SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of September, 2013 Commission File Number 1-14732

COMPANHIA SIDERÚRGICA NACIONAL

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

National Steel Company

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Av. Brigadeiro Faria Lima 3400, 20° andar São Paulo, SP, Brazil 04538-132

(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F. Form 20-F _____ Form 40-F _____

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes _____ No ___X____

Appraisal Report

SP-0126/13-04

FLORESTAL NACIONAL S.A.

REPORT: SP-0126/13-04 **BASE DATE:** August 31, 2013

| REQUESTING | COMPANHIA SIDERÚRGICA NACIONAL , hereinafter referred to as |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COMPANY: | CSN. A corporation with boodguarters at Avenida Prigadeiro Earia Lima, nº |
| | A corporation, with headquarters at Avenida Brigadeiro Faria Lima, nº 3.400, 15º andar (parte), 19º e 20º andares, Itaim Bibi, in the city and |
| | state of São Paulo, inscribed in the roll of corporate taxpayers |
| | (CNPJ/MF) under no. 33.042.730/0001-04. |
| OBJECT: | FLORESTAL NACIONAL S.A., hereinafter referred to as |
| | FLORESTAL. |
| | A privately-held corporation, with headquarters at Av. Brigadeiro |
| | Faria Lima, nº 3.400, 20º andar, Sala: Volta Redonda, Itaim Bibi, in |
| | the city and state of São Paulo, inscribed in the roll of corporate |
| | taxpayers (CNPJ/MF) under no. 09.295.323/0001-24. |
| PURPOSE: | To determine the book value of FLORESTAL's shareholders' equity, |
| | for the purpose of its merger by CSN , pursuant to Articles 226 and |
| | 227 of Law 6404/76 (Brazilian Corporate Law). |
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1. INTRODUCTION

APSIS CONSULTORIA E AVALIAÇÕES LTDA., hereinafter referred to as APSIS, with headquarters at Rua da Assembleia, nº 35, 12º andar, in the city and state of Rio de Janeiro, inscribed in the roll of corporate taxpayers (CNPJ/MF) under no. 08.681.365/0001-30, was designated to verify the book value of FLORESTAL's shareholders' equity, for the purpose of its merger by CSN, pursuant to Articles 226 and 227 of Law 6404/76 (Corporate Law).

When preparing this report, we used data and information provided by third parties, in the form of documents and oral interviews with the client. The estimates used in this process are based on documents and information, including but not limited to:

§ Analytical Balance Sheet of FLORESTAL on August 31, 2013.

APSIS has recently appraised the following firms for publicly-held companies for a variety of reasons:

- § AMÉRICA LATINA LOGÍSTICA DO BRASIL S/A
- § BANCO PACTUAL S/A
- § CIMENTO MAUÁ S/A
- § ESTA-EMPRESA SANEADORA TERRITORIAL AGRÍCOLA S/A.
- § GEODEX COMMUNICATIONS DO BRASIL S/A
- § GERDAU S/A
- § HOTÉIS OTHON S/A
- § IBEST S/A
- § L.R. CIA. BRAS. PRODS. HIGIENE E TOUCADOR S/A
- § LIGHT SERVIÇOS DE ELETRICIDADE S/A
- § LOJAS AMERICANAS S/A
- § REPSOL YPF BRASIL S/A
- § TAM TRANSPORTES AÉREOS MERIDIONAL S/A
- § WAL PETROLEO S/A

The APSIS team responsible for this project comprised the following professionals:

§ AMILCAR DE CASTRO Commercial Officer

§ ANA CRISTINA FRANÇA DE SOUZA Vice-President Civil Engineer, Postgraduate studies in Accounting (CREA/RJ 1991103043)

§ ANTONIO LUIZ FEIJÓ NICOLAU Executive Officer

§ ERIVALDO ALVES DOS SANTOS FILHO Accountant (CRC/RJ-100990/O-1)

§ LUCILIA NICOLINI Accountant (CRC/SP-107639/O-6)

§ LUIZ PAULO CESAR SILVEIRA Vice-President Mechanical Engineer, Master in Business Administration (CREA/RJ 1989100165)

§ MARCIA APARECIDA DE LUCCA CALMON Technical Officer (CRC/SP-143169/O-4)

§ MÁRCIA MOREIRA FRAZÃO DA SILVA Executive Officer (CRC/RJ-106548/O-3)

§ RENATA POZZATO CARNEIRO MONTEIRO Vice-President

§ RICARDO DUARTE CARNEIRO MONTEIRO Chief Executive Officer Civil Engineer, Postgraduate studies in Economic Engineering (CREA/RJ 1975102453)

§ SERGIO FREITAS DE SOUZA Executive Officer Economist (CORECON/RJ 23521-0)

2. PRINCIPALS AND RESERVATIONS

The following information is important and should be read carefully.

