

23 February 2005

ASX Online
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
20 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Release by eLodge

Presentation : Half Year Results – February 2005

The Company wishes to release to the market the following presentation that will be made today.

Yours sincerely



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Managing Director
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National Hire Group Limited

Half Year Results 2005

Stephen Donnelley
Managing Director



Highlights

- **Acquisition of the Cat Rental Store business in WA and Allight**
- **Integration proceeding smoothly**
- **Institutional placement raising \$40 million before costs**
- **Total revenue \$29.6 million (1H04 \$16.2 million)**
- **Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) \$5.3 million (1H04 \$3.1 million)**
- **Pre tax profit \$1.5 million (1H04 \$0.6 million)**
- **Tax consolidation provides for income tax benefit of \$1,263,000**

Half Year 2005 Results

Half Year Ended 31 December 2004 (\$'000)	2004	2003	% Change
Total revenue	29,594	16,174	83.0%
EBITDA	5,324	3,130	41.0%
Depreciation	(3,454)	(1,772)	(94.9%)
Operating profit before interest, tax, goodwill/brand name amortisation	1,870	1,358	37.7%
Interest (Net)	(60)	(611)	90.2%
Amortisation goodwill/brands	(293)	(157)	(86.6%)
Profit before tax	1,517	590	157.1%
Tax benefit (expense)	644	(231)	
Net profit after tax	2,161	359	501.9%

Half Year 2005 Results

Half Year Ended 31 December 2004 (cont'd) (\$'000)	2004	2003	% Change
EBIT	1,577	1,201	31.3%
Profit before tax goodwill/brand name amortisation and significant items	1,810	747	142.2%
Profit after tax before goodwill and brand names amortisation	2,453	516	375.4%
Basic earnings per share (cents)	1.01	0.79	27.8%
Net tangible asset backing (cents)	27	21	28.6%

National Hire Today

Market Capitalisation	Approx. \$250 million
Shares on issue	593.8 million
Major shareholder	WesTrac – 57%

The National Platform

- National Hire has become the second largest equipment hire company in Australia with a national footprint and international opportunities



National Hire

The Cat Rental Store

- **Tools & Equipment**
- **Elevating Work Platforms**
- **Portable Toilets and Site Accommodation**
- **Pumps & De-watering**
- **Lighting Towers**
- **Power Generation**
- **Rental Sales**
- **Repairs & Maintenance**



Allight Manufacturing & Distribution (Capital Sales)

- **Mobile Lighting Towers**
- **Mobile Message Boards**
- **F G Wilson Power Generation**
- **De watering Pumps**
- **Perkins Engines**

Acquisitions

- **Acquisition of The Cat Rental Store business in WA and Allight Holdings**
 - **completed on 10 December 2004**
 - **combined equity consideration of \$122.4 million**
 - **plus \$6.1 million of cash for completion adjustments (CRS acquisition)**
- **The Cat Rental Store business - equipment rental business operating from eight locations in WA and focused primarily on the hire of small to mid- sized Cat branded CCE and BCP construction products.**
- **Allight Holdings - Specialising in the hire and sale of lighting equipment, power generation equipment and de-watering pumps with fourteen Australian branches, two Australian depots and a wholly owned Indonesian subsidiary.**

Key Benefits from The Major Acquisitions

- **Cross selling opportunities - Access to CRS WA and Allight existing customer bases.**
- **Vertical integration as an OEM provides a competitive advantage through:**
 - the timely sourcing of new equipment
 - the development of improved products
- **National Hire becomes a national supplier with a stronger brand name**
- **Increased distribution capability allows for improved customer service.**
- **Effectively penetrate national customers and increased credibility as a tenderer.**

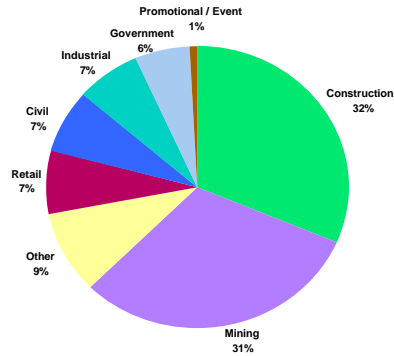
Integration

- **The Cat Rental Store WA integrated 11 Dec 2004**
- **Allight Rental Business (under NHR banner) will be integrated in the period to 30 June 2005**
- **Allight Manufacturing and Distribution, including Capital Sales, will remain stand-alone and continue to trade as Allight both internationally and domestically**

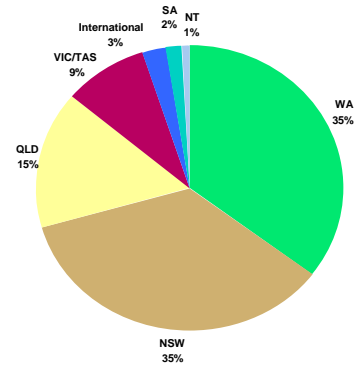
Customer Industry Sectors

The following charts illustrate the revenue split of the Combined Group for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2004.

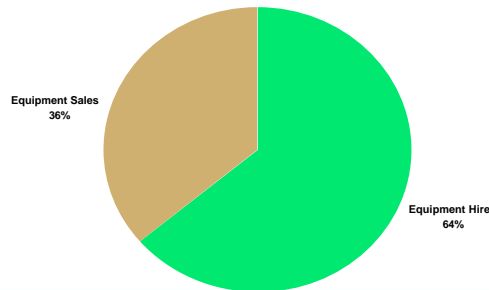
COMBINED GROUP FY04 REVENUE BY MARKET SEGMENT⁽¹⁾



COMBINED GROUP FY04 REVENUE BY REGION



COMBINED GROUP FY04 REVENUE BY OPERATIONS



Trading Conditions

Revenue derived from:

- **Western Australia is proving to be particularly strong due to the construction and mining sectors in that state**
- **Queensland is experiencing robust economic conditions and strong building and construction activity**
- **New South Wales and Victoria are showing signs of peaking particularly in the residential building market**

Outlook

- **Confirm full year profit before tax forecasts as per Explanatory Statement of 2 November 2004.**
- **Seeing benefits of increased scale and national presence**
- **Integration proceeding smoothly**
- **Further growth by acquisitions and new site locations**
- **Well placed to deliver national spread and coverage to industry and geographical opportunities**
- **Leverage off WesTrac and Caterpillar**

Summary

- **Completed major acquisitions of the Cat Rental Store business in WA and Allight**
- **Integration proceeding smoothly**
- **Institutional placement raising \$40 million before costs**
- **Total revenue \$29.6 million (1H04 \$16.2 million)**
- **Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) \$5.3 million (1H04 \$3.1 million)**
- **1H result reflected only three week contribution from major acquisitions**
- **On track to meet profit before tax forecasts as per Explanatory Statement of 2 November 2004.**