



Commercial Real Estate Services, Worldwide.

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## **Two of GR's Largest Independent Commercial Real Estate Companies Merge & "Go Global" With New International Affiliation**

**Grand Real Estate & Taatjes & Tol, Inc. have merged to form NAI West Michigan.**

Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 – After years of contemplation the time is finally right for two of Grand Rapids largest and most respected independently owned commercial real estate companies, Grand Real Estate and Taatjes & Tol, Inc., to join forces and become NAI West Michigan, a national affiliate of NAI Global.

NAI Global is the worlds leading managed network of commercial real estate firms and has over 350 offices in 45 countries throughout the world. They are widely known for combining a global perspective and local market knowledge with an unparalleled technological platform and the exceptional support they provide their affiliates.

"Individually, Grand Real Estate or Taatjes & Tol, Inc. would have made excellent members but together they are perfect," said David Blanchard, Executive Vice President of NAI Global. "We are very excited to join with Grand Real Estate and Taatjes & Tol to help their local clients gain some global wings."

"This is a big win for our clients! We feel it is a real advantage to add Grand Real Estate's professional brokerage team and the worldwide services of NAI Global to our current services," said Doug Taatjes, SIOR, CCIM and President of Taatjes & Tol, Inc. "Bob Tol and I began working together in 1979 and maintained our first priority of giving our clients the best commercial real estate services available. NAI West Michigan is the next step in that process."

David Smies formed Grand Real Estate in 1989 and has been a driving force behind the company's success and reputation for getting results while staying true to the highest ethical standards. "What an opportunity to bring these teams together! The main contributing factor that pulled us together so easily was the significant amount of Spiritual Capital in both organizations." said David Smies, SIOR, CCIM, and CEO of Grand Real Estate.

Both Grand Real Estate and Taatjes & Tol, Inc. have very competent and experienced sales and support staff made up of great people with strong market knowledge who have embraced technology. NAI Global is respected for their quality people and their technological innovations in online transaction management. These three companies' core values are very similar and together make a vibrant new company able to offer current and new clients a fantastic array of services.

The new owners of NAI West Michigan are Doug Taatjes, David Smies, Rod Alderink, Kurt Kunst, Jim Decker, Sally Steenwyk, Tom Kilgore, Chad Versluis, Bill Tyson, and David Zeemering. Our sales team also includes Jan Bomers, Chris Prins, Scott Nurski, and Bob Winter.

By the end of summer the two companies will move into their new office space on the first floor of 100 Grandville Avenue SW in Grand Rapids Michigan, adjacent to the Van Andel Arena, the same building that Taatjes & Tol, Inc. are currently occupying a portion of the third floor.

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