



THE STRAITS TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

ANNOUNCEMENT ON CHANGE IN DEEMED INTEREST OF SHARES IN AUSTRALIA ORIENTAL MINERALS NL

The Straits Trading Company Limited ('Company') wishes to announce that following the issue of 99,530,525 shares by Australia Oriental Minerals NL ('AOM' and formerly known as Marlborough Resources NL) on 6 July 2005 (as part of a recapitalisation and capital raising exercise by AOM) to two of the Company's subsidiaries, namely, Sword Investments Private Limited ('Sword', a wholly-owned subsidiary) and Malaysia Smelting Corporation Berhad ('MSC', a 63.31% subsidiary), the Company's total deemed interest in AOM increased from 36.19% to 57.70%, further details of which are provided below:

	Before		After	
	No. of shares	%	No. of shares	%
(i) Direct/Deemed interest in AOM shares held by:				
Sword	292,500	0.52	38,125,833	18.37
MSC	19,918,600	35.67	81,615,792	39.33

(ii) The aggregate value of the consideration given for the shares is approximately S\$4.24 million.

(iii) The book value/net tangible asset value based on the pro-forma financial statements of AOM as at 27 July 2005, which was announced by AOM on 25 July 2005, in relation to the 99,530,525 shares acquired is approximately S\$1.80 million. The shares of AOM are currently suspended from official quotation on the Australian Stock Exchange. Following the completion of the aforesaid recapitalisation and capital raising exercise, the shares of AOM will be reinstated to official quotation from the commencement of trading on 27 July 2005.

AOM, a company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, is a tin and mineral exploration company.

As far as the Company is aware, no director or substantial shareholder of the Company is interested in the aforesaid transactions other than by virtue of being such a director or substantial shareholder. Y.A.Bhg. Jen (B) Tun Ibrahim Bin Ismail, a director of the Company, is also the chairman of the board of directors of MSC. Mr. Norman Ip Ka Cheung, a director of the Company is also a director of AOM and MSC.

Submitted by
Emily Teo (Ms)
Secretary

The Straits Trading Company Limited
(Registration No. 188700008D) on 26/07/2005 to the SGX