



## **J.S. Held Acquires Meridian Consulting Group to Expand Surety Practice**

**Jericho, NY – March 18, 2017** – J.S. Held, a leading global multi-disciplinary consulting firm, today announced the acquisition of Meridian Consulting Group LLC. It is the company's sixth acquisition in the last two years. Meridian provides construction consulting and management services as well as claims resolution and litigation support to the surety industry. Financial terms of the private transaction were not disclosed.

Meridian Consulting Group was formed in 1986 by a group of experienced construction professionals with a commitment to providing responsive, professional services focused on the needs and expectations of clients. Today, Meridian is engaged by clients across the country to evaluate and manage troubled construction projects, evaluate contract compliance, monitor environmental projects, and provide expert testimony and litigation support. Clients have included Capitol Indemnity Corporation, International Fidelity Insurance Company and Liberty Mutual Insurance, among others.

"We are thrilled to welcome Doug Fritz, Allen Thibodeaux and all the employees of Meridian to our team," said Jon Held, President and Chief Executive Officer of J.S. Held. "Like J.S. Held, Meridian's success and national recognition as a leading consulting firm is based on its professional staff of construction managers, engineers, accounting and technical support personnel who have extensive experience in claims analysis and contract compliance issues. They are important additions to our surety practice."

Meridian will be rebranded as J.S. Held and join the J.S. Held Surety Services division. In June of 2016, J.S. Held expanded into surety services through the acquisition of Lovett Silverman Construction Consultants. The addition of the Meridian team will bolster J.S. Held's surety division in the Southwest. Meridian will be integrated with the surety team under the direction of J.S. Held Senior Vice President, John Lovett.

Established in 1974 and based in Jericho, New York, J.S. Held is a leader in construction consulting and environmental, health, and safety services with offices located nationwide and in Canada.

"We look forward to bringing our combined experience and construction and engineering backgrounds to J.S. Held," said Fritz, who has been named a Vice President of J.S. Held. "Our full range of project management services and understanding of underlying issues that often give rise to, or form the basis for, disputes will be highly complementary to J.S. Held's existing surety capabilities."

Morgan Lewis served as legal counsel to J.S. Held on the deal.

### **About J.S. Held LLC**

J.S. Held is a leading consulting firm specializing in construction consulting and environmental, health and safety services. J.S. Held consultants have provided their expertise on the most complex construction and environmental matters around the globe. The company serves its clients from over 40 locations throughout the U.S. and Canada. For more information regarding J.S. Held, please visit [www.jsheld.com](http://www.jsheld.com).

### **Meridian Consulting Group LLP**

Meridian provides construction expertise to those insurance companies competing in the surety (performance and payment) bond and professional liability marketplaces. In addition, Meridian provides a

full range of construction related services to legal firms, financial institutions, contracting agencies and private project owners. For more information, visit [www.meridianconsulting.net](http://www.meridianconsulting.net).

**About Lovell Minnick Partners, LLC**

Lovell Minnick Partners, LLC, is a private equity firm with expertise in investing in the financial and related business services sectors. With offices in Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and New York, Lovell Minnick provides developing companies with equity capital to support private company recapitalizations, leveraged buyouts, and pursue growth initiatives. Since its inception in 1999, Lovell Minnick Partners has raised \$1.7 billion in committed capital and has completed investments in over 30 companies. Targeted investment areas include asset management, financial product distribution, insurance, banks, specialty finance, and related technology and business services. For more information, please visit [www.lovellminnick.com](http://www.lovellminnick.com).

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