

Press Release

Contact:

Lisa Scannell
VP, Corporate Communications and Marketing
lscannell@argogroupus.com
617-235-6138

Argo Surety and SureTec Announce Mid-Market Contract Program Argo Surety Increases Commercial Capacity to \$100 Million

HOUSTON, June 6, 2014 (BUSINESS WIRE) — Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. (NASDAQ:[AGII](#)), an international underwriter of specialty insurance and reinsurance products, announced today that Argo Surety, together with SureTec Financial Corp, will provide expanded combined capacity for the middle market contract surety segment. This new program affords Argo Surety and SureTec the opportunity to extend up to \$50 million in contract bond capacity to select producers.

This expanded capacity will be enhanced by SureTec's experienced contract underwriting and claims management teams. "We will use the new capacity selectively to help our producers navigate through this highly competitive marketplace," said SureTec CEO John Knox, Jr. "Argo Group has had a strategic investment in SureTec since 2011, and this opportunity to partner in the middle market contract space is a logical extension of our strategic involvement."

"Combining the capabilities of both organizations in this segment provides our producers with the strong, stable platform needed in today's contract surety marketplace," said Argo Surety President Josh Betz. "Both organizations' producers and their accounts will benefit from the expanded offering of two well seasoned and established businesses."

In addition to this new program, Argo Surety has increased its commercial surety capacity to \$100 million for qualifying clients. "We remain committed to building and growing the best platform and product offerings for our agents and clients," said Mr. Betz.

About SureTec

SureTec Financial Corp is one of the largest privately owned surety companies in the US. Its subsidiary, SureTec Insurance Company, is Rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best with a stable outlook. The company is backed by over \$200 million in assets. With offices in Atlanta, Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, San Diego and Orange County, CA,

SureTec operates in 50 states and has one international affiliate. For more information on SureTec, visit www.suretec.com.

About Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.

Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. (NASDAQ:[AGII](http://www.argolimited.com)) is an international underwriter of specialty insurance and reinsurance products in the property and casualty market. Through its operating subsidiaries, Argo Group offers a full line of products and services designed to meet the unique coverage and claims handling needs of businesses in four primary segments: Excess & Surplus Lines, Commercial Specialty, International Specialty and Syndicate 1200. Argo Group's worldwide insurance subsidiaries are rated 'A' (Excellent) by A.M. Best with a stable outlook and its U.S. insurance subsidiaries are rated 'A-' (Strong) by Standard & Poor's. For more information, visit www.argolimited.com.

-XXX-

