



For more information contact:
Janet Williams
Markel Specialty
804-527-3807
jwilliams@markelcorp.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Markel Promotes Greg Thompson to President of Markel Specialty

Richmond, VA, November 9, 2012 — Markel Corporation announced today that Greg Thompson, CPCU, ARM, has assumed new responsibilities as President of Markel Specialty, a division of the Virginia-based specialty insurer, Markel Corporation.

Greg has been in the insurance business for over 30 years. He began his career in the brokerage industry and in 1979, formed Thompson Insurance Enterprises (THOMCO) with his father. Greg led THOMCO for 32 years, growing it from a small wholesale operation to a large program administrator. Markel acquired THOMCO on January 1, 2012.

“One of the primary factors leading to our acquisition of THOMCO was the similar history, culture, and values of the two companies. Both have an excellent reputation for integrity, customer service, and underwriting discipline. Greg’s experience growing THOMCO positions him well to lead Markel Specialty as it continues to expand the distribution of specialty products through organic growth and acquisition,” said Mike Crowley, Markel’s President and Co-Chief Operating Officer.

With Greg taking on the role of President of Markel Specialty, Bob Heaphey has assumed responsibilities for THOMCO as Managing Executive.

Bob has more than 25 years of experience in the industry. He joined THOMCO in 1998 as Controller and was later promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer. For the past two years, Bob has served as CEO of THOMCO and will now oversee all aspects of the THOMCO business as Greg assumes his new responsibilities.

Markel Specialty underwrites specialty insurance for a variety of niche markets, providing property & casualty, workers’ compensation, accident and health, personal lines, and admitted and non-admitted property & casualty coverages through its program administrator facility. Visit Markel Specialty at markelinsurance.com.

THOMCO, a Markel company, manages over 20 national programs including medical transportation, senior living, child care centers, fitness clubs, pest control operators, tanning salons, and inflatable rental operators, among others. Learn more at thomcoins.com.

About Markel Corporation

Markel Corporation is a diverse financial holding company serving a variety of niche markets. The Company’s principal business markets and underwrites specialty insurance products. In each of the Company’s businesses, it seeks to provide quality products and excellent customer service so that it can be a market leader. The financial goals of the Company are to earn consistent underwriting and operating profits and superior investment returns to build shareholder value. Visit Markel Corporation on the web at markelcorp.com.

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