This report has been drawn up in strict compliance with the fundamental principles listed below:

§ The consultants have no direct or indirect interest in the companies involved or in the operation, nor is there any other relevant circumstance that could constitute a conflict of interest.

§ APSIS' professional fees have no relation whatsoever to the conclusions of this report.

§ To the best of the consultants' knowledge and belief, the analysis, opinions and conclusions expressed in this Report are based on true and accurate data, investigations, research and surveys.

\$ The information received from third parties is deemed to be accurate as its sources are cited in this Report.

\$ For projection purposes, we have assumed that there are no liens or encumbrances of any nature, judicial or extra-judicial, on the companies in question, other than those listed in this Report.

§ This Report presents all the limiting conditions, if any, imposed by the adopted methodologies that may affect the analyses, opinions and conclusions of said Report.

§ The Report was prepared by APSIS and no one apart from its own consultants was involved in preparing its analyses and corresponding conclusions.

§ APSIS assumes total responsibility for the appraisal material, including implicit content, for the exercise of its functions, especially that established in laws, codes or internal regulations.

§ This Report has been drawn up in accordance with the criteria and recommendations established by the Brazilian Standards Bureau (ABNT), the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) and the International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC), as well as requirements imposed by different bodies such as the Accounting Pronouncements Committee (CPC), the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank, Banco do Brasil, the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM), the Superintendence of Private Insurance (SUSEP), Income Tax Regulations (RIR) and the Brazilian Committee of Business Appraisers (CBAN), among others.

§ The controlling company and management of the companies involved did not direct, limit, place difficulties upon or practice any acts that could have jeopardized access to, as well as the use or knowledge of the information, goods, documents or working methods that were important to the conclusions of this Report.

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3. DISCLAIMER

§ When preparing this Report, APSIS made use of data and information from historical accounting registers audited by third parties or unaudited, furnished in writing by the company's management or obtained from cited sources. Consequently, APSIS has assumed that the data and information obtained for this Report is true and consistent and therefore accepts no responsibility in relation to its veracity or otherwise.

§ The scope of this work does not include auditing the company's financial statements or reviewing the work of its auditors. Consequently, APSIS is not expressing any opinion on the financial statements of the requesting company.

§ We accept no responsibility for any losses suffered by the requesting company and its subsidiaries, partners, officers, creditors or other parties, resulting from the use of the data or information supplied by the company and presented in this Report.

\$ Our work was developed exclusively for the use of the requesting company and its partners for the purpose described above.

4. APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

Examination of the already mentioned supporting documentation, in order to verify good bookkeeping in line with the legal, regulatory, normative and structural provisions governing the material, in accordance with accounting practices adopted in Brazil.

We examined FLORESTAL's accounting books and all other necessary documents for the preparation of this Report, which was based on FLORESTAL's balance sheet on August 31, 2013 (Exhibit 1).

In the opinion of the appraisers, FLORESTAL's assets and liabilities have been duly recorded.

5. APPRAISAL OF FLORESTAL'S BOOK VALUE

FLORESTAL's accounting books and all other necessary documents for the preparation of this Report were duly examined.

The appraisers concluded that the book value of FLORESTAL's shareholders' equity for the purpose of its merger by CSN was negative by three hundred ninety-one million, three hundred eighty-nine thousand, one hundred and seven reais and five centavos (R\$391,389,107.05), on August 31, 2013, as shown in the adjacent table:

| BALANCE SHEET (R\$) CURRENT ASSETS CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS Cash and cash equivalents | FLORESTAL NACIONAL ON 8/31/2013 4,173,980.41 1,758,948.60 1,758,948.60 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OTHER ASSETS Taxes recoverable | 2,415,031.81 2,415,031.81 |
| LONG-TERM ASSETS | 115,760,744.77 |
| Deferred income tax and social contribution PERMANENT ASSETS | 115,760,744.77 279,782,030.24 |
| Investments | 260,209,888.61 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 19,572,141.63 |
| | 399,716,755.42 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES | 192,543,223.17 192,543,223.17 |
| Trade accounts payable | 1,288,246.57 |
| Taxes payable | 62,177.24 |
| Loans and financings Provisions | 191,186,201.01 6,598.35 |
| LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | 598,562,639.30 |
| Loans and financings | 598,562,639.30 |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY Capital stock | - 391,389,107.05 24,616,208.00 |
| Comprehensive income | 45,072,052.74 |
| Accrued income/losses | - 461,077,367.79 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 399,716,755.42 |

6. CONCLUSION

Following the examination of the previously mentioned documents and based on APSIS[^] own studies, the appraisers concluded that the book value of **FLORESTAL**[^]s shareholders[^] equity for the purpose of its merger by CSN was negative by **three hundred ninety-one million**, **three hundred eighty-nine thousand**, **one hundred and seven reais and five centavos** (R\$391,389,107.05), on August 31, 2013.

