Vortex Pipes Limited
ABN 80 096 870 978
2 Bell Street, Canning Vale, Western Australia 6155
PO Box 1753, Canning Vale, Western Australia 6970
T +61 8 9456 1002 **F** +61 8 9456 3091
W www.vortexpipes.com

MEDIA RELEASE

VORTEX SUBSIDIARY WINS ORDER FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF PIPE

- **Vortex subsidiary, Premium Pipe Services obtains Order from Strategic Marine Pty Ltd to supply and install glass reinforced epoxy pipes**
- **Pipes to be installed in part of Floating Dock Facility for the Australian Marine Complex**

Premium Pipe Services Pty. Ltd. a subsidiary of integrated pipe services and supply company **Vortex Pipes Limited (ASX Code: VTX)**, has been awarded a contract with Strategic Marine Pty Ltd to supply and install glass reinforced epoxy (”GRE”) pipes for part of a floating dock facility.

The value of the Purchase Order is in excess of $1.4 million. The works are expected to be completed by September 2008.

Strategic Marine Pty Ltd is a successful Western Australian shipbuilder that has won the contract to build the floating dock for the Australian Marine Complex at Henderson, W.A. As part of that project, glass reinforced epoxy pipes are required as part of the dewatering system. These pipes have advantages because of their non-corrosive qualities.

The company was successful in obtaining the Purchase Order by offering GRE pipe manufactured by FiberGlass Systems. Vortex are the Australasian sales agents for Fiberglass Systems of San Antonio, Texas, who manufacture in the USA and China a full range of fibreglass reinforced epoxy pipes and fittings with widespread industrial applications, particularly in marine, oil and gas, petro-chemical, water, sewerage, and mining.

Vortex Managing Director Trevor Gosatti said the order is important as it is the first substantial GRE order the company has received since acquiring the distributorship and re-structuring its focus.

“Vortex has strong confidence in the growth of composite pipes as an alternative to pipes made from traditional materials, which can have problems with corrosion over time. The supply of new composite pipes is a natural fit with our company, which also rehabilitates old corroded pipes with new technology composite solutions.”

“We are actively in the market promoting the use of GRE composite pipes for a number of large potential projects that are in the planning stage and are hopeful of securing more contracts in the future.” he said.

ENDS

Released by The NCS Group Pty Ltd
Media contact: David Christison, Director
Phone: +61 8 9367 3733
Mobile: +61 418 959 817
Home: +61 8 9201 1907

Vortex contact: Trevor Gosatti, Managing Director, Vortex Pipes Limited
Phone: +61 8 9456 1002
Mobile: +61 419 918 449

For further information visit: www.vortexpipes.com.com

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Background on Vortex Pipes Limited

Vortex Pipes Limited listed on the ASX in August 2004 as ShieldLiner Limited, a company focused on the development of its proprietary ShieldLiner System, a trenchless technology for the in-situ repair and rehabilitation of pipes.

The Company has continued to develop the ShieldLiner System and in doing so recognised an opportunity to establish an integrated pipe services business providing a range of trenchless and composite technology solutions.

Vortex, through acquisitions, is evolving into an integrated pipe services and supply company with three distinct business units

- Vortex Rehabilitation
- Vortex Cleaning; and
- Vortex Composite Pipes

Vortex Rehabilitation Business Unit

Vortex's subsidiary (Premium Pipe Services) is the Australian and New Zealand distributor and installer of the Saertex cured in place liner system. This system uses ultra violet light technology to cure a pre-impregnated fibreglass and resin liner. It offers many environmental, space utilisation and time advantages over other methods as well as providing a premium product. The Saertex system is an excellent **pipe rehabilitation solution for gravity sewer, stormwater and non pressure pipe primarily in smaller diameter pipes**.

The ShieldLiner system is a unique multi layered pipe lining technology developed and owned by Vortex that has the potential for lining, repairing and sealing pipelines in situ to prevent leakage, improve structural integrity and decrease flow friction. The ShieldLiner System is being developed primarily for rehabilitation of larger diameter pipes high pressure and potable water pipes.

As part of Vortex's pipe rehabilitation solution the Company has recently completed several pipe bursting jobs and is looking to expand its use of this technology, in particular in Western Australia.

Vortex Cleaning

Vortex's Pipe Services division provides specialist pipe services, utilising leading edge technologies including

- **CCTV pipe inspections**, (using robotic CCTV equipment, pole camera equipment and lateral camera equipment)
- **pipe cleaning and jetting,** (using high pressure water and cutting equipment)
- **drain and gully cleaning** (utilising mechanical suction and vacuum equipment).

The Company is planning to expand capabilities in this area through the acquisition and license use of further unique cleaning technologies.

Vortex Composite Pipe

Vortex is the exclusive distributor for Australia and New Zealand for a range of glass reinforced epoxy ("GRE") pipes and fittings manufactured by FiberGlass Systems LP ("FGS") of San Antonio, Texas.

FGS is a leading worldwide manufacturer of fibreglass reinforced epoxy pipe products used primarily **for corrosion control in low to high pressure applications of enhanced oil recovery projects.** The products also have **applications in the gas, water, marine offshore, industrial and chemical industries** and have temperature ratings of up to 220 degrees (104.4C), depending on resin system. Unlike steel pipes the pipes require no protective coatings and their use reduces maintenance costs caused by corrosion. The pipes are light and easy to handle and less personnel and equipment is needed during installation. FGS markets its products under the trade names Star, Smith and Fibercast.

Vortex is looking to further enhance its composite pipe solutions in the near future.

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What are Trenchless Technologies?

Trenchless technologies are techniques for the installation, replacement, renovation and repair of pipes, ducts and other underground apparatus with minimum excavation from the surface, and also include associated techniques such as leak detection, inspection and location of existing infrastructure.

The surge in the development and application of trenchless technologies over the last 30 years has had a significant impact in Australia and internationally. The costs and problems of maintaining aging pipe infrastructure are well documented with many water mains, sewers and sewerage pumping mains in Australia and internationally exceeding, or approaching, their design life. Similar asset management issues apply to underground gas distribution, electricity mains and telecommunications systems.

Utilities and infrastructure owners have a huge investment in underground pipelines, cables and conduits and there is an increasing awareness of the favourable economics of renovating, or maintaining an already expensive hole-in-the-ground. Traditional open-cut excavation methods for installing, renovating or maintaining services are often disruptive and uneconomical and the true social costs and environmental impact of such disruption are generally not taken into account. This has resulted in an ever increasing demand for methods of pipeline installation and refurbishment which have the capability of performing this work without the need for trenching.

The world needs improved capabilities to reline pipes economically as an alternative to replacement, which causes disruption to services, roads and the environment.

In addition, asset owners of large pipe networks in industrial plants in the oil, gas and mining industries are also seeking economic solutions for the repair and rehabilitation of their pipe networks that do not involve production losses associated with longer down times generally associated with pipe replacement.

The market potential for Vortex's composite and trenchless technology solutions is significant, with a large proportion of both gravity pipes, such as sewers and drainage, and pressure pipes, such as water and gas mains, in cities around the world either exceeding or approaching their design life and in need of rehabilitation or replacement. However, the cost and disruption involved in digging up and replacing or repairing underground pipes is a significant issue for asset owners and managers such as utilities and infrastructure groups.

The problem is magnified by the growing need to preserve ground water, and massive expenditures are now being devoted to the maintenance and rehabilitation of pipe infrastructure to address the issue of ground water pollution and ground water infiltration due to leaking and failing pipes.