

MEDIA RELEASE**Indicative bids for Penrice assets ‘encouraging’, sale to proceed to next stage**

Adelaide, 5 June 2014 – Robust interest in the assets of Penrice Soda Holdings Ltd (Administrators Appointed) has translated to an encouraging number of non-binding bids from potential Australian and international buyers, according to the company’s Administrators McGrathNicol.

Indicative offers have been received for both the chemical plant at Osborne and the limestone quarry at Angaston, on a going-concern basis. McGrathNicol is considering the offers and expects to shortlist bidders early next week.

McGrathNicol Partner, Sam Davies, said the strength of the indicative bids submitted so far meant the sale process was competitive and would proceed to the next stage, with potential buyers able to undertake more detailed due diligence including site inspections.

“We remain very encouraged by the interest shown from prospective buyers, which has crystallised into indicative offers that are worthy of serious consideration,” Mr Davies said.

“Importantly for Penrice workers and suppliers, the offers are for the plant and the quarry as continuing operations. This augurs well for our ability to save local jobs,” he said.

A timetable for binding offers will be set following consultation with shortlisted bidders.

Mr Davies said the Administrators were grateful to customers that had shown loyalty to Penrice as an Australian-based manufacturer of sodium bicarbonate in the face of opportunistic approaches from importers of foreign product.

“The continuing trade is important to our chances of achieving a fair sale for the Penrice assets and from that standpoint, customers should consider it business as usual at Penrice.”

Media inquiries to Nicholas Owens, Director, Sefiani Communications Group on ph. (02) 8920 0700, mob. 0421 977 062 or email nowens@sefiani.com.au.

About McGrathNicol

McGrathNicol is an independent boutique advisory firm specialising in Corporate Advisory, Forensic, Transaction Services and Corporate Recovery. We are a market leader in Australia and in New Zealand, with more than 30 Partners and 300 people across the region. Our firm was founded by a group of partners and staff from Big 4 accounting firms who believed a high quality boutique firm could thrive when freed of audit independence constraints. Since then, McGrathNicol has grown strongly. We have earned a reputation for achieving innovative, high quality results by providing technical excellence, responsive advice and sound execution capability.