

10 December 2009

Leighton signs partnership with Message Stick Communications

Leighton Holdings today signed its first contract under the Australian Indigenous Minority Supplier Council (AIMSC) with Message Stick Communications to use the company's telecommunications services.

The event today was marked by the signing ceremony in the office of the Minister for Employment Participation, Senator the Hon Mark Arbib.

"The Leighton Group is committed to creating jobs for Indigenous people, both directly with our companies and indirectly through supply contracts such as the one we have signed today with Message Stick," Leighton Holdings CEO Wal King said.

"This year we adopted an Indigenous Participation Policy to improve our employment and workplace practices for Indigenous people. We have committed to creating 1,000 jobs under the Australian Employment Covenant. This is a long term goal and a complex task, but we proud to have already reached 10% of this target.

"We work all over Australia in remote and regional areas together with Indigenous communities. This puts us in a unique position to offer jobs to Indigenous job seekers in a variety of markets," Mr King said.

Leighton Holdings is a proud founding member of AIMSC, a three year pilot to build upon Indigenous enterprises by incorporating their services into the supply chain of Australian companies and government.

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LEIGHTON HOLDINGS LIMITED, founded in Australia in 1949, is the parent company of one of the world's major project development and contracting organisations. We are also the world's largest contract miner. Listed on the Australian Stock Exchange since 1962, Leighton Holdings is a top 25 company by market capitalisation and has its head office in Sydney, Australia. Leighton Holdings owns six diverse and independent operating companies: Leighton Contractors, Thiess, Leighton International, John Holland, Leighton Asia and Leighton Properties. These operating companies provide development, construction, contract mining, and operation and maintenance services to the infrastructure, resources and property markets. They operate in more than 20 countries throughout Australia, Asia and the Middle East from

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headquarters in Australia, Hong Kong and Dubai. These operating companies directly employ around 40,000 employees and each function autonomously with their own Board and Managing Director.

In the 2008/09 year, Leighton Holdings had revenue of A\$18.3bn, earned a profit after tax of A\$440m and reported an average return on shareholders funds of 23%. As at 30 September 2009, the company had total assets of A\$7.5bn and net assets of A\$2.2bn. The company's financial strength is recognised by ratings agencies Moody's Investors Service, which currently assigns an issuer rating of Baa1 and Standard & Poors, which rates the company BBB.