

# NEWS RELEASE



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**For Immediate Release**

## **BRANCH BUYS NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONTRACTOR**

*Roanoke-based Branch expanding operation to northern Virginia*

**ROANOKE, VA – (December 27, 2007) – The Branch Group, Inc., one of Virginia’s largest contractors, has acquired a general contracting company in Northern Virginia.**

The Branch Group, Inc. has acquired R. Edward Daffan, Inc. of Manassas, founded in 1968. The new company will operate under the name of ***R. E. Daffan, Inc.*** Daffan is recognized for its design-build services. Daffan is responsible for over \$200 million of commercial and industrial projects in Northern Virginia.

Branch, an employee-owned company with approximately 800 employees across Virginia, will maintain its headquarters in Roanoke. In addition to Daffan, Branch operates: Branch & Associates, Inc., a general contractor; Branch Highways, Inc., a highway and infrastructure contractor; G. J. Hopkins, Inc., a mechanical and electrical contractor, and E. J. Williams, Inc., a highway and site development contractor. Williams is based in Virginia Beach. Branch conducts business throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Revenues will exceed \$270 million in 2007.

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“Daffan is a good investment for Branch,” said James C. Harrison, IV, Chief Executive Officer. “We will leverage Daffan’s reputation for quality and personal service to expand our business opportunities in Northern Virginia.”

Larry Dickenson has been named the new president of Daffan. Dickenson, a Roanoke native and University of Virginia graduate, joined Branch in 1983. He has also been named to the Executive Committee of The Branch Group, Inc.

“We will target design-build projects in the private market in Northern Virginia,” Dickenson said. “We can build on Daffan’s reputation for excellence in design-build construction and are excited that former owners Bill Daffan and Lee Daffan will retain positions as key company executives.”

Billy H. Branch founded the Branch organization in 1963 as a road and site contractor. The Branch Group implemented an Employee Stock Ownership Plan in 1982 and today is proud to be 100% employed owned.

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*For more information, visit [www.branchgroup.com](http://www.branchgroup.com).*