

For immediate release

5 Princes Gate
London
SW7 1QJ
United Kingdom

Telephone: + 44 20 7808 0988
Fax + 44 20 7808 0986
info@antofagasta.co.uk

Aguas de Antofagasta – acquisition of desalination facility

London, 13 February 2009 – Antofagasta plc (“Antofagasta”) announces that its subsidiary Aguas de Antofagasta S.A. (“ADASA”) has entered into an agreement to acquire the desalination plant located in the city of Antofagasta from the current owner, Desalant S.A. (“Desalant”) for a purchase price of approximately US\$52.5 million. As part of this agreement, on-going arbitration proceedings between ADASA and Desalant will also be terminated.

The desalination plant provides ADASA with a part of its water for its distribution business. Following the completion of the acquisition, ADASA will operate the plant but as it is presently the sole customer, the acquisition will have no direct impact on water volumes or sales.

Completion of the agreement, which is subject to a number of conditions including shareholder approval on the part of Desalant, is expected by the end of the first quarter of this year. The desalination plant, when acquired, will be held under the terms of the 30-year concession to distribute water in Chile’s Antofagasta Region which was acquired by ADASA in 2003.

Enquiries – London

Antofagasta plc
Tel: +44 20 7808 0988
www.antofagasta.co.uk

Desmond O’Conor
Email: doconor@antofagasta.co.uk

Hussein Barma
Email: hbarma@antofagasta.co.uk

Press Enquiries – London

Bankside Consultants
Tel: +44 20 7367 8874
Mobile: +44 7811168822

Oliver Winters
Email: oliver.winters@bankside.com