

darwin

professional
underwriters inc.

Press Release

For Immediate Distribution

Darwin Subsidiaries Earn Independent Rating from AM Best

November 16, 2005 (Farmington, Connecticut)—Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc. (Darwin) is pleased to announce that its two dedicated insurance companies, Darwin National Assurance Company (DNA) and Darwin Select Insurance Company (DSI), have received independent financial strength ratings of "A- (Excellent)," financial size category VIII from A.M. Best Company, the Oldwick, New Jersey-based insurance rating agency. Prior to the establishment of this independent rating, DNA shared a rating with the Capitol Group of Insurance Companies.

Darwin began operations in March 2003 writing directors and officers (D&O) liability, errors and omissions (E&O) liability, and medical professional liability insurance coverages for the Alleghany family of Companies. In May 2004, Darwin National Assurance Company, an admitted carrier, was acquired and became the first insurance company dedicated solely to Darwin. In May 2005, Darwin Select Insurance Company, an excess and surplus lines carrier, was acquired. Combined, the Darwin insurance companies have total capital and surplus in excess of \$197 million.

Darwin's president and chief executive officer, Stephen Sills, stated "we are pleased that A.M. Best took an enterprise-wide look at the scope of our operations and financial stability, as well as the depth of our management team's experience in the specialty liability insurance business in determining Darwin's initial rating."

"An independent rating for the two Darwin insurance companies allows us to demonstrate to the market that Darwin is committed to the specialty lines segment. We will continue to build an organization and brand that provides superior service, is responsive to our customers, and delivers product and technology innovation to the insurance industry," Sills added.

Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc., Darwin National Assurance Company, and Darwin Select Insurance Company are subsidiaries of Alleghany Insurance Holdings LLC, whose parent company, Alleghany Corporation, is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange (ticker symbol 'Y'). Darwin underwrites D&O and E&O liability insurance for public and private companies, health care risks, and a broad range of professional classes. For more about Darwin, visit www.darwinpro.com.

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