

## MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

### **CHAMP Ventures invest into Asian expansion opportunity**

Monday 15 May 2006

CHAMP Ventures, the mid-market private equity specialists of the CHAMP group, today announced the latest CHAMP Ventures Investments Trust No. 5 investment in RoyalPlast Pte Ltd. RoyalPlast is the regional market-leader in plastic sheet distribution with annual sales of approximately A\$100m. RoyalPlast's head office is in Singapore and they have operations in Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and China. Operations trade under the name of Mulford Plastics. The company also owns Alsynite, a leading manufacturer of fiberglass roofing products and ventilator systems in Australia.

Plastic sheet is used in all facets of the economy such as corporate signage, baths and spas, point-of-display stands, automotive components, building facades, packaging, mobile phones and electronics. RoyalPlast stock a wide range of plastic products including acrylic, polycarbonate, rigid and foam PVC, coreboard, aluminium composite panel, PETG, ABS, high tech film and polypropylene.

CHAMP Ventures will provide equity capital to continue the expansion of RoyalPlast, particularly in Asian markets.

Mulford Plastics in Australia was established in 1946. The business subsequently expanded into New Zealand before being acquired by RoyalPlast in 1990. In 2004, RoyalPlast acquired the Cadillac division from GE and has subsequently grown to be the largest provider of plastic sheet in Australia and New Zealand.

Su-Ming Wong, Managing Director, CHAMP Ventures said "we were attracted to RoyalPlast because the core Australia and New Zealand businesses provide a strong platform from which to leverage the model and relationships across Asia. RoyalPlast are the only plastic sheet distributor able to supply across the Australasian region. IT is a classic Asian roll-out strategic investment".

**Ends**

#### **For further information:**

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## **About CHAMP Ventures**

CHAMP Ventures is a member of the CHAMP Private Equity (“CHAMP”) group, the largest independent private equity funds manager in Australia, managing over \$2.0 billion in capital commitments from local and international institutional investors. CHAMP’s predecessor was formed in 1987 and was a pioneer of the Australian private equity industry. In that time the CHAMP group has created more than 215 management millionaires from within its portfolio companies and achieved a gross IRR over 30% p.a. for its investors.

CHAMP Ventures provides funding for expansion and mid-market management buyouts.

Past portfolio companies include Dexion Holdings (manufacturing), RAMS Home Loans (finance), Video Ezy (entertainment), Medical Images Australia (medical) and via the AMWIN Innovation Fund, the internet start-up companies LookSmart (search) and Seek (recruitment).

Current portfolio clients include Kailis & France (food & beverage), nudie Foods (premium fruit juices), ATF (temporary fencing), Tarocash (menswear), Mastermyne (mining services) and Amdel (laboratory testing).

Further information concerning our track record can be found at [www.champventures.com](http://www.champventures.com).