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SPARTANMOTORS.COM

Spartan Motors Appoints Vice President and General Counsel

November 17, 2008

CHARLOTTE, Mich., Nov. 17 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Spartan Motors, Inc. (Nasdaq: SPAR) today named former GE Aviation executive Thomas Kivell as vice president and general counsel. Kivell brings 20 years of legal experience to the position, including extensive experience in the areas of government and military contracts, as well as specialty vehicles.

Kivell will be responsible for Spartan's legal and compliance activities, including managing the legal process of contracting with customers, the U.S. military and other U.S. and international government agencies, directing the company's legal compliance and supporting the Spartan's strategic initiatives. Kivell was previously general counsel for the digital systems unit of GE Aviation, a \$1 billion designer and manufacturer of systems for aviation and ground vehicles, and served in legal and contract management roles for General Dynamics Land Systems.

"Given the rapid growth of our business over the last several years and the resulting complexity of our operations, coupled with the increased legal and regulatory compliance requirements associated with our military vehicle business, it's clear we needed an experienced, strategic general counsel on our management team," said John Szykiel, president and chief executive officer of Spartan Motors. "We are pleased to land someone of Tom's caliber, and expect his experience will be an important resource in our future growth."

Kivell joins Spartan from GE Aviation, where he served as general counsel to its Digital Systems business unit, and its predecessor, Smiths Aerospace, since 1996. During his tenure there, he was the senior legal staff member responsible for the Electronic Systems unit of Smiths Aerospace, and served as the sole attorney for Smiths Aerospace in the United States over a four-year period. In 2002, he was a founder of a new legal and compliance department for Smiths Aerospace, unifying several other legal and compliance departments.

Prior to his position with GE Aviation and Smiths Aerospace, he was co-owner and CEO of a general design and contracting firm. Kivell also founded and managed a private law practice. In his career, he has also served in legal counsel and contract management positions for Armored Vehicle Technologies Associated a joint venture between General Dynamics Land Systems and FMC Corporation, and with General Dynamics Land Systems. Before beginning his legal career, Kivell was a project engineer for tracked military vehicle programs.

Kivell earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Toledo and a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

About Spartan Motors

Spartan Motors, Inc. (theshyftgroup.com) designs, engineers and manufactures custom chassis and vehicles for the recreational vehicle, fire truck, ambulance, emergency-rescue and specialty vehicle markets. The company's brand names -- Spartan(TM), Crimson Fire(TM), Crimson Fire Aerials(TM), and Road Rescue(TM) -- are known for quality, value, service and being the first to market with innovative products. The company employs approximately 1,400 at facilities in Michigan, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and South Dakota. Spartan reported sales of \$681.9 million in 2007 and is focused on becoming the premier manufacturer of specialty vehicles and chassis in North America.

This release contains forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, statements concerning our business, future plans and objectives and the performance of our products. Forward looking statements are identifiable by words such as "believe," "anticipate," "will," "sustain," and "continue." These forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties that ultimately may not prove to be accurate. Actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Technical complications may arise that could prevent the prompt implementation of the plans outlined above. The company cautions that these forward-looking statements are further qualified by other factors including, but not limited to, those set forth in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filing and other filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (available at <http://www.sec.gov>). Government contracts and subcontracts typically involve long payment and purchase cycles, competitive bidding, qualification requirements, delays or changes in funding, extensive specification development and changes, price negotiations and milestone requirements. An announced award of a governmental contract is not equivalent to a finalized executed contract and does not assure that orders will be issued and filled. Government agencies also often retain some portion of fees payable upon completion of a project and collection of contract fees may be delayed for long periods, which can negatively impact both prime contractors and subcontractors. The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any statements in this release, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

SOURCE Spartan Motors, Inc.

11/17/2008

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