



152 Vulcan Road  
Canning Vale, Western Australia, 6155  
Phone: +61 8 9456 2656  
Facsimile: +61 8 9456 2657  
Email: info@quickstep.com.au  
Internet: www.quickstep.com.au

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## QUICKSTEP SECURES NEW PREMISES TO FACILITATE LONG-TERM GROWTH

Advanced material group Quickstep Holdings Limited (**ASX: QHL**) is pleased to advise that it has secured new premises, located at North Coogee in Western Australia, to become its new Australian headquarters and principal manufacturing base.

Quickstep has elected to move from its existing Canning Vale premises in Perth to obtain a larger site that can accommodate the Company's ongoing expansion as it advances the commercialisation of its patented composites manufacturing technology. It is expected that, given the size of the site – which includes a significant amount of vacant land - the new premises will be able to accommodate the Company's Perth-based operational activities for many years to come.

The new premises – which include 2,000m<sup>2</sup> of factory space, 500m<sup>2</sup> of office space and a total land area of 17,000m<sup>2</sup> – will house the Company's relocated headquarters, its Research & Development section, as well as a manufacturing facility, with a new Quickstep QS20TP production machine to be located on-site. Production for the Company's recently acquired "Flatout Boats" business will be conducted at the new premises, as well as other manufacturing, testing and production activities utilising the Quickstep Process.

It is expected that any future large-scale manufacturing ventures in Western Australia will be housed at separate facilities.

The new site, located on Cockburn Road just south of Fremantle, has been secured with a five-year lease with an option to renew for an additional five years. Quickstep intends to move into the new premises during August 2006, and will hold a shareholder launch in October to coincide with the Company's Annual General Meeting.

The new premises is part of Quickstep's growing global network, which already includes demonstration sites and international Centres of Excellence in the United Kingdom, the United States, India and Australia.

### **Background on Quickstep Holdings Limited**

**Quickstep Holdings Limited** (ASX Code: **QHL**) is an international advanced materials company which is pursuing the global commercialisation of an innovative, fully proven 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 has pilot production machines and international showcase centres currently operational in Perth, Western Australia; Geelong, Victoria; Manchester in the United Kingdom; and soon to be operational at Dayton, Ohio in the United States. This global network of showcase sites, operating in partnership with leading international composites organisation, provides comprehensive coverage of most of Quickstep's key target markets.

Global alliances are also in place with major international advanced materials suppliers, alongside R&D and Cooperation Agreements with groups such as the National Composite Center in the United States, VCAMM, the University of Manchester and the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.

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