Having concluded Report **SP-0126/13-04**, consisting of nine (9) written pages and two (2) exhibits, APSIS Consultoria e Avaliações Ltda. (CRC/RJ-005112/O-9), a company specializing in the appraisal of goods, legally represented by its executive officers, is available to clarify any doubts that may arise.

São Paulo, September 10, 2013.

Board of Executive Officers

Accounting Company Registration: CRC/SP-107639/O-6

7. EXHIBITS

1. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

RIO DE JANEIRO - RJ

| Dub | da | Assem | hloip | n0 | 25 | 170 | andar |
|-----|----|-------|--------|-------------|-----|---------------|-------|
| Rud | ua | Assem | piela, | [] <u> </u> | 55, | $T \subset =$ | anuar |

Centro, CEP 20011-001

Tel.: + 55 (21) 2212-6850 Fax: + 55 (21) 2212-6851

SÃO PAULO - SP

Av. Angélica, nº 2.503, Conj. 42

Consolação, CEP 01227-200

Tel.: + 55 (11) 3666-8448 Fax: + 55 (11) 3662-5722

EXHIBIT 1

Report SP-0126/13-04

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FLORESTAL NACIONAL S.A. (Amounts in R\$)

Balance on 8/31/2013

| | | Balance on 8/31/2013 |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1000000 | | |
| ASSETS | | |
| 11000000 CURRE | | |
| 11010000 CASH | AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | |
| 11010200 TRANS | SACTION ACCOUNTS | |
| 11010203 | BANCO DO BRASIL RJ-TRANSACTION ACCOUNT | 3,793.34 |
| 11010254 | | 497.68 |
| TOTAL TRANSAC | | 4,291.02 |
| | UIVALENTS (UP TO 90 D) | -, |
| - | CIAL INVESTMENTS | |
| | EXCLUSIVE FUNDS | 821,665.36 |
| | THIRD-PARTY FUNDS-DOMESTIC CURRENCY | 932,992.22 |
| | JIVALENTS (UP TO 90 D) | 1,754,657.58 |
| | JIVALENTS (UP TO 90 D) | 1,754,657.58 |
| | D CASH EQUIVALENTS | 1,758,948.60 |
| | | 1,750,540.00 |
| 11350000 OTHEF | R LONG-TERM RECEIVABLES | |
| 11350200 RECOV | | |
| | IRRF ON FINANCIAL OPERATIONS | 301,142.72 |
| | IRPJ/IRRF TO OFFSET | 1,998,459.08 |
| 11350238 | | 20,590.22 |
| | COFINS - LAW 10833/03 | 94,839.79 |
| TOTAL RECOVER | | 2,415,031.81 |
| | DNG-TERM RECEIVABLES | 2,415,031.81 |
| | | 2,413,031101 |
| TOTAL CURRENT | ASSETS | 4,173,980.41 |
| 12000000 LONG- | TERM RECEIVABLES | |
| 12470000 DEFER | RED IRPJ (LONG TERM) | |
| 12470100 DEFER | RED IRPJ (LONG TERM) | |
| 12470101 | DEFERRED IRPJ (LONG TERM) | 150,013,776.56 |
| 12470110 | IRPJ - DEFERRED LIABILITIES (-) | -17,072,747.25 |
| 12470111 | IRPJ- DEFERRED ASSETS - CONTRA ACCOUNT (-) | -47,822,834.63 |
| TOTAL DEFERRE | D IRPJ (LONG TERM) | 85,118,194.68 |
| | D IRPJ (LONG TERM) | 85,118,194.68 |
| | - | |
| 12480000 DEFER | RED CSLL (LONG TERM) | |
| 12480100 DEFER | RED CSLL (LONG TERM) | |
| 12480101 | DEFERRED CSLL (LONG TERM) | 54,004,959.57 |
| 12480110 | CSLL - DEFERRED LIABILITIES (-) | -6,146,189.01 |
| 12480111 | CSLL-DEFERRED ASSET - CONTRA ACCOUNT (-) | -17,216,220.47 |
| TOTAL DEFERRE | D CSLL (LONG TERM) | 30,642,550.09 |
| TOTAL DEFERRE | D CSLL (LONG TERM) | 30,642,550.09 |
| | | |

