



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A.M. Best Assigns Ratings to Great Falls Insurance Company

OLDWICK, N.J., October 24, 2011—A.M. Best Co. has assigned a financial strength rating of B++ (Good) and an issuer credit rating of “bbb+” to **Great Falls Insurance Company** (Great Falls) (Auburn, ME). The outlook assigned to both ratings is stable.

The ratings and outlook reflect Great Falls’ strong risk-adjusted capitalization, projected solid operating performance, adequate liquidity and good business position, conservative investment portfolio and experienced management. The ratings also recognize the company’s presence in a unique market.

Partially offsetting these positive rating factors are Great Falls’ start-up profile and limited business diversification due to it operating in a single state and having a single line of business.

Great Falls intends to gradually build-up its surplus through retained earnings and maintain a conservative underwriting leverage with controlled premium growth. The company’s projected favorable underwriting results are based on its strong safety and loss control standards and strict underwriting control.

Partially offsetting these strengths is Great Falls’ susceptibility to competition, as well as economic and regulatory changes.

A.M. Best remains the leading rating agency of alternative risk transfer entities, with more than 200 such vehicles rated in the United States and throughout the world.

For current Best’s Credit Ratings and independent data on the captive and alternative insurance market, please visit www.ambest.com/captive.

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The principal methodology used in determining these ratings is [Best's Credit Rating Methodology -- Global Life and Non-Life Insurance Edition](#), which provides a comprehensive explanation of A.M. Best's rating process and highlights the different rating criteria employed. Additional key criteria utilized include: "Risk Management and the Rating Process for Insurance Companies"; "Understanding BCAR for Property/Casualty Insurers"; "Rating New Company Formations"; and "A.M. Best's Rating Methodology for Captive Insurance Companies." Methodologies can be found at www.ambest.com/ratings/methodology.

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