

# ANTOFAGASTA HOLDINGS P.L.C.

Registered Office  
PARK HOUSE  
16 FINSBURY CIRCUS  
LONDON EC2M 7AH

TELEPHONE: 0171 374 8091  
TELEX: 8954 4284 ANRAIL G  
FACSIMILE: 0171 628 3773  
REGISTERED IN LONDON  
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## *NEWS RELEASE*

### **Name change for long-established company**

### **New sponsored ADR programme in the United States**

LONDON: 17 December 1999 – Antofagasta Holdings P.L.C. (ANTO.L), the UK-listed mining group with operations based in Chile, announces that it has changed its name to Antofagasta plc. Shareholders approved the change at an extraordinary general meeting held in London today. Certain of the Group's subsidiaries will also change their names.

The Company has also announced the establishment of a Level-1 ADR programme in the United States. The Bank of New York has been appointed as the Depositary Bank for this sponsored ADR-programme which is now effective. Each ADR represents two ordinary shares of Antofagasta plc and they will trade on the over-the-counter market in the United States under the symbol ANFGY. The CUSIP number is 037189107.

The change in the Antofagasta name reflects the latest developments in a company which has had an association with the London stock market since the 1880's. Antofagasta was originally listed on the London Stock Exchange in 1888 as the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Company. Since 1980 the Group has acquired minority investments in various industrial enterprises and in 1982 Antofagasta Holdings P.L.C. was set up as the listed holding company of the Group to reflect the more diversified nature of its activities. In recent years the Group has focused its resources on the mining sector in Chile in addition to continuing its railway operations. The various other minority investments have been consolidated and are represented by the Group's investment in Quiñenco S.A., a quoted Chilean company in which Antofagasta holds a 33.6% interest.

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Enquiries: Antofagasta  
Philip Adeane, Managing Director  
Hussein Barma, Chief Financial Officer  
Neil Herbert, Financial Controller

Email: [itrevor@antofagasta.co.uk](mailto:itrevor@antofagasta.co.uk)  
[hbarma@antofagasta.co.uk](mailto:hbarma@antofagasta.co.uk)  
[nherbert@antofagasta.co.uk](mailto:nherbert@antofagasta.co.uk)  
Tel: +44 171 374 8091

**Issued By:**  
Keith Irons  
Bankside Consultants Limited

Email: [keith@bankside.com](mailto:keith@bankside.com)  
Tel: +44 171 220 7477