

Contact:

Christie Nye
pr@christienye.com
503-806-3029

or

Deborah Jeffries, PHR
HR Answers, Inc.
503-692-0473



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Northwest's Largest Privately Held Human Resource Firm, HR Answers, Inc., Announces Acquisition of Martech Associates, Inc.

Tualatin, Ore. – HR Answers, Inc., formerly known as HR Northwest, continued with its growth plan by acquiring Martech Associates, Inc., a Portland-based human resources management consulting company, effective January 1, 2003. With offices in Portland and Seattle, and a consulting group of 10 professionals and support staff, acquiring Martech strengthens the breadth of HR consulting services and skills already provided by HR Answers, Inc.

"We've always grown our company from within, so this is a dramatic change for us," said HR Answers, Inc. CEO and Founder Judy Clark. "As we prepare to expand more rapidly, our management team has been seeking opportunities for non-organic growth."

Founded in 1968 by Don Walker, CMC, Martech has served more than 2,000 clients on nearly 3,600 consulting assignments. Walker will join the team of HR Answers, Inc. as Senior Director/Consultant. Martech's deep expertise in the area of compensation made the firm an attractive purchase target for HR Answers, Inc. The company has performed more than 400 compensation studies for clients, an impressive feat for the region.

"Acquiring a firm with such a stellar reputation brings our clients broader management consulting expertise, and we will be able to provide expanded HR services to Martech clients," Clark continued.

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Leading industry publication *Consultant's News* selected Martech Associates one of the top 100 management-consulting firms in the United States. More importantly, clients have long recognized the company's commitment to quality and service, evidenced by the fact that over 70 percent of Martech's workload is generated by previously served clients.

"Putting client's needs first has always been Martech's overriding philosophy," Martech Associates Founder and President Don Walker said. "Being part of HR Answers, Inc. will allow us to keep that promise to our clients for years to come."

About HR Answers, Inc.:

HR Answers, Inc. is the largest independently owned human resource firm in the Northwest, serving both regional and national clients. Founded in 1985, the company serves organizations in all industries and assists in public and private sectors, as well as non-profits. The company was first-to-market with its revolutionary online employee compensation tool SalarySource (www.salarysource.com). Consultants of HR Answers, Inc. assist more than 3,000 current clients nationwide in such areas as compensation program design and benefit plan assessment, as well as various compliance issues, performance management, training, and labor relations. Specialty products include HR Flipcards, Train-the-Trainer Notebooks, and employment compliance packets. Please visit www.hrnorthwest.com or www.hranswers.com for more information.

About Martech Associates, Inc.:

Founded in 1968, Martech Associates, Inc. has provided management and business consulting services to more than 2,000 clients on over 3,600 consulting assignments from its Portland, Ore., and Seattle, Wash. offices. Martech Associates, Inc. specializes in the area of compensation review, as well as HR audit services and staffing assistance. Consultant's News, a leading industry publication, has selected Martech Associates, Inc. as one of the top 100 management-consulting firms in the United States.

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