

The Payne Firm, Inc. was the Environmental Consultant assisting The Carlyle Group in this deal. Below is the press release issued by The Carlyle Group.

### ***The Carlyle Group Sells Panolam to Genstar Capital***

Washington, DC – Global private equity firm The Carlyle Group today announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to sell Panolam Industries International, Inc. to an investor group, including Genstar Capital LLC, The Sterling Group, L.P. and management. Shelton, CT-based Panolam designs and manufactures decorative laminate panels for commercial and residential uses such as cabinets, display cases and office furniture. Carlyle purchased Panolam in November 1999. The transaction is expected to close in the fall. UBS acted as financial advisor to Panolam Industries International. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Carlyle Managing Director Praveen R. Jeyarajah said, “It has been a pleasure to work with CEO Bob Muller and his team. They persevered through the economic slowdown, redoubling their efforts to create efficiencies and satisfy customer needs. I am confident they will succeed with Genstar Capital.”

Darren J. Gold, Principal of Genstar Capital, said, “Panolam is a well-managed company with excellent opportunities for continued growth and expansion. We look forward to working closely with Bob and his team to build value and to continue the firm’s upward rise.”

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