| TOTAL LONG TERM RECEIVABLES | 115,760,744.77 |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 13000000 PERMANENT ASSETS 13010000 INVESTMENTS | |
| 13010100 STATED AT EQUITY METHOD | |
| 13010809 INVESTMENT IN CIA FLORESTAL DO BRASIL | 19,358,448.61 |
| TOTAL STATED AT EQUITY METHOD | 19,358,448.61 |
| 13011000 STATED AT ACQUISITION COST | |
| 13011022 USIMINAS | 581,323,647.00 |
| 13011023 USIMINAS - INVESTMENT ADJUSTMENT | -340,472,207.00 |
| TOTAL STATED AT ACQUISITION COST | 240,851,440.00 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | 260,209,888.61 |
| | |
| 13050000 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT | |
| 13050300 CURRENT WORKS | |
| 13050301 CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS | 19,572,141.63 |
| TOTAL CURRENT WORKS | 19,572,141.63 |
| TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT | 19,572,141.63 |
| TOTAL PERMANENT ASSETS | 279,782,030.24 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 399,716,755.42 |
| | |

FLORESTAL NACIONAL S.A. (Amounts in R\$)

| 2000000 | Balance o |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2000000 LIABILITIES 21000000 CURRENT LIABILITIES 21080000 LOANS AND BORROWINGS-CHARGES 21080100 DOMESTIC CURRENCY 21080129 INTERCOMPANY LOAN - INTEREST 21080130 INCOME TAX IN DOMESTIC CURRENCY - INVESTEES | -1 |
| TOTAL DOMESTIC CURRENCY TOTAI LOANS AND BORROWINGS-CHARGES | -193 -193 |
| 21150000 TRADE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE 21150100 TRADE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - THIRD PARTIES 21150101 DOMESTIC SUPPLIERS TOTAL TRADE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - THIRD PARTIES TOTAL TRADE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE | |
| 21300000 TAXES PAYABLE 21300100 TAXES PAYABLE 21300102 CSLL, COFINS AND PIS - WITHHOLDING TAX 21300104 IRRF - SERVICES RENDERED TOTAL TAXES PAYABLE TOTAL TAXES PAYABLE | |
| 21500000 PROVISIONS 21500500 OTHER PROVISIONS 21500506 PROVISION FOR SERVICES RENDERED TOTAL OTHER PROVISIONS TOTAL PROVISIONS | |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | -192 |
| 22000000 LONG-TERM LIABILITIES 22010000 LOANS AND BORROWINGS-PRINCIPAL 22010100 DOMESTIC CURRENCY 22010121 INVESTEE LOAN IN DOMESTIC CURRENCY TOTAL DOMESTIC CURRENCY TOTAL LOANS AND BORROWINGS-PRINCIPAL | -5 - 59 (- 59 (|
| 22060000 CURRENT ACCOUNTS / LOANS 22060300 ADVANCES FOR FUTURE CAPITAL INCREASE | |

| 22060301 ADVANCES FOR FUTURE CAPITAL INCREASE - CSN | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| TOTAL ADVANCES FOR FUTURE CAPITAL INCREASE | -8 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNTS / LOANS | -8 |
| TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | -598 |
| 2423 EQUITY AND NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST | |
| 24 | |
| | |
| 24010000 CAPITAL STOCK | |
| 24010100 PAID-IN SHARES | |
| 24010101 COMMON SHARES TOTAL PAID-IN SHARES | -24 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL STOCK | -24 |
| 240800 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | -21 |
| 24081600 GAINS AND LOSSES FROM AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS | |
| 24081602 GAINS AND LOSSES FROM AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS-USIMINAS | _(|
| 24081690 DEFERRED SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION | |
| 24081695 DEFERRED INCOME TAX | |
| TOTAL LOSSES FROM AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS | -4 |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | -4 |
| 24100000 RETAINED EARNINGS OR ACCUMULATED LOSSES | |
| 24100100 FROM PRIOR YEARS | |
| 24100101 RETAINED EARNINGS/ ACCUMULATED LOSSES | 4 |
| TOTAL PRIOR-YEAR RETAINED EARNINGS/ ACCUMULATED LOSSES | 420 |
| 24100300 CURRENT YEAR | _ |
| 24100301 LOSS FOR THE YEAR | 4 |
| TOTAL RETAINED EARNINGS OR ACCUMULATED LOSSES | 46 |
| TOTAL | 201 |
| EQUITY | 393 |
| TOTAL EQUITY AND NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST | 393 |
| TOTAL | |
| LIABILITIES | -399 |

