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RETIREMENT OF PHILIP ADEANE AS A NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM M. HAYES AS A NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

London: 29 September 2006:- Antofagasta plc (“Antofagasta”) announces that Philip Adeane has retired as a Director. Mr. Adeane was Managing Director of Antofagasta from 1982 to 2005 and has since served as a Non-Executive Director. Mr. Adeane will continue to act as a senior advisor to the Board following his retirement.

Antofagasta also announces that William M. Hayes has today been appointed an independent Non-Executive Director.

Mr. Hayes was previously a senior executive with Placer Dome Inc. from 1988 to 2006. He was Executive Vice President of Project Development and Corporate Relations from 2004 to 2006, where he had responsibility for a range of capital projects in North America, Latin America and Africa. Previously, he was Executive Vice President of Placer Dome Inc. for United States and Latin America from 2000. Mr. Hayes is a former president of the Consejo Minero, an industry body representing the 17 largest international mining companies operating in Chile. Mr. Hayes, aged 61, is a United States citizen.

Jean-Paul Luksic, Chairman of Antofagasta, stated, “On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Philip Adeane for his enormous contribution to Antofagasta over a very long period of time. He has played a key role in the development of the Group and its transformation into a major copper producer and a constituent of the FTSE-100. We would also like to welcome William Hayes onto the Board. He has extensive knowledge and experience of the mining industry both in Chile and globally, which will benefit Antofagasta as it continues to enhance its overall growth profile, both by developing its existing assets and by continuing to seek new opportunities.”

There are no disclosures under Listing Rule 9.6.13(1) to (6) in respect of Mr Hayes.

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