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**KEVCON, INC. MEETS THE CHALLENGE**  
*Company Makes Open MRI and Support Space Facility Viable for the VA*

**Escondido, Calif., September 16, 2011** – Kevcon, Inc., a firm that specializes in providing general contracting and construction management services for federal, state and city government projects, will soon reach completion on Phase 1 of the addition of an Open MRI and support space facility for the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle Division. When it is finished, the new 6,300-square-foot building, which is part of an ongoing remodeling and expansion effort by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the hospital, will house two high-performance MRI scanners and complementary support space, including exam rooms, a reception area, administrative offices, a library, classrooms and computer rooms. And while the structure itself is impressive, it's the 14-month building process that truly makes this project stand out for the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB).

“During this project, we have turned to the people on our team—people who really know the construction business—to help us figure out this puzzle,” says project manager Chris Young of the two-story addition. Located in a very small space between Building 1 and Building 100 of the hospital complex, the building posed a number of logistical challenges in terms of its construction, which began in September of 2010. For instance, the addition required a complex foundation featuring 40-foot piles that would accommodate Seattle’s earthquake activity while taking into account the subterranean structures located just below and adjacent to the building, as well as a high-voltage duct bank located 30 feet below ground. What’s more, the confined space required that all materials be brought down a 15-foot-wide alley with a 90-degree turn towards the building site, which offered between seven inches and 15 feet of maximum clearance. And with virtually no laydown area, all building materials had to be scheduled for “just-in-time” delivery instead of being staged onsite. “We had to get back into the location without damaging or disturbing anything, and we had to find a way to do that on schedule,” Young notes.

In addition, Kevcon had to devise a plan for moving the highly sensitive MRI machines—a new GE wide-bore (or open) MRI scanner and an existing Philips standard-bore MRI scanner—into the building upon its completion. With that undertaking in mind, the team created a 9-foot by 10-foot removable section of wall on the second floor; the scanners will be taken from their current location, placed in the building that adjoins the addition and rolled across a corridor through the open section of wall into the new building. However, the floors in that adjoining building will need to be reinforced to handle temporary extra weight when the heavy scanners are moved, particularly when one of the machines is connected to a crane and lowered through a hole in the roof—a process that is still being discussed and planned.

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As the project began to move forward in late 2010, the challenges the Kevcon team faced extended beyond the logistical problems associated with the site. Unexpected budgetary constraints brought a series of additional complications and required creative thinking to make the project a viable one for the VA. “This project showed our willingness to go the extra mile for our client,” explains project superintendent Dave Scott. From removing certain design elements in the original plan to identifying a host of potential cost-cutting efforts, such as leaving the first floor partially unfinished while completing the vital MRI rooms, Kevcon worked closely with the VA to ensure a successful outcome for the addition. “We had to be partners in this to make it work,” Scott says.

Kevcon expects to complete Phase 1 of the project in November of 2011. Despite the challenges, the Kevcon team looks forward to finishing the job with zero injuries and no lost time due to accidents, as well as within the budget that eventually was established for the project.

**About Kevcon, Inc.**

Founded in 1988, Kevcon, Inc. is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business that offers construction and engineering, construction management, design-build services and more for a wide array of federal, state and city government projects, including veterans’ medical facilities, national veterans’ cemeteries, community parks and education buildings. As a veteran-owned, controlled and operated company, the firm is dedicated to employing qualified veterans who possess the applicable education, experience and skill to support Kevcon’s core competency. The recipient of the 2011 San Diego District Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Kevcon is recognized in the industry for its exemplary work, high ethical and safety standards and outstanding customer service. For more information, call (760) 432-0307 or visit [www.kevcon.us](http://www.kevcon.us).

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