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SafeGuard XChange™ Seating Available on Thomas Built Buses

Westfield, Ind. – May 12, 2011 – Today IMMI® announced that its new line of SafeGuard XChange™ seating will soon be available for order on Thomas Built Buses. With this new product line, school districts can buy standard seating now, then simply exchange seating modules to add or configure belts at a later date, as future school district requirements and state regulations dictate.



IMMI Vice President of Sales James Johnson discussed the company's partnership with Thomas Built Buses. "Through our long-standing partnership with Thomas, we have had many opportunities to sit down with customers and truly understand their needs related to seating," he said. "Following on the heels of industry-leading developments like FlexSeat and SmartFrame, XChange is a practical breakthrough that offers a whole new solution for managing school bus fleets more effectively."

Ken Hedgecock, Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Service at Thomas Built Buses, said the partnership has been important to both companies in preparing to offer seating that insulates school districts and contractors from future shifts in regulations and practices. "No matter what kind of school bus buyer you are, fleet versatility makes your job easier," Hedgecock said. "Whether you're a school transportation director who expects a future local demand for belted seating, or you are a contractor anticipating the need to relocate buses, you need meaningful seating options that work now, as well as ten years from now."

XChange seating will be manufactured at the IMMI High Point facility, which opened in the summer of 2010 to offer just-in-time deliveries to Thomas. IMMI will continue to manufacture SafeGuard school bus seat components and seating modules for Thomas at its Indiana headquarters, while using the North Carolina plant for final assembly of its new line of products.

XChange seating is currently in final stages of compliance testing and will soon be available for order on Thomas buses, with delivery this fall. The new seating line will be on display in the Thomas C2e Hybrid show bus touring the U.S. this summer.

About IMMI

IMMI, based in Westfield, Ind., has been the industry leader in child and bus passenger protection for more than 30 years. Within the past decade, IMMI has introduced belted seating under its SafeGuard brand to the U.S. school bus and motorcoach industries. Utilizing a modern crash-test facility, sophisticated engineering and advanced manufacturing operations, IMMI develops and supplies innovative, proven SafeGuard restraint systems and seating solutions for customers worldwide.

For more information about SafeGuard products, visit safeguardseat.com or call 877.447.2305.

