



**GRAY MANUFACTURING**  
Company, Inc. • St. Joseph, Missouri

*A tradition of quality since 1952*



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Gray Manufacturing Company, Inc., Steril BV, Steril-Koni U.S.A., Inc., and Steril ALM Corp. enter into Settlement Agreement**

St. Joseph, MO, USA September 8, 2011...

Gray Manufacturing Company Inc., Steril BV, Steril-Koni U.S.A., Inc., and Steril ALM Corp, have entered into a Settlement Agreement and Patent License Agreement which ends a longstanding lawsuit between the companies related to patents owned by Gray Manufacturing in connection with Wireless Coordinated Lift Systems or Wireless Mobile Column Lifts. Terms of the agreements are confidential; however, Steril BV, Steril-Koni U.S.A., Inc., and Steril ALM Corp, recognize the validity and enforceability of the Gray patents issued through the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. The resolution of the disputes between the parties allows Steril BV, Steril-Koni U.S.A., and Steril ALM Corp, to produce market and sell the protected wireless lifts while allowing Gray to be appropriately compensated under a license agreement through one-time payments and ongoing royalties. Patents specifically covered under the Agreement include US Patent Number 6,634,461 issued October 21, 2003, US Patent Number 7,014,012 issued March 21, 2006, US Patent Number 7,219,770 issued May 22, 2007, and Canadian Patent Number CA 2,406,340 issued on January 23, 2007.

Gray Manufacturing President Stet Schanze indicated he is pleased with the Agreements, “We have been in protracted litigation and patent re-examinations with Steril BV and Steril-Koni U.S.A., Inc., for several years which has not been productive to the business model of either side. I am pleased that we were able to reach a reasonable business solution with them which allows us to both get back to our strengths...selling quality lift products into our respective markets. The Agreement will permit Steril BV and Steril-Koni U.S.A., Inc., to manufacture and sell product covered under patents obtained and owned by Gray, and allow Gray to receive validation, appropriate compensation, and royalties for its patent property rights. Further it will put an end to all litigation and future challenges regarding the respective patents.”

Steril BV President Ulbe Bijlsma expressed that he is likewise pleased to have reached a reasonable business solution with Gray that allows both parties to put this matter behind them. “Now Steril can concentrate again on what we do best: developing, manufacturing and selling quality products to our many customers.”

Any specific questions about this agreement should be directed as follows:

Sterett W. "Stet" Schanze  
President  
Gray Manufacturing Company, Inc.  
3501 S. Leonard Road  
St. Joseph, MO 64503  
Phone: 816-233-6121

Ulbe Bijlsma  
President  
Steril B.V.  
P.O. Box 23, 9288 ZG Kootstertille  
The Netherlands  
Phone: +31 512 33 44 44

**About Gray Manufacturing**

Gray Manufacturing Company Inc. is a family owned and operated business since 1952 located in St. Joseph, MO, specializing in manufacturing and selling portable lifting equipment for use by professional mechanics. Gray Manufacturing is recognized around the world for providing high quality shop service equipment for the automotive, truck and service vehicle industries.

**About Steril BV, Steril-Koni U.S.A., and Steril ALM**

Steril-Koni is a global enterprise having a significant presence in the United States and Canada, with U.S. sales operations conducted out of its Stevensville, Maryland office and production facilities based in Streator, Illinois. Combined with an exclusive distribution network, Steril-Koni employs over 300 Americans. Reversing the ever increasing trend to manufacture in Asia, and particularly China, Steril-Koni remains proud of its contributions to the U.S. economy in terms of jobs and resources. Founded in 1997, Steril-Koni U.S.A. has become the veritable North American leader in the heavy-duty vehicle maintenance market featuring mobiles, platform lifts, scissors lifts, 2-post lifts and in-ground lifts.

### End ###