

NEWS RELEASE

XcelHR Acquires Maryland-based Astra HR Becoming Region's Leading PEO

XcelHR adds Maryland-based Astra HR to its portfolio of HR Outsourcing companies. This fifth acquisition in 14 months grows Xcel HR to 17,000 worksite employees. Over 50%, (9,000) comprise the PEO division.

Hudson, MA, November 18, 2011ebruary 8, 2011 – [XcelHR](#) announced today that it had acquired Astra HR, Maryland's largest [Professional Employer Organization \(PEO\)](#). Albert "Bud" Hawk, former CEO of Astra HR, said, "This is a great move for Astra HR clients and a great opportunity for our team here in Rockville. Xcel HR brings deeper resources, a highly experienced management team, and a clear commitment to being the best in the PEO industry. I foresee a smooth transition as Xcel HR will maintain the same high standards as the old Astra HR."

Ted Winglass, President of XcelHR, added, "This is an exciting time at XcelHR. This move is one of the most important in our continuing strategy of growth through acquisition. Astra HR brings with it operational excellence that will benefit the rest of our processing centers. We now have rock solid support for our payroll/HRIS platform which will allow us to start to implement many of the proprietary features we have planned for our Web portal. The other big thing Astra HR brings us is the opportunity to grow the DC and Baltimore metro markets without any further investment in infrastructure." Mr. Winglass went on to say, "This new entity adds an additional 4,000 lives into our PEO block. Xcel HR now provides PEO services for over 9,000 worksite employees and payroll, ASO, and other HR Outsourcing services to another 8,000 employees. As a company we serve clients in 47 states."

[XcelHR](#) provides payroll, HRIS, employee benefits, benefit administration, risk management and human resource "[smartsourcing](#)" services to small and mid-size businesses. With sales and service offices in Boston, Washington, DC, Rockville, MD, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Birmingham, Alabama, and independent sales representatives in Texas, Colorado, and California, XcelHR is positioned to serve businesses in most regions of the U.S.

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