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PRIME MINISTER OPENS LION NATHAN'S NEW MANUFACTURING FACILITY

The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Key has today officially opened Lion Nathan's new \$250m manufacturing and warehousing facility in East Tamaki, Auckland.

Called *The Pride*, the facility incorporates a state-of-the-art new brewery along with wines and spirits manufacturing, packaging and distribution capability and is the largest ever greenfield brewery and beverage manufacturing development in Australasia.

The facility replaces the Lion Brewery in Khyber Pass, Newmarket and incorporates the Lion's contract bottling business currently located in Springs Road, East Tamaki.

Speaking to around 300 guests at the opening, Geoff Ricketts, Chairman of Lion Nathan National Foods, said the opening of The Pride marks the end of more than 150 years of brewing in Newmarket and the beginning of a new era for Lion's New Zealand operations.

"This entirely new facility delivers a new era in best-in-class brewing and beverage manufacturing for New Zealand – something that is, in reality, an opportunity most businesses like ours get only once in a hundred years, if at all."

Mr Ricketts described the project as one of the single biggest manufacturing constructions undertaken in New Zealand in the last few years and one of the biggest ever undertaken in South Auckland.

"At a time when New Zealand's manufacturing sector has been challenged by the global recession and unprecedented economic conditions, we believe this project is a significant reinforcement of our commitment to Auckland and Lion Nathan's wider contribution to New Zealand's economic prosperity," he said.

Peter Kean, Managing Director of Lion Nathan New Zealand says the new facility allows Lion to better integrate its production and supply chain activities with the needs of the marketplace, improve customer responsiveness and optimise productivity.

“As well we’ve been able to significantly improve the workplace environment for our people and achieve a number of environmental performance improvements, including reduced carbon emissions, energy and water use.

“We’re thrilled to have such fantastic twenty-first century facilities to help us continue to grow our business and deliver New Zealand’s best-loved alcoholic beverage brands in the same great tradition as we have done for the last one hundred and fifty years.” said Mr Kean.

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For further information:

Judy Walter

Communications Manager, Lion Nathan

P: 09 356 8776

M: 027 286 3961

Judy.walter@lion-nathan.co.nz