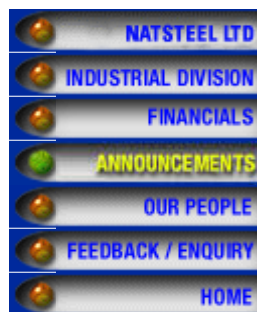




# ANNOUNCEMENTS

12 Aug 2005



## PRESS RELEASE- STRAITS TIMES ARTICLE ON NATSTEEL ON 8 AUGUST 2005

The Company wishes to set the record straight on the article entitled "Oei Hong Leong to query NATSTEEL on name change bid" published at page H17 of The Straits Times. The Board and Management of the company believe that the issue has to be viewed in a wider context of selling its core business.

- The proposal to sell the company's core steel business was approved by its shareholders at an EGM held on 15 December 2004. (This sale included the brand name of the business "NatSteel") 98% of shareholders present and voting at that EGM approved the transaction.
  - The buyer, Tata Steel intends to use "NatSteel" as their foreign brand name for their steel products. Given that the company is no longer in the steel business, the company would not need to retain the word "Steel" in its name.
  - The Company is contractually obliged to use its best efforts to change its corporate name, so that there will not be any confusion between the Company's name and Tata's steel products. Best efforts is defined as to hold 2 EGMs a year after May 2006.
  - The Company had disclosed earlier on several occasions its obligation to use best efforts to change the corporate name of the Company. This is clearly set out in :
    - (i) our SGXNET announcement of 16 August 2004;
    - (ii) clause 2.2.1 of the Business Transfer Agreement ("BTA");
    - (iii) clauses 10.1 and 10.2 of the Share Subscription Agreement ("SSA");
    - (iv) paragraphs 2.2 and 4 of shareholders circular dated 25 November 2004;
 and  
 paragraph 2.1 of shareholders circulars dated 31 March 2005 as well as 14 July 2005.
- Please refer to the Appendix for full details.
- Both BTA and SSA with regards to the sale were available for inspection by any shareholder at the Company's premises from 25 November 2004 (date of circular seeking shareholders' approval on the proposed sale of the steel business to Tata Steel) to 15 December 2004 (date of extraordinary general meeting) to enable shareholders to make an informed decision relating to the sale of the steel business.
  - It would have been inappropriate for the Board to pre-judge the outcome of the first extraordinary general meeting held on 28 April 2005, by stating specifically the next steps to be taken in the event the meeting did not approve the proposed change of name. Since the requisite shareholders' approval was not obtained at the earlier meeting of 28 April 2005, the Company was obliged to call for a second meeting and the Board decided it was useful to issue an announcement on 14 July 2005 explaining why there was a need to hold another extraordinary general meeting on 12 August 2005 to seek shareholders' approval again.

By Order of the Board

Lim Su-Ling  
Company Secretary  
12 August 2005

#### APPENDIX

Business Transfer Agreement (BTA) dated 16 August 2004 signed amongst NatSteel Asia Pte. Ltd. ("NSA") and NatSteel Asia (S) Pte. Ltd. ("NSA(S)")

Clause 2.2.1:

Subject to Clause 2.3, the following shall be transferred under this Agreement to NSA(S):

- (i) .....
- (ii) .....
- (iii) .....
- (iv) .....
- (v) .....
- (vi) .....
- (vii) the Transferor's Intellectual Property;

Share Subscription Agreement ("SSA") dated 16 August 2004 amongst NSA and The Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited ("Tata")

#### Clause 10 CHANGE OF NAME

10.1 The parties agree that the name "NATSTEEL" shall be included in the NATSTEEL Intellectual Property and shall be transferred to NEWCO on Closing. On Closing, (a) NATSTEEL shall procure that its Affiliates (other than NEWCO and the Subsidiary Companies) shall change their names so as not to include the name "NATSTEEL" and (b) subject to Clause 10.2, NEWCO shall grant a licence to NATSTEEL for the use of the name "NATSTEEL" as its corporate name.

10.2 Following Closing, NATSTEEL agrees that it shall:

- (a) not use the name "NATSTEEL" for trading purposes;
- (b) use its best efforts to procure, as soon as reasonably practicable, all necessary approvals for a change of its corporate name to a name which shall not include the name "NATSTEEL", and
- (c) change the font and display of the name "NATSTEEL".

NATSTEEL's public announcement (SGXNET) dated 16 August 2004

#### Paragraph 2.2

The Restructuring will also involve the transfer of all the Company's intellectual property related to its steel businesses to NatSteel Asia, including the "NatSteel" brand name.

#### Paragraph 2.7

The Company will, on Completion, cause its non-steel subsidiaries with the word "NatSteel" in their names to change their names to remove any reference to the name "NatSteel". Following Completion, the Company will, as soon as reasonably practicable, use its best efforts to change its corporate name to a name which shall not include "NatSteel".

Shareholders' Circular dated 25 November 2004

#### Paragraph 2.2

The Restructuring will also involve the transfer of all the Company's intellectual property related to its steel businesses to NatSteel Asia, including the "NatSteel" brand name.

#### Paragraph 4

The Company will, on Completion, cause its non-steel subsidiaries, with the approval of the shareholders of these non-steel subsidiaries, to change their names to remove any reference to the name "NatSteel". Following Completion, the Company will, as soon as reasonably practicable, use its best efforts to change its corporate name to a name which shall not include "NatSteel".

Shareholders circulars dated 31 March 2005 and 14 July 2005

#### Paragraph 2.1

Concurrent with the Subscription, the Company transferred its regional and Singapore steel businesses to NatSteel Asia and NatSteel Asia Singapore, as well as all intellectual property related to its steel businesses, including the NatSteel brand name.

As a result of the Transaction, Tata Steel, through NatSteel Asia, has acquired the NatSteel brand name.

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