| FLORESTAL NACIONAL S.A. |
|-------------------------|
| (Amounts in |
| R\$) |

| | | Balance on 8/31/2013 |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 30000000 PRO | FIT/LOSS FOR THE YEAR | |
| 3RAIRCS PROF | IT/LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAX/SOCIAL | |
| CONTRIBUTION | 4 | |
| 3RO OPERATIN | | |
| | TING EXPENSES/INCOME | |
| | ERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES | |
| | | 12 |
| | G.A. EXPENSES - PRIMARY COSTS | 13 |
| 42020105 | SERVICES STRATIVE EXPENSES | 16,496.51 |
| - | AL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES | 16,509.51 16,509.51 |
| | R OPERATING EXPENSES/INCOME | 10,509.51 |
| | ER OPERATING EXPENSES | |
| 42060100 OTH | | |
| | IMPAIRMENT OF AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE SECURITIES | 1,242,801.00 |
| | NON-RECURRING EXPENSES | 7,833.13 |
| TOTAL OTHER | EXPENSES | 1,250,634.13 |
| TOTAL OTHER | OPERATING EXPENSES | 1,250,634.13 |
| TOTAL OTHER | OPERATING EXPENSES/INCOME | 1,250,634.13 |
| 4RFL NET FINA | | |
| | ANCIAL EXPENSES | |
| | REST ON FINANCING - WORKING CAPITAL | |
| | INTEREST ON LOANS OF INVESTEES - MN | 39,378,951.02 |
| - | ST ON FINANCING - WORKING CAPITAL | 39,378,951.02 |
| | ER FINANCIAL CHARGES | 1 1 5 1 0 2 |
| | EXPENSES WITH FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS BANK EXPENSES | 1,151.83 |
| 42031214 | OTHER FINANCIAL EXPENSES | 445 494,821.61 |
| | FINANCIAL CHARGES | 494 ,821.01 496,418.44 |
| TOTAL FINANC | | 39,875,369.46 |
| | | 55,675,505.40 |
| | ANCIAL INVESTMENTS | |
| 33010101 | EXCLUSIVE FUNDS | -46,295.76 |
| 33010102 | THIRD-PARTY FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS | -43,667.63 |
| TOTAL FINANC | IAL INVESTMENTS | -89,963.39 |
| 33010200 | | |
| OTHER | | |
| | INTEREST AND FINES RECEIVABLE | -81,229.19 |
| TOTAL OTHER | | -81,229.19 |
| TOTAL FINANC | | -171,192.58 |
| | | 39,704,176.88 |
| IUIAL OPERAI | ING EXPENSES/INCOME | 40,971,320.52 |

| Edgar Filing: NATIONAL STEEL CO - Form 6-K | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| TOTAL OPERATING INCOME | 40,971,320.52 | | |
| PROFIT/LOSS BEFORE INCOME LOSS/SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION | 40,971,320.52 | | |
| 4PIRCS PROVISION FOR INCOME TAX AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION 45010000 PROVISION FOR INCOME TAX | | | |
| 45010102 DEFERRED INCOME TAX ASSETS - ST TOTAL PROVISION FOR INCOME TAX | -310,700.25 -310,700.25 | | |
| 45020000 PROVISION FOR SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION 45020102 DEFERRED SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION ASSETS - ST TOTAL PROVISION FOR SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION | -111,852.09 -111,852.09 | | |
| TOTAL PROV. FOR INCOME TAX AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION | -422,552.34 | | |
| 37010101 PROFIT/LOSS FOR THE YEAR -40,548,768.18 | | | |

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized. Date: September 25, 2013

COMPANHIA SIDERÚRGICA NACIONAL

By:

/s/ Benjamin Steinbruch

Benjamin Steinbruch Chief Executive Officer

By:

/s/ David Moise Salama

David Moise Salama Investor Relations Executive Officer

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release may contain forward-looking statements. These statements are statements that are not historical facts, and are based on management's current view and estimates of future economic circumstances, industry conditions, company performance and financial results. The words "anticipates", "believes", "estimates", "expects", "plans" and similar expressions, as they relate to the company, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Statements regarding the declaration or payment of dividends, the implementation of principal operating and financing strategies and capital expenditure plans, the direction of future operations and the factors or trends affecting financial condition, liquidity or results of operations are examples of forward-looking statements. Such statements reflect the current views of management and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. There is no guarantee that the expected events, trends or results will actually occur. The statements are based on many assumptions and factors, including general economic and market conditions, industry conditions, and operating factors. Any changes in such assumptions or factors could cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations.