



Capral shapes up for the future with \$116 million facility from GE Commercial Finance

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (October 1, 2008) – Australian aluminium extrusion manufacturer and distributor, Capral, has signed a three-year financing agreement with GE Commercial Finance (GE) for up to \$116 million to support its ongoing business plans.

Robin Freeman, Capral's managing director, says the facility gives the company the security it needs to execute on its plans to return to profitability by 2010.

"Together with our recently announced fully underwritten rights issue, the funding from GE gives us greater certainty which, in this economic climate, is a critical element of our turnaround plans," Freeman explains.

Capral is a leading manufacturer and distributor of aluminium extrusions in Australia, offering a vast array of architectural, residential and industrial products through its national distribution network. The company boasts five manufacturing sites across Australia, from which it runs nine extrusion presses and employs about 1,200 people. It offers a range of products and services, including residential and commercial windows and doors; industrial access systems; and security doors, windows and fire escape systems.

Freeman says he was impressed by GE's commitment in the face of turbulent economic conditions.

"We only commenced serious financing discussions with GE two months ago, but they have shown a good understanding of our business. We found the proposal from GE attractive and the people have proved excellent to work with," he says. "The fundamental area for us, though, was that GE was able to conclude the transaction amid the current uncertainty of the world financial markets. This was a real positive for us."

Alastair Metcalf, Managing Director, Corporate Financial Services, GE Commercial Finance, says GE's in-depth knowledge of the manufacturing industry meant it saw value in Capral's business and could structure a finance agreement accordingly.

"Our experience across the manufacturing sector, and understanding of Capral's markets and its assets, gave us the insight we needed to assess Capral's operations and tailor a facility which met its unique business requirements," Metcalf says. "We have also been involved in funding a number of turnaround situations similar to Capral's. That experience has enabled us to complete the transaction in a very short period of time, despite the tough market conditions."



About GE Commercial Finance

GE Commercial Finance is one of General Electric's largest "growth engines." With lending products, growth capital, revolving lines of credit, equipment leasing of every kind, cash flow programs, asset financing, and more, GE Commercial Finance plays a key role for client businesses in over 35 countries. The industries served include healthcare, manufacturing, fleet management, communications, construction, energy and mining, aviation, infrastructure and equipment. GE Commercial Finance has assets of over US\$335 billion and is headquartered in Connecticut, USA.

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