

**Press Release**

**4th March 2008**

**Vp plc**

("Vp" or "the Group")

**Acquisition**

Vp plc, the equipment rental specialist, today announces the acquisition, by its tool hire subsidiary Hire Station, of the entire issued share capital of Northern Site Services Limited and the business and assets of Northern Site Services Test & Calibration Services ("NSS") for a cash consideration of £1.6m. At completion, NSS had £0.8m of free cash.

NSS, established in 1993, provides temporary lighting and site electrics principally to the petrochemical and industrial sectors from its Teesside base in Middlesbrough. NSS will be integrated with Hire Station's market leading safety rental activity, ESS Safeforce. In the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007, NSS generated revenues of £0.5m.

John Singleton, Managing Director, commented,

"NSS is an excellent fit for ESS Safeforce providing further expansion of its specialist safety equipment offering, in support of process industry shutdown activities.

The acquisition of NSS, and earlier in the financial year of Able Safety (Yorkshire) Limited, demonstrates our commitment to build on market leading positions within the specialist safety equipment market."

**- Ends -**



## Notes to editors

### **About Vp**

The principal activity of the Group is equipment rental and associated services almost entirely conducted within the UK. Vp plc listed on the London Stock Exchange in 1973.

The Group is focused on six businesses:

### **Hire Station**

Tools hire and specialist products & equipment for industry, construction and home owners.

### **TPA**

Portable roadway systems, bridging, fencing and barriers primarily to the UK market, but also in the Republic of Ireland and mainland Europe.

### **Torrent Trackside**

Infrastructure equipment and services for the railway renewals and maintenance industry.

### **Groundforce**

Excavation support systems and specialist products for the water, civil engineering and construction industries.

### **UK Forks**

Rough terrain material handling equipment for industry, residential and general construction.

### **Airpac Bukom Oilfield Services**

Equipment and service providers to the international oil and gas exploration and development markets.