



ASX/MEDIA RELEASE

WHSP FORECASTS SOLID RETURNS IN 2010

Friday, 4 December 2009: Diversified investment company, Washington H. Soul Pattinson and Company Limited (WHSP, ASX: SOL) today announced at its 107th Annual General Meeting that seven of the eight listed companies in which it has a substantial investment provided higher contributions to profit in the first quarter ended 31 October 2009.

The market capitalisation of WHSP as at 30 November 2009 increased to \$3.25 billion, up from \$2.04 billion at the same time last year.

The market value of WHSP's portfolio as at 30 November 2009, including controlled and associated entities, was \$4 billion, which was on par with year end. The market value excluding controlled and associated entities was \$478 million, showing an increase of 21% on year end.

Last month WHSP also received a special dividend of \$361 million from its investment in New Hope Corporation Limited (New Hope).

Investment highlights include:

- New Hope's (60% held*) unaudited profit after tax is up 9.4% to \$58.9 million for the first quarter ended 31 October 2009 driven by increased coal sales to Japan and China;
- Australian Pharmaceutical Industries Limited's (24.6% held*) net profit after tax (NPAT) for the full year ending 31 August 2009 was \$19 million, up 22.3% on last year. API expects net profit after tax to grow by approximately 10% in FY 2010, excluding the impact of its recent equity raising;
- Brickworks Limited's (44.6% held*) first quarter unaudited earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) to 31 October 2009 is up 25% to \$11.3 million due to higher average selling prices and lower unit manufacturing costs;
- Clover Corporation Limited's (28.6% held*) unaudited NPAT for the four months to 31 October 2009 increased in excess of 40%;
- Ruralco Holdings Limited's (23.5% held*) 30 September 2009 year end recorded an NPAT that was down 47% to \$8.5 million with indicators suggesting an improvement in trading conditions overall; and
- TPG Telecom Limited's (28.3% held*, formerly SP Telemedia) released upgraded guidance for the 2010 financial year of EBITDA of \$140-\$150 million, EBIT of \$78-\$86 million and NPAT of \$52-\$57 million.

Outlook

Mr Rob Millner, Chairman of WHSP said: "We remain in a very strong financial position and in the financial year to date, we have already seen a significant increase in revenue in the majority of investments in our portfolio.

"WHSP has a strong balance sheet with no external borrowings from financial institutions.

“The company will have cash reserves of over \$350 million, after the payment of the final and special dividends, and is well positioned to pursue new investment opportunities, when they become available,” he added.

* Percentage of the issued capital of the company held by WHSP as at 30 November 2009

About Washington H. Soul Pattinson & Company Limited

Washington H. Soul Pattinson & Company (WHSP) is Australia’s second oldest listed company. Beginning as a chemist shop in Pitt Street in 1872, the company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange 30 years later. Over the 107 years since listing, WHSP has paid a dividend every year, including throughout the depression of the 1930s. Today WHSP is a diversified investor in basic commodities such as building products, coal, equities, telecommunications, financial services and pharmaceuticals.

WASHINGTON H. SOUL PATTINSON AND COMPANY LIMITED (ASX CODE: SOL) www.whsp.com.au

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