

## ODS Selects Bend Site for Office, Dental Hygiene School

by Bend Weekly News Sources

### ODS Will Share Space with Western Title & Escrow Company

The ODS Companies (ODS) recently announced that it has secured property in Bend to develop a new multi-use office building. ODS signed a Memorandum of Understanding in mid-December with joint venture partners Gerding/Edlen Development Company and Western Title & Escrow Company to purchase the property from owners George Slape and Al Owen.

The site, an undeveloped parcel of land located in the Old Mill District on S.W. Bond Street, will provide 80,000 to 90,000 square feet of office space. ODS will be the majority partner in the development and occupy approximately 43 percent of the building, while Western Title & Escrow will occupy about 31 percent. The remaining space will be reserved for future expansion by both companies or leased as needed. Portland-based GBD Architects is designing the building.

“ODS is committed to the central Oregon community and we are excited to have the opportunity to establish our next office in Bend,” said Andrew Franklin, ODS Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “This site suits our needs perfectly in terms of overall space and location. Furthermore, Bend is a vibrant community with a bright future. We are looking forward to bringing jobs to the area and contributing to its continued success.”

According to Franklin, ODS operations at the new office will include sales, claims processing and customer service. In addition, the multi-use complex will incorporate a dental hygiene school. “We have operated the successful ODS School of Dental Hygiene in La Grande since 2004,” Franklin said. “We are now looking to replicate that program in Bend. Central Oregon has a strong demand for well-trained dental hygienists, which makes this program a great fit.”

In all, approximately 120 ODS personnel, including dental hygiene school staff and students, will be based in the Bend office.

ODS and its partners are currently working with city officials on development-related issues. Franklin said construction should begin in July 2007 and conclude 14 months later. “We would like to have our first class of dental students ready to begin their initial fall term by late September 2008,” he said.

“ODS is much more than just a Portland company,” Franklin noted. “ODS has served Oregonians since 1955, and we are committed to creating jobs throughout the state. Opening an office in Bend allows us to continue our support of the central Oregon business community.”

ODS is a multi-faceted organization that provides dental, medical and professional liability insurance products, along with a variety of business services including dental practice management software and benefits administration. ODS serves more than 750,000 members. Founded in 1955, ODS is Oregon 's leading dental plan and one of the state's leading medical plans. ODS is a founding member of the Delta Dental Plans Association, the nation's largest and most experienced dental benefits provider. ODS is headquartered in Portland and has offices in Medford, Milwaukie and La Grande, Oregon, as well as in Anchorage, Alaska.

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