

RONA increases its presence in the ICI market by acquiring plumbing and heating specialist Best-MAR

Boucherville, Quebec – RONA (TSX: RON), the leading Canadian distributor and retailer of hardware, home renovation and gardening products, increases its presence in the specialized plumbing and heating market in Ontario by acquiring the operating assets of Best-MAR Plumbing and Heating Supplies Inc. ("Best-MAR"). This transaction further strengthens RONA's position in the fast growing ICI market ("Institutional, commercial and industrial") and follows the 2007 Noble Trade acquisition. The three Best-MAR locations will be integrated to Noble Trade's existing network of 19 branches. The transaction has been finalized pending certain conditions. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2008 and will be financed through RONA's existing credit facilities.