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4 May 2016

**Directa Plus (UK) Limited**  
**("Directa Plus", the "Company" or the "Group")**

**Intention to Float on AIM**

Directa Plus, a producer and supplier of graphene-based products for use in consumer and industrial markets, is pleased to announce its intention to seek admission of its Ordinary Shares to trading on AIM, a market of the London Stock Exchange ("Admission"). Cantor Fitzgerald Europe ("Cantor Fitzgerald") is acting as Nominated Advisor and Broker to the Company in relation to Admission.

Directa Plus has developed a proprietary scalable manufacturing process to produce and supply high quality engineered graphene materials – marketed under its 'Graphene Plus' (G+) brand – which can be used by third parties in a wide variety of industrial and commercial applications. Directa Plus' graphene products have already been incorporated into various commercial applications in the smart textiles, elastomers, composite materials and environmental sectors. The Company plans to capitalise on its patented technology and know-how to capture the growth opportunities from these existing applications as well as deliver against its pipeline of opportunities.

Key customers that have incorporated Directa Plus' technology into their products include Vittoria, which has produced high-performance bicycle tyres and wheels, and Colmar, the high-end Italian sportswear and activewear company, that has produced a graphene-enhanced range of clothing which includes ski suits now being worn in competitions by the French national ski team.

Established in 2005, Directa Plus is headquartered in the Como Science and Technology Park in Lomazzo, Italy. The Group's graphene-based products are manufactured using its patented, high temperature 'Plasma Super Expansion' technology and Directa Plus' purpose built production facility in Lomazzo, Italy is capable of producing up to 30 tonnes of graphene per annum.

The directors of the Company ("Directors") believe that the Group has the following key strengths:

- *Scalable, modular production process*  
The Group's production process has been designed on a modular basis, which enables the generation of revenue at each stage of the production process. In addition, the modular approach allows the Group to replicate the production process in an efficient manner so as to facilitate the scale up needed to satisfy the anticipated increased demand for Directa Plus' graphene products.
- *Chemical-free and sustainable production process*  
No chemicals or solvent additives are used in the production process. In addition, the production process is environmentally friendly with no material production of waste from the process.

- *Consistency of Directa Plus' end product*  
The Group's advanced proprietary production process has enabled the Group to produce a highly consistent product, something that is essential to commercial customers.
- *Established commercial sales*  
Directa Plus has established commercial relationships where the end product has already been adopted. Directa Plus' graphene is already being used in the production of bicycle tyres, carbon bicycle wheels, sportswear and in tackling environmental emergencies such as oil spills.
- *IP rich with significant know how*  
The Group has 12 granted patents and 9 pending patents in its core G+ technology. In addition, through the work undertaken to date, the Company has developed strong commercial and technical know-how that supplements the IP protection of the Company's production processes.
- *Multi-national approach to capturing revenue opportunities*  
The Group has adopted a multi-national approach to targeting commercial opportunities. The potential use of graphene has, the Directors believe, a global audience and therefore an important strategy of the Board has been to collaborate with strong local partners to seek to open up new commercial opportunities. The first such agreement has been the joint venture with its customer Vittoria to explore commercial opportunities for graphene in Asia. With the Asian market being a potentially important source of orders for its products, Directa Plus will build its second manufacturing plant in that region.

The Directors believe that the Group's manufacturing capability and its proven production process provide Directa Plus with an opportunity to become a leading player in the ongoing and expanding commercialisation of graphene and associated nanomaterials. They also believe that Admission will provide Directa Plus with the capital to support its growth strategy and to capitalise on the pipeline of commercial opportunities the Group is currently exploring with existing and potential partners. The net proceeds will principally be used to support the ongoing development of G+ applications with existing and potential customers, to increase the manufacturing capability and production volumes of the Group, the repayment of certain of the Company's convertible loans and for general working capital purposes. In addition, Admission will provide Directa Plus with a platform to enhance the corporate profile of the Group.

Giulio Cesareo, Chief Executive Officer of Directa Plus, said: "Graphene's properties are increasingly being recognised and consequently, the number of potential market applications is growing. Having overcome an important barrier to commercialisation – the ability to produce consistent high quality graphene-based products on a large scale, cost effectively – our focus is on satisfying the growing demand from potential customers in our core sectors and to partner with them to create new products that are significantly enhanced. We are confident about the outlook for the Company and believe that it is well positioned to capture the significant market opportunity that the Directors believe exist for our graphene-based products."

