

To: The Manager
Announcements
Company Announcements Office
Australian Stock Exchange



Public Announcement 2003 – 28AWC

Please find attached an announcement relating to the acquisition by Alumina Limited of QBE's 0.75% shareholding in Alcoa of Australia Limited.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Foster".

Stephen Foster
Company Secretary

15 December 2003

Alumina Limited

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▶ 15 December 2003

For Immediate Release

Alumina Limited today announced that it has agreed to acquire the 0.75% shareholding in Alcoa of Australia currently held by the QBE Insurance Group.

Under the agreement, Alumina will issue 18,372,881 ordinary shares to QBE, representing approximately 1.6% of the expanded capital of the company. These shares will rank pari passu with existing ordinary shares of Alumina. The Company will apply shortly to ASX for quotation of these shares.

Alcoa of Australia owns and operates bauxite mining, alumina refining and aluminium smelting facilities based in Australia. These include the Pinjarra, Wagerup and Kwinana refineries in Western Australia and the Portland and Point Henry smelters in Victoria, which are amongst the lowest cost in the world.

In 2002, Alcoa of Australia's operations produced 7.8 million tonnes of alumina and 370,000 tonnes of aluminium.

Mr John Marlay, Chief Executive Officer of Alumina Limited said:

"We are pleased to acquire this further interest in Alcoa of Australia which will increase Alumina's participation in AWAC, the world's leading alumina producer. It will also increase Alumina's exposure to further growth in these Australian operations."

"The acquisition also results in a simplified ownership structure of all of the assets subject to the AWAC joint venture, which will now be uniformly held on a 40% by Alumina Limited: 60% by Alcoa Inc basis."

The transaction is expected to be completed by not later than 16 December 2003.

For further information:

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