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3 September 2009

Company Announcements Office
Australian Securities Exchange Limited
Level 4
20 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**RE: THIESS WELCOMES GREEN LIGHT TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF
VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT**

Please find attached a copy of a media release to be issued today by Thiess Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Leighton Holdings Limited.

Yours faithfully,

A. J. MOIR
Company Secretary



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3 September 2009

THIESS WELCOMES GREEN LIGHT TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT

Thiess today welcomed financial close with the Victorian Government on the contract for Australia's largest desalination project. The milestone signals a green light on construction of the world class project.

The AquaSure consortium was selected as the preferred bidder for the \$3.5 billion project in July. The consortium consists of Thiess, Suez Environnement, Degrémont and Macquarie Capital.

Thiess is a majority partner in a joint venture with Degrémont that will design and construct the project by the end of 2011.

Thiess Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Thiess, will operate and maintain the facility in a joint venture with Degrémont after commissioning, for the balance of the 30 year contract term.

Thiess Managing Director David Saxelby said that at a time when water is so scarce, Thiess and its partners would deliver this plant with the certainty that the government and people of Victoria could rely on – certainty of on-time delivery, careful environmental management and a commitment to community engagement.

Thiess and its joint venture partners have assembled a world class team for the project and are actively recruiting to fill the estimated 1700 direct jobs required during construction.

The biggest infrastructure project ever in Victoria and one of the world's largest PPPs, the Victorian Desalination Project is expected to provide the single largest boost to Melbourne's water supply since Thiess was involved with the construction of the Thomson Dam in that state 25 years ago.

Over the past 75 years, Thiess has completed more than 80 major dams and has been involved in the provision of critical water infrastructure across Australia. Thiess Services already has extensive and long term contracts for the provision of water utilities in Victoria, Western Australia and New Zealand.

ENDS

For further information contact Michael Lyons, External Relations Manager on 07 3002 9374, or email mlyons@thiess.com.au

For the past 75 years Thiess has been helping to build our nation. The Snowy Mountains Scheme, Sydney Harbour Tunnel, Melbourne's \$2.5 billion EastLink project and Brisbane's Airport Link are just a few iconic projects to bear the Thiess brand. A commitment to delivering great outcomes for clients has allowed the company to expand internationally and become one of Australia's leading and most trusted Contract mining, construction and services companies. For further information about Thiess, please visit www.thiess.com.au