## Enquiries

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## Notes to Editor

### Directa Plus' family of graphene-based products

Directa Plus produces a range of graphene-based materials, from 3D material to 2D material. The initial product produced by Directa Plus' plasma super expansion process is Basic G+ (also known as Grafysorber®) and the Company's production facility in Italy can produce 30 tonnes per annum of its Grafysorber® product. All other products produced by the Group are derived from this initial super-expanded product. The range of graphene-based materials are:

- Ultra G+ very fine powders of super-expanded graphite
- Liquid G+ water-based dispersions of pristine graphene nanoplatelets ("GNPs")
- Paste G+ highly concentrated water-based paste of pristine GNPs
- Pure G+ extremely fine nanopowders
- Zapp G+ masterbatches of pristine GNPs
- Dub-Masterplast G+ thermoplastic masterbatches of pristine GNPs

#### *Grafysorber® (Basic G+)*

The initial super expansion phase in Directa Plus' production process is based on a thermal treatment of natural graphite. This process increases the interlayer distance of the graphite sheets to extreme limits and forms expanded graphite macrostructures in an accordion-like structure. The key market for this product is the environmental sector with Grafysorber® being targeted at the treatment of water and soil contamination and the production of oil absorbent barriers. The Italian Environmental Ministry has approved Grafysorber® for the clean-up of oil spills.

#### *Ultra G+*

The second stage in Directa Plus' production process uses an air-shock treatment to the Basic G+ which fragments the accordion-like structure in order to increase its apparent density. The powders produced through this process can be easily managed and used as an additive within standard procedures for making compound materials. This product demonstrates good thermal and electrical conductive properties and the Group is targeting the polymer and elastomer markets for this product.

#### *Liquid G+*

Through a proprietary exfoliation method of Ultra G+ or Basic G+, Directa Plus is able to produce a water-based dispersion of GNPs at different concentrations but with low viscosity. The key potential markets for this product include the energy sector (e.g. lithium ion batteries, electrochemical cells and supercapacitors), the construction sector (due to its flame retardant properties) and clothing (thermal and electrical properties at a yarn level).

#### *Paste G+*

Liquid G+ can be amended to a highly concentrated, water-based graphene paste, whereas the GNPs are characterised by a high aspect ratio and a very fine sheet-like morphology. No oxidation process is involved in the preparation so that the intrinsic outstanding graphene properties are preserved. Directa Plus' Paste G+ is free of surfactant and of solvents. This product's initial primary market is the textile market.

#### *Pure G+*

Pure G+ is created through drying Liquid G+ again avoiding oxidising steps. It is a dry powder of pristine GNPs. When used as an additive, Pure G+ can provide different properties to the hosting material, including reinforcement, electrical and thermal conductivity and barrier properties (impermeability and flame retardancy). The Directors believe that the market opportunity for Pure G+ is in the tyre market as well as pipes and carbon fibre composites, thermoplastics and bioplastics.

#### *Zapp G+*

A polyolefin-based masterbatch of pristine GNPs produced without any surfactants or processing aids and providing a pristine graphene product that is ready to use. Zapp G+ is provided in granular form, and facilitates the incorporation of GNPs into a final compound, ensuring faster dispersion and distribution compared with traditional fillers.

#### *Dub-Masterplast G+*

Dub-Masterplast G+ is a family of thermoplastic masterbatches of pristine GNPs. This material is produced according to customer requirements of polymer type, G+ grade and concentration. Dub-Masterplast G+ products, being in granular form, dramatically facilitate the incorporation of GNPs into the final compound and ensure a faster dispersion and distribution compared with traditional fillers.

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Sir Peter Middleton, Non-Executive Chairman**

Sir Peter Middleton GCB is Chairman of Burford Capital, the Resort Group and of Hamilton Ventures. He was Chairman of Marsh Ltd between 2005 and 2013, UK Chairman of Marsh & McLennan Companies between 2007 and 2014 and Chairman of Mercer Ltd between 2009 and 2014. He was also previously Chairman of Camelot Group plc and Chairman of the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution. He was a Director, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of United Utilities from 1994-2007, a board member of OJSC Mobile Telesystems from 2005-2007 and a board member of Bass plc from 1992-2001 and General Accident (later CGU) from 1992-1995.

