

QUICKSTEP'S FLATOUT BOAT EPISODE WINNER ON ABC "NEW INVENTORS" SHOW

- "FlatOut Boats" design featured on ABC-TV's "New Inventors" Program on Wednesday, 9 August and unanimously voted the winner by a panel of judges.
- Manufacturing of "FlatOut Boats" targeted to commence October 2006 at new Quickstep premises near Fremantle, WA.

Advanced materials group Quickstep Holdings Limited (ASX: QHL – "Quickstep") has received a major boost for its new "FlatOut Boats" business ahead of the scheduled commencement of commercial production in October 2006 after the unique folding boat technology was featured on ABC-TV's "New Inventors" Program last night (Wednesday 9 August) and unanimously voted the episode winner by a panel of expert judges.

Quickstep's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Nick Noble, said he expected that the high-profile "New Inventors" Program - which attracts an average audience of some 1.35 million viewers per week - would generate further strong interest in FlatOut Boats in addition to the backlog of enquiries already received to date.

"We are planning to commence production of FlatOut Boats from our new facilities in October, and this success on New Inventors will assist in showcasing the boat's unique design and features to potential consumers," Mr Noble said.

Mr Noble said the commencement of commercial production for the Flatout Boats business represented an important step forward for the utilisation of the fluid-based Quickstep Process in producing low-cost composite parts for niche markets.

"FlatOut Boats represents an important step in Quickstep's strategy to enter market places with shorter lead times to revenue while the Company and its partners meet the requirements necessary to enter the larger long term Aerospace market"he said. "This business also represents a strong platform for Quickstep to demonstrate its advantages in thermoplastic flat panel production to potential Australian and international clients."

Acquired by Quickstep in April 2006, the FlatOut Boats business is believed to be the first rigid folding boat available in the global market. The boat incorporates a unique patented geometry which enables the front to bend upward to form the shape of a conventional bow as it is being opened from a flat position. Quickstep plans to commence commercial manufacturing for FlatOut Boats at new premises located near Fremantle, Western Australia, in October 2006.

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Released by:
Nicholas Read / Kate Bell
Jan Hope & Partners
Telephone: (+61-8) 9388 1474

On behalf of:
Mr Nick Noble
Managing Director
Quickstep Holdings Ltd
Telephone: (+61-8) 9456 2656
Mobile/Cell: (+61-412) 447 117

For further information, please refer to:
www.FlatOutBoats.com.au
www.quickstep.com.au

Note: High-resolution colour pictures are available on request from Jan Hope & Partners.

Background on Quickstep Holdings Limited (www.quickstep.com.au)

Perth-based **Quickstep Holdings Limited** (ASX Code: **QHL**) is an advanced materials company which listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in 2005 following a successful A\$6 million IPO to underpin the worldwide commercialisation of an innovative, fully proven Australian composites manufacturing technology with application in the multi-billion dollar aerospace and automotive industries as well as other mid-tier market segments.

Composites combine high strength with light weight and are key materials in aerospace, automotive, marine, defence, public transport and industrial applications. The global composites parts market is growing strongly, reflecting a shift towards the greater use of composites as an increasingly desirable replacement for metals in many applications because of their high strength and reduced weight.

Quickstep's unique and patented Quickstep Process is an innovative fluid-based curing technology that significantly reduces the cost and time involved in the production of composites compared with conventional processes. Quickstep has been at the leading edge of the growing need to reduce part costs since the early 1990s, with a significant investment in the development of the Quickstep Process over the past decade.

Quickstep already has fully automated Quickstep pilot production facilities operating at three separate locations in Japan, a second at the Victorian Centre for Advanced Materials Manufacturing (VCAMM) in Geelong, and a third at the Northern Aerospace Technology Exploitation Centre (NATEC) in Manchester, England in conjunction with the University of Manchester.

Global alliances are also in place with major international advanced materials suppliers such as Toray Composites (in the USA and Japan) and German-based industrial chemicals and performance materials giant Degussa AG, alongside R&D and Applications Development Agreements with groups such as VCAMM.

Quickstep's business model is to generate multiple revenue streams from equipment and licence sales to major aerospace, automotive and marine manufacturers; joint venture arrangements and co-branding and co-marketing agreements with leading composites manufacturers, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM's), Tier One suppliers and alliance partners; and contract and in-house manufacturing operations and sales utilising the Quickstep Process.

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