

To: The Manager
Announcements
Company Announcements Office
Australian Stock Exchange



Public Announcement 2009 – 40AWC

Alumina Limited notes the announcement made by Alcoa Inc reporting the inauguration of the expanded Alumar alumina refinery in northern Brazil.

Capacity at the Alumar refinery has been more than doubled to 3.6mtpa. The AWAC share of the expansion is 1.1mtpa.

Alumina Limited CEO, John Bevan, commented, "Our investment in the Alumar expansion has added new low cost capacity that provides further operational diversity and flexibility. Production is expected to be ramped up to full capacity by the end of the first quarter of 2010 and will place the AWAC global refining system in the lowest cost quartile in the global cost curve".

Some statements in this public announcement are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the US Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements also include those containing such words as 'anticipate', 'estimates', 'should', 'will', 'expects', 'plans' or similar expressions. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that may cause actual outcomes to be different from the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ from the forward-looking statements include: (a) material adverse changes in global economic, alumina or aluminium industry conditions and the markets served by AWAC; (b) changes in production and development costs and production levels or to sales agreements; (c) changes in laws or regulations or policies; (d) changes in alumina and aluminium prices and currency exchange rates; and (e) the other risk factors summarised in Alumina's Form 20-F for the year ended 31 December 2008.

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

Stephen Foster
Company Secretary

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Alumar Alumina Refinery Expansion Dedicated

Inauguration Attended By Brazilian President Lula da Silva; Investment More than Doubles Capacity; Expansion in 1st Quintile of Low-Cost Production

NEW YORK--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Alcoa (NYSE:AA) has inaugurated the expansion of the Alumar alumina refinery in northern Brazil, where capacity more than doubled from 1.5 million metric tons per year (mtpy) to 3.6 million mtpy. Alcoa's share of the expansion will be 1.1 million mtpy. The expansion capacity at the refinery will be in the first quintile of low cost alumina production globally.

Alumar, located in Maranhão state outside São Luis, Brazil, is jointly owned by Alcoa Aluminio and Alcoa World Alumina and Chemicals/AWAC (54 percent), BHP Billiton (36 percent) and Rio Tinto Alcan (10 percent). Alcoa manages the facility.

The AWAC share of the Alumar refinery expansion will be supplied by the recently completed AWAC Juruti bauxite mine. Alcoa's investment in the Alumar expansion, which totaled approximately \$1.0 billion, will place Alcoa's global refining system in the lowest cost quartile on the global cost curve. Production at the refinery will be ramped up to reach full capacity by the end of the first quarter of 2010.

Brazilian President Lula da Silva participated in Thursday's inauguration, along with Maranhão State Governor Roseana Sarney and other federal and state authorities. At the ceremony, President Lula said, "Above all the expansion of this refinery symbolizes a new moment being experienced by Brazil's North/Northeast, in its march toward economic emancipation. This region's economy has grown a lot in the last few years. That's why Alcoa, the world's main manager of alumina, and primary and fabricated aluminum, is transforming this Alumar complex here in Maranhão into one of the largest in the world, simultaneously with the implementation of a bauxite mine in Juruti."

Franklin L. Feder, president of Alcoa Latin America and Caribbean, said, "We accomplished this expansion at competitive cost, employing local workers and suppliers and incorporating state-of-the-art technology, which places the Alumar alumina refinery as one of the lowest cost refineries in the world. And our ramp-up activities are going extremely well so this low-cost production will be utilized quickly."

At the peak of the expansion construction, Alumar hired up to 13,000 workers, approximately 70% of them Maranhão natives, and 30% from the city of São Luis. When the milestone of 20 million work hours completed with no lost day incidents was reached, the project became a global labour safety benchmark.

Alcoa World Alumina and Chemicals is a joint venture between Alcoa and Alumina Limited with Alcoa holding 60 percent.