Sir Peter spent nearly 30 years at HM Treasury, working closely with nine Chancellors, and was Permanent Secretary from 1983-1991. Sir Peter became Group Chairman of Barclays Bank plc in April 1999 and retired in August 2004. He joined Barclays in 1991 as Group Deputy Chairman and Executive Chairman of BZW, became Chairman of Barclays Capital following the reorganisation of BZW in October 1997 and was Group Chief Executive from November 1998 until October 1999. He was also President of the British Bankers Association from 2004-2006 and a member of the National Institute for Economic Research from 1996-2007.

#### **Giulio Cesareo, Chief Executive Officer**

Giulio Cesareo is one of the founders of Directa Plus. He began his professional career in 1982 in Italy working for Falck and Techint. From 1986 to 2004, he worked in the carbon and graphite field for Union Carbide, UCAR and Graftech, reaching the positions of the President and CEO of the Italian company and Vice President and General Manager of the Advanced Carbon and Graphite business unit. In his role at Union Carbide, Giulio managed business units in the USA, France and Italy.

Giulio Cesareo was awarded a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Milan, an MBA and an Executive MBA from Bocconi University of Milan and attended Strategic and Financial Management Programs at the Stanford University (USA). He serves as a board member of Fondazione Quarta, a non-profit organisation focussed on scientific research in areas of social activity, and was also a board member of Centro di cultura scientifica “Alessandro Volta”, an organisation aimed at promoting the practical applications of a scientific culture.

**Marco Ferrari, Chief Financial Officer**

Prior to joining Directa, Marco was a financial advisor at EY involved in several M&A transactions with a focus on energy, renewable energy and oil & gas industries. Other experience includes Deutsche Bank, Deloitte and Dezan Shira & Associates in China. Marco holds a degree in Business Administration and Master of Science in Administration Finance and Control from Università Commerciale ‘Luigi Bocconi’.

**David Gann, Non-Executive Director**

David Gann CBE CEng FICE FCGI is a renowned expert on technological innovation and an accomplished business and academic leader. He is Imperial College London’s Vice-President (Innovation) and member of the College’s Executive Board. He has deep experience mentoring start-ups, supporting fast growth technology businesses and developing long-term strategic partnerships with multinational technology corporations. He is Professor of Innovation and Technology Management with a PhD in Industrial Economics. He is a Chartered Civil Engineer, a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Art and Fellow, City & Guilds Institute. He was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2010 Queen’s Birthday Honours for services to engineering, and received the 2014 Tjalling C. Koopmans Asset Award for extraordinary contributions to the economic sciences. David is a member of the London Enterprise Panel and Chairman of the Smart London Board. His industrial experience includes serving as Laing O’Rourke plc’s Group Executive for research and innovation between 2007 – 2011. He advises executives and boards on innovation and technology management, including Citigroup, IBM, Huawei, McLaren and Tata Group.

**Neil Warner, Non-Executive Director**

Neil Warner has strong financial and managerial experience in multi-national businesses. He is currently non-executive chairman of Enteq Upstream plc and is also the senior independent director and chairman of the audit committee at Trifast plc. He is also a non-executive director of Vectura Group plc where he is chairman of the audit committee. Formerly he served as Finance Director at Chloride Group plc, a position he held for 14 years until its acquisition by Emerson Electric. Prior to this, Neil spent six years at Exel plc (formerly Ocean Group plc and acquired by Deutsche Post in December 2005) where he held a number of senior posts in financial planning, treasury and control. He has also held senior positions in Balfour Beatty plc (formerly BICC Group plc), Alcoa and PricewaterhouseCoopers and was non-executive director of Dechra pharmaceuticals where he was the senior independent director and Chair of the Audit Committee.

**Luca Lodi-Rizzini, Non-Executive Director**

Luca Lodi-Rizzini is both Head of Institutional Equity Derivatives Sales and Head of Delta One Sales for Europe at Credit Suisse, which is one of the leading firms in the market for Delta One products. Having joined Credit Suisse in 2004, Luca was previously a Senior Equities Portfolio Manager at Eurizon Capital.

**Dr. Elizabeth Robinson, Non-Executive Director**

Dr. Robinson has extensive experience in the development of innovative pharmaceutical products and venture business. She is Investment Director of Quadrivio Capital SGR for Venture Capital Area, member of “Italian Angels for Growth” in Italy and also a member of the Italian Fulbright Commission. She is co-founder of NicOx, a leading company in the ophthalmic market, founded in 1996 and listed in 1999, and she is currently President of NicOx Research Institute. Dr. Robinson received a Masters in Chemistry and a Doctorate in biotechnology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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