



13 February 2009

## Media Release

### **ROSS HUMAN DIRECTIONS REPORTS THIRD BEST RESULTS IN 20 YEAR HISTORY**

Ross Human Directions (ASX: RHD) today announced their third best, half yearly results in their 20 year history, and confirms positive momentum in a "tough" market with a fully franked interim dividend of 0.75 cents per share being paid on 27 March 2009.

Key features of the result:

- EBITDA of \$6.4 million for 1H09, an improvement of 2.1% on the previous corresponding period.
- The EBITDA result accompanied a slight increase in top line revenue of 0.3%, or 0.5 million, to \$203.7 million compared with the previous corresponding period.
- Depreciation and amortisation have increased by \$0.6 million on the previous half-year, due to the impact of amortisation of the new IT infrastructure upgrade that became operational during the second half of fiscal 2008.
- Finance costs of \$1.58 million are consistent with the previous corresponding period. A concerted effort and focus on working capital management has reduced borrowings by \$8.54 million since 30 June 2008, in effect offsetting the additional \$8.65 million in debt associated with the acquisition of Aurion Corporation in 1H08. The above results include Aurion Corporation for the half year.
- Income tax expense of \$0.7 million has decreased by 31% on the previous half year due to a 15% decrease in profit before tax and the impact of more tax losses being recouped during this half-year.
- Earnings per share of 2.8 cents represents a decrease of 6.7% on the previous corresponding period. A fully franked interim dividend of 0.75 cents per share has been declared to be paid on 27 March 2009.

Julia Ross, Managing Director, said, "At the early signs of changes in the market, Ross Human Directions acted quickly to achieve significant cost reductions in discretionary expenditure, accelerate efficiencies

and reduce non-revenue-generating headcount. This has resulted in increased productivity and leaner operating costs.

“This is a tough market and whilst I have run the business – and achieved growth – in tougher markets than we face today, there is no denying the impact of current conditions on our revenue. However, I believe our strategies, our blue-chip client base and our strong position in the temporary and contracting market are helping us weather the downturn better than some others in our sector.”

To interview Julia Ross, please contact Lewis Khan from Markson Sparks! on 02 9699 2000/ 0416 623 306 or [lewis@marksonsparks.com](mailto:lewis@marksonsparks.com)

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### **About Ross Human Directions**

**Ross Human Directions is a leading global recruitment and HR services organisation with operations throughout Australia, New Zealand, London, Dublin, Singapore and Hong Kong.**

**Celebrating its 20 year anniversary in May 2009, Ross Human Directions offers comprehensive consulting services such as Technology consulting services, Managed training services, Psychological Testing and Assessment services, Strategic HR planning, and Career Transition and Outplacement services.**