evolving industry, we're proud to partner with SAP and Sapphire and offer the highest level of financial accounting and business management."

Mr Caswell concluded: "The team at Sapphire are thrilled to be working with Knight & Carver on this investment in their future growth. SAP Business One is windows based, making it very intuitive and easy to use, so I am sure the team will be more than happy with their new and improved solution and way of working. The fact that it covers all aspects of business management makes SAP Business One a good choice for organisations looking to improve efficiency across their entire operation; plus moving away from a multitude of disparate systems helps keeps costs down from a maintenance point of view."

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#### **About Sapphire Systems plc**

Sapphire is an SAP Gold partner – number one for SAP Business One in EMEA, and is the global leading Infor FMS SunSystems partner. Since 1986, Sapphire has offered customers wide-ranging practical expertise in selecting and implementing advanced financial accounting, business management and procurement solutions and today provides software, services and support for over 600 customers worldwide from their offices in the UK and USA. Sapphire is a founder member of the British Application Software Developers Association and was one of the first signatories of the BASDA Green Charter.

[www.sapphiresystems.com](http://www.sapphiresystems.com)

#### **About Knight & Carver Wind Group**

Knight & Carver is dedicated to the repair, service and manufacture of wind-turbine blades, utilized worldwide for cost-efficient renewable energy production. The company provides wind turbine blade repair and maintenance services to customers throughout the U.S. Knight & Carver also operates full-service blade fabrication and repair facilities in National City, California and Howard, South Dakota.

[www.kcwind.com](http://www.kcwind.com)

#### **About SAP**

As the world's leading provider of business software\*, SAP delivers products and services that help accelerate business innovation for their customers. Today, more than 47,800 customers in more than 120 countries run SAP applications – from distinct solutions addressing the needs of small businesses and midsize companies to suite offerings for global organizations. Founded in 1972, SAP has a rich history of innovation and growth that has made it a true industry leader. SAP currently employs more than 51,200 people in more than 50 countries worldwide.

[www.sap.com](http://www.sap.com)

(\*) SAP defines business software solutions as comprising enterprise resource planning and related software solutions such as supply chain management, customer relationship management, product life-cycle management and supplier relationship management.

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