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Savage Range acquires Porta Target

The Florida company is expected to complement the Westfield firm's core business.

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WESTFIELD - Savage Range Systems, manufacturer of an innovative bullet-trapping system used in shooting ranges, has acquired a Florida company that makes targets and "shoot houses."

The amount Savage Range spent to acquire Porta Target was not disclosed.

Porta Target, a 24-year-old company in Grant, Fla., makes targets, shooting stalls and other elements in shooting ranges, as well as "shoot houses," which are steel structures made to resemble a house with rooms and hallways.

Savage Range's premier product is its "snail trap," a system it designed to safely trap bullets in a shooting range to minimize lead contamination.

Eoin B. Stafford, vice president and general manager of Savage Range, said Porta Target's products make a good addition to Savage Range's line.

"Every range requires at least two things - a bullet trap or bullet stop and targets to shoot at, so we complement each other very well," Stafford said.

They also share many of the same customers, and Porta Target has worked as a subcontractor with Savage Range on some projects.

He said the purchase, which closed Monday, has the potential to double Savage Range's sales within a year. He declined to reveal his company's annual sales.

"A great deal of the industry is (made up of) the same customers, the shooting ranges, but not always

at the same time - someone may have an existing range and be looking to upgrade targetry," Stafford said.

He said that Porta Target is also "a leading manufacturer of shoot houses, and there's a significant growth in that category, due to the need for increased training."

Shoot houses provide more realistic training, with "different rooms, shooting from different angles at targets popping up at you," which is of "paramount importance for law enforcement and military training," Stafford said.

Stafford said Porta Target's operations will remain in Florida for the immediate future.

The president of Porta Target, Paul Scholem, will stay on until the end of the year to help with the transition. Scholem could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Savage Range Systems is a subsidiary of Savage Sports Corp., which also includes Savage Arms.