FREIGHTWAVES

Private equity group rolls up 3 small firms for courier network

Priority Courier Experts acquires regional last-mile carriers in Midwest, South

Sept. 1, 2026

Link to article

Priority Courier Experts has purchased Priority Dispatch with financial help from its investor. (Photo: Priority Dispatch)

Private equity firm Trident Management appears to be an early mover in bolting together small courier businesses onto a platform that can offer shippers greater regional density and reach as an alternative to large, legacy parcel carriers.

Trident-backed Priority Courier Experts, which serves B2B customers in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and upper Midwest, last week said it acquired Priority Dispatch Inc. and Diamond Expedited, Midwest providers of same-day courier and box-truck freight services for the healthcare and e-commerce industries, and Atlanta-based Inpax Shipping Solutions.

Priority Dispatch was founded in Cincinnati in 1973. Diamond Expedited began serving the greater Chicago area in 1995. The companies, which were bought from the same individual, also cover Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton and Toledo, Ohio; Indianapolis; Detroit and Milwaukee, with 43 employees and more than 500 independent-contractor drivers. Their combined delivery traffic is about 250,000 orders per year.

Inpax is active in seven markets across the South, including Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina and Florida. With 75 employees and more than 335 owner-operators it delivers more than 400,000 orders per year. In addition to e-commerce pickup and delivery, it offers local and regional truck brokerage and tractor trailer freight.

In December 2024, Priority Courier Experts purchased Indianapolis-based Now Courier.

All together now, Priority Courier's total annual delivery volume is more than 1 million pieces. To put that in perspective that's roughly the amount of throughput FedEx handles in about 90 minutes each day.

The acquisitions expand Priority Courier Experts density in the Midwest and give it a foothold in the South, while the purchased companies benefit from a larger network and access to more resources that can support growth. And healthcare logistics tends to command premium rates and industry customers tend to stay with service providers that can meet their demanding needs for on-time delivery and maintaining product integrity in transit.

Trident has partnered with Bluejay Capital, a transportation and logistics-focused investment firm, to provide operational oversight of Priority Express Couriers since they acquired it in August 2023.

"Inpax is exactly the kind of well-run, founder-led businesses we look for to complement the PCE platform. The company's commercial and parcel strength across the Southeast immediately broadens what PCE can offer," said Garrett Anacker, principal at Bluejay Capital, in a news release.

New York-based Trident specializes in acquiring U.S.-based small businesses across three core sectors: healthcare, consumer, and industrials. It primarily invests in successful, family-owned businesses.

"Deal activity in the regional courier sector has been light in recent years, but the highly fragmented industry and growing pressure for firms to gain competitive scale makes is ripe for consolidation," said Alberto del Pilar, managing director at Butcher Joseph & Co., a boutique investment firm, focused on advising founder, family and employee-owned businesses.

In 2025, St. Louis-based Associated Couriers became part of Life Couriers, headquartered in Munich, Germany. Life Couriers, which specializes in expedited healthcare logistics, was acquired earlier this month by New York-based private equity firm JLL Partners.

"The buyer universe for a well-run regional courier is expanding quickly, and founder-owned operators in target geographies are likely getting inbound calls right now. There just hasn't been a headline deal yet," del Pilar explained via email.