

Press Release

For immediate release: December 17, 2020

Contact: Chris Wilson
(503) 825-2864 ext. 206
cwilson@cplusc.com

Northwest Center Enters Print Industry, Acquires Lithtex NW

(Seattle, WA) Northwest Center is proud to announce the acquisition of Lithtex NW through its sole membership interest in Northwest Center Services. Lithtex NW is a full-service commercial and digital printing company headquartered in Bellingham, WA with an additional location in Mount Vernon, WA. Lithtex NW has deep roots in the Bellingham community with a strong reputation for producing superior product quality and delivering industry leading customer value throughout Washington State. Additionally, through its involvement with a nationwide leader in school system supplies, Lithtex NW is integrated into a global supply chain that serves schools across the country. With its foray into the print industry, Northwest Center both expands its social enterprise customer offerings and greatly enhances direct work opportunities for people of all abilities. The Lithtex NW facility in Bellingham will also serve as a new base of operations for geographic expansion of the Employment Services division.

Lithtex NW will be the sixth Northwest Center business, joining a portfolio of businesses across Washington and in parts of Virginia and Idaho, including Northwest Center Building Services, Staffing & Office Solutions, Puget Sound Laundry Services, The Big Blue Truck, and Argus Janitorial. Northwest Center operates businesses as a social enterprise, providing world-class services while helping fund nonprofit services for people of all abilities.

“We are excited to enter the print industry—particularly as it aligns so well with our strategic plan to grow our businesses and expand our services and impact,” says Northwest Center President & CEO Gene Boes. “But it was the Lithtex NW reputation for delivering the highest quality service and products, connection to community, and focus on building customer relationships that made it the perfect fit for our organization.”

Lithtex NW co-founders and operators John Busch and Scott Wheeler will continue to lead Lithtex NW, as the newest division of Northwest Center. Print operations of Northwest Center will continue to operate under the Lithtex NW brand identity.

In addition to significantly expanding Northwest Center Services’ portfolio that employs a highly inclusive workforce, the acquisition expands Northwest Center’s mission-driven services into Whatcom County and Skagit Valley. Also, as its newest social enterprise, Lithtex NW bolsters the long-term financial outlook for Northwest Center. Washington Federal Bank served as lending partner to Northwest Center with a five-year debt facility at a fixed rate based on current LIBOR+275 (with a LIBOR floor), and Carney Badley Spellman advised on financing. Summit Law Group served as the buyer’s transaction counsel.

ABOUT NORTHWEST CENTER

Northwest Center (NWC) is one of the nation’s largest and most comprehensive organizations serving the community with disability inclusion programs and services advancing equal opportunities for people of all abilities. NWC was founded in 1965 by Seattle parents who refused to give up when their kids with disabilities were rejected from schools, and who went on to pass legislation guaranteeing an education to kids with disabilities—impacting every ZIP code across the United States. Today, Northwest Center provides Early Intervention and inclusive Early Learning for children from birth to school age, Employment Services to adults with disabilities in counties across Washington state, and is rapidly expanding inclusive early learning by training other organizations to include kids with disabilities. NWC also owns businesses that provide best-

in-class services while employing an inclusive workforce. For more information, visit www.NWCenter.org. To learn more about our businesses, visit NWCenterBusiness.com.

###