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## **New Bridgestone Americas Headquarters Bringing Jobs and Top Businesses to Downtown Nashville**

*Among tallest buildings, the newly constructed tower will broaden city skyline*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Nov. 11, 2014) — Bridgestone Americas, Inc., a subsidiary of Bridgestone Corporation, the world's largest tire and rubber company, today announced plans to relocate its headquarters to downtown Nashville in a newly constructed facility slated for completion in mid-to-late 2017. The new headquarters will house more than 1,700 employees – 1,100 currently based in Nashville and 600 more jobs from three out-of-state business units that are being relocated to the city.

Gary Garfield, CEO and President of Bridgestone Americas, was joined at a press conference by Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam; Tennessee Economic and Community Development Commissioner, Bill Hagerty; Nashville Mayor, Karl Dean; Nashville Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Ralph Schulz; and Highwoods Properties President and CEO, Ed Fritsch.

"Uniting teammates from our core business units in one location is fundamental to continuing to build a bright, sustainable future for our company," said Garfield. "Under one roof, we will increase collaboration, innovation and growth across our lines of business. Current and future teammates will benefit by being part of an exciting and motivating workplace culture intensely focused on meeting the needs of those who buy our products and services."

The business units moving to the new headquarters represent world-leading tire brands; the world's largest automotive retail and service operations; a worldwide leader in commercial roofing and building products; and a global leader in vehicle and equipment air spring technology.

"We want to congratulate Bridgestone Americas on its plans to build new headquarters in Nashville and thank the company for creating more than 600 new jobs in Davidson County," said Governor Haslam. "Tennessee has attracted some of the world's largest and most well-known brands to our state, and we are pleased to see that Bridgestone Americas will continue to call Tennessee home. Today's announcement not only adds to our growing business landscape, but also supports our goal to make Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high quality jobs."

"We received world-class receptions and very competitive offers from several major cities," continued Garfield. "At the end of the day, Nashville prevailed. The city offers a

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great quality of life and low business costs, with a reasonable cost of living for our teammates. Downtown Nashville is vibrant and growing. And the support and leadership shown by the State of Tennessee, Nashville Metro government and the Tennessee Valley Authority really made our decision clear.”

“Tennessee consistently ranks as the top state in automotive manufacturing strength, and when a thriving company like Bridgestone Americas chooses to broaden its home base in Tennessee, it further solidifies our position as the epicenter of the new Southern Automotive Corridor,” Hagerty said. “As a state, we strive to show Tennessee companies that we are a brand that supports their brand. I could not be more pleased with Bridgestone Americas’ decision to relocate its new headquarters to downtown Nashville, and I applaud the company for providing these jobs to our state’s superior workforce.”

Subject to approvals from the Nashville Metropolitan Council, Industrial Development Board and the State, the planned 514,000-square-foot, 30-story headquarters building, located at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. and Demonbreun Street, will break ground in early 2015 with planned occupancy in the third quarter of 2017. Bridgestone Americas selected Highwoods Properties (NYSE:HIW), to develop the Company’s new headquarters. Global architecture firm Perkins + Will has been retained by Highwoods and Bridgestone to design the new facility and tenant improvements, which are expected to be LEED-certified at the Gold level and reflect best practices in workplace space design. Upon completion, the facility will be one of the largest and tallest corporate headquarters buildings in Nashville. Financial terms are not being disclosed by Bridgestone.

“Bridgestone Americas has been one of our signature companies for many years, and Nashville is proud to be their partner as they invest even more in our community by building a new headquarters and bringing 600 new jobs here,” Mayor Dean said. “Bridgestone was ready to join its businesses under one roof, either here or in some other city. So, this means 1,700 employees who might have worked elsewhere will be contributing to our economy instead by working, living, eating and shopping here. This is huge for Nashville.”

Ed Fritsch commented, “It is an honor to have been selected by Bridgestone Americas to build their new corporate headquarters in Nashville. We are extremely fortunate to be working with such a highly-regarded company that has a rich heritage and collaborative corporate culture, and we are proud to be part of the team that is making a significant investment in enhancing downtown Nashville. We thank Bridgestone Americas for their trust in Highwoods, and we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship.”

