

Media Release Embargo until 11.00am 14<sup>th</sup> February 2005 Contact: Caroline Davidson
Davidson Communications
P: +612 9907 0020
E: caroline@davidcomm.com.au

## RENDEZVOUS HOTELS INTERNATIONAL SIGNS HOTEL DEAL IN CHONGQING CHINA

A signing ceremony was held in Singapore today to confirm Rendezvous Hotels International Private Limited's ('Rendezvous') latest hotel project in China. Rendezvous is to provide technical consultancy in the upgrade of Southwest Hotel (Xi Nan Da Jiu Dian) in Chongqing and the subsequent management of this hotel, to be renamed Rendezvous Lanko Hotel. This property fits within Rendezvous' key parameters for future expansion and will add to Rendezvous' already existing presence in China following the successful opening of the Rendezvous Merry Hotel in Shanghai last year. Chongqing is the largest city in south-west China, in terms of both territory and population, and the fourth and newest municipality in China.

Rendezvous Chief Executive, Mr. Alan Featherby says, "This is a signal of our commitment to developing the Rendezvous group in China. We have identified 16 pivotal locations for possible future development. Rendezvous is also delighted to be working with the hotel owner, Chongqing Hayyt Real Estate Development Company Limited, who will be upgrading the hotel. The signing ceremony today appoints Rendezvous to manage the hotel for the next fifteen years on their behalf. Rendezvous, a subsidiary of the Singapore listed company, The Straits Trading Company Limited, currently operates 7 hotels in the Asia-Pacific region. It is negotiating on a number of other properties that also fit well with the company's expansion plans in China and the Asia-Pacific region."

Southwest Hotel, currently a 3-star property in Chongqing, is located within the Economic and Technology Development District of Nanping. It is adjacent to the largest convention centre in south-west China (due to open in 2005), a new major shopping complex, and the Grand Hyatt (another development by Chongqing Hayyt Real Estate Development Company Limited that is due to open in 2006).

Rendezvous will operate Rendezvous Lanko Hotel as a 4-star hotel in accordance with the standards set by the China Tourism Board. The hotel is scheduled to reopen in 2006. The property will be redeveloped to offer approximately 280 rooms and suites with facilities including a coffee shop, a specialty restaurant, meeting and conference rooms, and recreational and car parking facilities.

The signing ceremony took place at Rendezvous Hotel Singapore today.

-end-

For further information on the event, please contact Mr. John Thng, Vice President (Development) via email at <u>johnthng@rendezvous.com.sg</u> or phone +65 6335 1710 or +65 9186 6351.