



NZX and Media Release

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Interim Decision Received by South Port Relating to NZAS Arbitration

An Interim Award has been received by Bluff port operator South Port NZ Ltd (South Port) in relation to the Arbitration recently undertaken with its largest customer by volume, New Zealand Aluminium Smelters (NZAS).

Shareholders and the market have previously been made aware that in April 2008 NZAS renewed the licence agreement covering the Tiwai Wharf and associated port infrastructure for a further 35 year term. However the parties had been unable to reach agreement on an appropriate charge for the ongoing provision of this infrastructure and subsequently reverted to a commercial Arbitration process.

The Arbitrator has made an interim decision which will be the basis of further discussion between the parties and failing agreement a final determination will be sought from the Arbitrator. The interim decision points to an increase in the annual charge payable to South Port but the final contract position is yet to be determined. It is not possible at this stage to say with accuracy what impact the Arbitrator's decision will have on future profitability.

South Port Chairman, John Harrington, said "The Interim Award proposes a charging structure payable by NZAS over the 35 year renewal term of the contract. South Port and NZAS are now working together to finalise the proposed new charges, which will provide commercial certainty for the parties".

This communication is provided under the NZX continuous disclosure obligations.

For further information, please contact:

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