

23 March 2005

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

Release by eLodge

Please find attached information concerning National Hire's expansion into the Newcastle and Hunter Valley regions.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Donnelley  
Managing Director  
0418 266 844

**23 March 2005**

National Hire Group Limited (ASX Code:NHR)

**NATIONAL HIRE EXPANDS INTO THE NEWCASTLE AND HUNTER VALLEY REGIONS**

National Hire Group Limited ("National Hire") has continued its expansion program through an agreement to acquire the tools and equipment hire business of Beavis Hire Services Pty Limited ("Beavis Hire"). The acquisition is due to be completed on 31 March 2005.

Beavis Hire operates in the Newcastle and Lower Hunter Valley regions from three branches. This acquisition provides National Hire with an enhanced exposure to the New South Wales North Coast and the Upper Hunter Valley. Revenue from the acquisition in the first full year of operation is forecast to be approximately \$4.3 million.

From these new locations National Hire intends to provide a more comprehensive range of hire equipment, including Caterpillar CCE and BCP product, lighting towers and generators, portable toilets and site shed accommodation, de-watering equipment and elevated work platforms in addition to the more traditional tools and equipment.

Stephen Donnelley, Managing Director of National Hire, said "This acquisition contributes to our objective to grow and develop National Hire The Cat Rental Store brand. It enables the Company to service existing customers in the expanded region and to build a new customer base with the broader product range."

The acquisition and capital expenditure program will be funded through existing cash resources.

The Beavis Party and Event Hire business is not included in the acquisition and will continue to operate independently.

**For further information please contact:****Stephen Donnelley – Managing Director  
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