

JAMES HALSTEAD PLC
(the 'Group')

Chairman's Statement to the Annual General Meeting

James Halstead plc, the commercial flooring company, is holding its 108th AGM today at 12.00 noon at which the Chairman, Mr Anthony Wild, will make the following statement:

"Firstly, let me welcome you all to our AGM. Customarily, I give a short update on trading for the first few months of our financial year.

Today we will approve our final dividend of 5.75p per ordinary share – yet another record dividend which marks the 47th year of increase.

In the first five months trading of the current financial year I can report that, whilst our major markets face strong competition, we are seeing improved output and profits which are materially ahead of the comparatives. We are confident of achieving full year market expectations of improved bottom line results and exceeding the half year comparatives, as well as extending our track record of increased dividends.

In addition, cash levels are also materially ahead of prior year comparatives for the five months.

I and the Board remain positive about the medium-term prospects for the Group as a whole."

- Ends -

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