



Fortescue Metals Group Ltd

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Media Release

FIRST FORTESCUE ABORIGINAL GRADUATES START FULL TIME WORK

Perth: 25 July 2007: The first 20 Aboriginal graduates from Fortescue Metals Group Ltd's (ASX: FMG; "Fortescue") Vocational Training and Employment Centre ("VTEC") today commenced full time employment working on the Company's massive rail construction project.

Celebrating their achievement at an inaugural graduation ceremony in Port Hedland today, Fortescue's CEO Andrew Forrest said each graduate deserved enormous praise for their commitment and desire to achieve full time work.

VTEC has been an initiative of Fortescue, with the support of a number of key project construction groups including Laing O'Rourke, which has employed the graduates. Fortescue has also worked very closely with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, which has funded the training.

As a training facility, VTEC provides Aboriginal people a supportive and flexible learning environment to develop long term careers in mining construction and operations.

Recognising that some of the graduates were formerly long term unemployed, Mr Forrest said VTEC's major success was developing a program which recognised cultural values and appealed to the aspirations and capabilities of local Aboriginal people.

"These talented people just need a chance to develop skills and seize opportunities in the mining industry," Mr Forrest said.

"When construction is over, these graduates will have the chance to work anywhere in the mining industry. The promise of VTEC is that it will provide full time work for all graduates."

The first 20 graduates came from a pool of 80 applicants in February this year. The next course will commence immediately.

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For further information, please contact:

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The New Force in Iron Ore

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About Fortescue Metals Group Ltd:

Fortescue Metals Group Ltd is the New Force in Iron Ore, with over 2.4 billion tonnes of resources, including 1.1 billion tonnes of reserves, already delineated from less than 10% of its 38,000 square kilometres of tenements, the largest holding in the Pilbara.

The company has been developing The Pilbara Iron Ore and Infrastructure Project since mid-2003. Construction on the port, rail and mine project commenced in 2006 and is powering along with over 2,000 people involved across the various project fronts.

Mining is set to commence in late 2007 at Fortescue's Cloud Break deposit and will extend across to the Christmas Creek deposit after a few years of mining. The collective mine life of these deposits is estimated at over 20 years. The first shipment of iron ore is planned to commence from Port Hedland in mid May 2008.

The company has off-take commitments for its entire initial production target of 45 million tonnes of iron ore per annum and has accumulated commitments for additional expansion tonnages of a further 50 million tonnes per annum.

Fortescue recently raised A\$504 million in an equity placement to Australian and International institutions which has further supplemented its earlier capital raising in August 2006 when the Company raised A\$3.27 billion through a combination of debt and equity.

Fortescue is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange under the code FMG and is included in the S&P/ASX 200 and MSCI Asia-Pacific indices.

For more information on Fortescue, visit www.fmgl.com.au.

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