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25<sup>th</sup> September 2007

## **Campbell Brothers signs joint venture deal with MMC Norilsk Nickel, Russia's largest mining company**

Brisbane-based diversified industrial company Campbell Brothers Limited (ASX: CPB) today announced that its Laboratory Services division, ALS Laboratory Group (ALS) has entered into a joint venture arrangement with MMC Norilsk Nickel to provide geochemical and assay services to MMC Norilsk Nickel as well as other international companies operating in Russia.

In anticipation of entering the Russian market for testing services, ALS established an office in Moscow earlier this year and is now completing the construction of a large full service mineral testing laboratory in Chita, located in south eastern Russia. This laboratory is the first facility being commissioned by the JV company in which ALS holds a 75% interest and will be operated by ALS as an independent laboratory to service the rapidly growing mineral industry in the Trans Baikal Region of Siberia.

Mineral exploration activity in Russia has seen a very high growth rate over the last few years. Exploration expenditures in Russia are now more than 50% of those in Australia and are growing at a faster rate. The three year cumulative exploration expenditure growth rate in Russia has been 35%, compared to 17% in Australia. As such, ALS' entry in the Russian market is very timely and in addition to strengthening ALS' global presence will allow for continued growth and performance by Campbell Brothers' laboratory division.

Campbell Brothers Managing Director, Greg Kilmister said, "We have been working on this Russian initiative for nearly two years and are very pleased that this joint venture agreement has now been signed. In Norilsk, we have a joint venture partner that is committed to further growth and development of commercial analytical services in Russia. We are confident that the newly built, high capacity Chita laboratory will be the first of many laboratories that we will develop in Russia."

**ENDS:**

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### **About MMC Norilsk Nickel**

Norilsk Nickel, a corporation incorporated under the laws of the Russian Federation, is the largest mining and metals company in Russia and is the world's largest producer of nickel and palladium, and one of the world's largest producers of platinum and copper. In addition, Norilsk Nickel produces a large number of by-products, including cobalt, rhodium, silver, tellurium, selenium, indium and ruthenium. The Norilsk Nickel group is involved in prospecting, exploration, extraction, beneficiation and metallurgical processing of minerals; and in production, marketing and sales of base and precious metals.

Norilsk Nickel's Russian operations include the operations of the Polar Division on the Taimyr Peninsula in the Krasnoyarsk region and the Kola Mining and Metallurgical Company located on the Kola Peninsula in the Murmansk region. Norilsk Nickel's international operations are located in Australia, Botswana, Finland, South Africa and the USA.

Currently Norilsk Nickel is exploring and plans to develop green field projects in the Chita region and has JV with Rio Tinto and alliance agreement with BHP Billiton to explore South-East of Siberia, Far East, North-West and Western Siberia parts of Russia.

### **About the ALS Laboratory Group**

The ALS Laboratory Group is a wholly owned division of Campbell Brothers Limited, a public company incorporated under the laws of Australia (ASX-CPB). ALS is one of the largest and most successful commercial laboratory services groups in the world with substantial operations in all six continents. Nearly one hundred laboratories in more than 30 countries provide testing services in the fields of mineral identification and quantification, ore body evaluation, geochemical prospecting, coal analysis, spent oil analysis for wear metals, environmental analysis, electronics, food and pharmaceutical analysis.

ALS' mineral division is the world leader in the provision of geochemical and assay services. ALS' reputation for quality and reliability has allowed the group to grow rapidly over the last ten years, and it now is the principal business of Campbell Brothers Limited.

The recent acquisition of ACIRL, the leading coal analysis company in Australia, as well as the JV arrangement with JKTech to provide state-of-the-art automated mineral identification services, as well as the JV arrangement with Norilsk Nickel to provide the best possible service to mining and exploration companies in Russia is a demonstration of the company's resolve to diversify its testing services both from a product and from a geographic point of view.