



ASX/MEDIA RELEASE OF 15 MARCH 2006 – ASX CODE QHL

**QUICKSTEP ADVANCES ENTRY INTO
GLOBAL AEROSPACE MARKET**

- **BAE SYSTEMS LTD (BAE) CONFIRMS QUICKSTEP COUPON TESTING STARTED**
- **MANCHESTER PLANT DELIVERS FIRST BATCHES OF TEST COUPONS FROM QS5 PLANT**
- **TESTS TO CONFIRM “ACCEPTABLE AND REPEATABLE QUALITY” FOR AEROSPACE USE**
- **TEST RESULTS DUE OUT MAY 2006**
- **RESULTS AN IMPORTANT PART IN AEROSPACE CERTIFICATION FOR THE QUICKSTEP PROCESS**

Composites technology developer, **Quickstep Holdings Limited (ASX: QHL, Quickstep)** is pleased to announce that BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd (BAE) has confirmed that the testing of coupons made using the Quickstep Process has started.

BAE has requested the production and testing of coupons that represent simplified versions of actual parts required in specific aircraft applications.

The parts have been manufactured on the QS5 plant based in the University of Manchester’s (“UOM”) UK facility.

It is expected that the results will confirm an acceptable quality has been consistently attained using the Quickstep Process in a production mode. The results from this testing are expected to be available by the end of May 2006.

Quickstep CEO Mr Nick Noble said, “Successful test results will take Quickstep a significant step closer to receiving BAE’s process approval. Once Quickstep’s process repeatability within a material batch has been confirmed, the next step is actual demonstration aircraft components.”

“Gaining aerospace process certification is an onerous procedure however the prize is large with potentially highly profitable returns and very long contract life cycles. This combined with the huge shift towards the use of composites in commercial aircraft endorses QHL’s view that aerospace is one of the key industries for the Quickstep solution”, he said.

Mr Noble also noted that the recent £80 million acquisition of BAE’s Aerostructures business by US-based Spirit AeroSystems is expected to enhance the potential value to Quickstep. Spirit’s purchase is expected to be completed by the end of June 2006.

“We are delighted to be a part of this union which creates a major trans-atlantic aeronautical design and manufacturing company, with a significantly expanded customer base that includes Boeing, Airbus and Raytheon – some of the biggest and most progressive names in aviation industry,” Mr Noble said.

Chris Wilkinson, Director of Capability and Engineering Development for BAE added “This test work is an opportunity for us to define Quickstep as an alternative, lower cost solution for aircraft construction.”

To date BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd and the University of Manchester have between them contributed total cash and in-kind support of nearly A\$1 million to demonstrating the Quickstep Process.

For more information on the companies specified in the above release see below.

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About Quickstep Holdings Limited:

Quickstep Holdings (ASX: QHL) is a newly ASX-listed company, established to fully commercialise a proven new composites manufacturing technology. Conceived and designed by two West Australian commercial inventors, the revolutionary new fluid-based technology allows an enhanced quality composite component to be produced faster and cheaper than using contemporary composite manufacturing techniques. With strong patents in place to protect this revolutionary new technology, Quickstep already has significant interest as well as a revenue stream from equipment and licence sales entered into by a major automotive manufacturer and a major aerospace manufacturer. The Company intends to develop multiple income streams by licensing its technology to major aerospace, automotive and marine manufacturers, enter into joint venture arrangements with strategic alliance partners and commence contract manufacturing operations.

About BAE Systems Aerostructures:

BAE Systems Aerostructures employs over 800 people in the United Kingdom, and has a history dating back to the first large-scale airplane production in Scotland in the 1930s. BAE Systems Aerostructures had revenue of approximately \$US367 million in 2005, more than 80% of which related to Airbus.

About Spirit AeroSystems:

Spirit AeroSystems was formerly a division of The Boeing Company, with a relationship to that group dating back to 1929. Since June 2005, Spirit has been controlled by the Toronto

Stock Exchange listed, Onex Corporation. Onex which now holds almost 100% of Spirit, has turnover of \$C17 billion, assets of \$C15 billion, and some 138,000 employees.

With more than 9,000 employees, Spirit is the world's largest Tier I aerostructures manufacturer. It continues its work on designing and building a part of every Boeing commercial aircraft currently in production, except the 717. This year it commences construction of the forward barrel section (including flight deck and systems installation) of the fuselage for the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner, which is made entirely of the most advanced composite materials. Spirit also designs and builds aircraft production tooling, has composite capabilities, and provides spares and aftermarket support to airlines. (Go to www.spiritaero.com and www.onex.com)

About Composites:

Composites are made by the combination of two or more materials such as fibres and resins, which when combined have properties superior to the constituent materials alone. The most common composites components produced are made from carbon fibre, glass fibre or Kevlar. Due to numerous performance and environmental advantages, the composites market is growing rapidly as they replace metals in many new and existing applications. Composites are now key materials in the multi-billion dollar aerospace, automotive, marine, defence, public transport and industrial markets. As composite quality improves and becomes more price competitive the applications are growing. Quickstep, with its revolutionary new technology, expects to be a key player in this development.