Bridgestone has outgrown its current leased headquarters facility on Marriott Drive near Nashville International Airport. With its lease expiring in late 2017, the company launched an extensive search for a new headquarters location to support future growth. The new headquarters will be home to Bridgestone Americas’ corporate staff and supporting functions, as well as Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC; Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC; Firestone Building Products Company, LLC; and Firestone Industrial Products Company, LLC. Nashville was selected after a nationwide search by a Bridgestone team that included leaders from multiple business units and functional areas.

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“We’re excited to continue the discussion with the Nashville Metro Council and Industrial Development Board, as well as the State, to make this project a reality. Locating here makes perfect sense, given Bridgestone’s existing strong presence in and deep ties to Nashville and Middle Tennessee. And, I know that our Nashville-based teammates will look forward to welcoming their teammates to a new home in a city they love,” said Garfield.

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**About Bridgestone Americas, Inc.:**

Nashville, Tenn.-based Bridgestone Americas, Inc. (BSAM) is the U.S. subsidiary of Bridgestone Corporation, the world’s largest tire and rubber company. BSAM and its subsidiaries develop, manufacture and market a wide range of Bridgestone, Firestone and associate brand tires to address the needs of a broad range of customers, including consumers, automotive and commercial vehicle original equipment manufacturers, and those in the agricultural, forestry and mining industries. The companies are also engaged in retreading operations throughout the Western Hemisphere and produce air springs, roofing materials, and industrial fibers and textiles. The BSAM family of companies also operates the world’s largest chain of automotive tire and service centers. Guided by its One Team, One Planet message, the company is dedicated to achieving a positive environmental impact in all of the communities it calls home.

**About Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations:**

Nashville, Tenn.-based Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations (BATO) is a business unit of Bridgestone Americas, Inc., whose parent company, Bridgestone Corporation, is the world’s largest tire and rubber company. Reporting into the BATO business unit are the company’s Latin American tire operations; the U.S. and Canadian consumer tire businesses; the U.S. and Canadian commercial tire businesses; and Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC, which operates the largest network of company-owned automotive service providers in the world. BATO develops, manufactures and markets Bridgestone, Firestone and associate brand tires. The business unit is focused on retail, wholesale and original equipment markets, supplying passenger, light truck, commercial vehicle, off road, motorcycle, agricultural and other tires, as well as retreads, to its customers in the Americas.

**About Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC:**

Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC (BSRO) is headquartered in Bloomingdale, Ill., and owns and operates more than 2,200 tire and automotive service centers across the United States — including Firestone Complete Auto Care, Tires Plus™, Hibdon Tires Plus™, and Wheel Works store locations. Credit First National Association and Firestone Complete Fleet Care™ operations are also part of BSRO. BSRO is a member of the Bridgestone Americas family of companies.

**About Firestone Building Products Company, LLC: :**

Firestone Building Products Company, LLC is a leading manufacturer and supplier of a comprehensive “Roots to Rooftops” product portfolio for commercial building performance solutions. By taking the entire building envelope into consideration, Firestone Building Products meets individual customer and project needs for roofing, wall and lining solutions. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind., the company also offers outstanding technical services, an international network of roofing contractors, distributors and field sales representatives, and superior warranty protection. Products include: commercial roofing systems, roofing accessories, green roofing systems, photovoltaic and daylighting systems, vegetative roofing systems, metal wall panels, insulation, cavity wall construction, pond liners and geomembranes.

**About Firestone Industrial Products Company, LLC:**

Firestone Industrial Products Company, LLC, specializes in air spring manufacturing and technology with a history of more than 75 years of research and development on technologically advanced air springs for the global marketplace. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind., Firestone Industrial Products manufactures air springs and related products for commercial trucks and trailers, cars, sport utility vehicles, light trucks, mini vans, motor homes, buses, agricultural equipment, rail and industrial applications. The company has quality-certified manufacturing/assembly plants and technical centers in North America, Latin America, Europe and Asia. Firestone offers a line of Complete Suspension Solutions that includes Ride-Rite™, Sport-Rite™, Coil-Rite™, and Level-Rite™ Air Helper Springs, and Work-Rite™ Load Assist Springs. These products have become synonymous with quality, durability and outstanding customer support.