



**Vortex Pipes Limited**

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**ASX MEDIA RELEASE**  
**27<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

## **VORTEX SUBSIDIARY AWARDED TRIAL FOR REFURBISHMENT OF ACCESS CHAMBERS**

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- **Vortex awarded trial from Water Corporation of W.A. to refurbish access chambers through subsidiary contracting company**
  - **Access Chambers to be relined using fibreglass and resin liners**
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**Vortex Pipes Limited (ASX Code: VTX)** has been awarded a contract with the Water Corporation of W.A. to complete a trial to refurbish four sewer access chambers in the Perth region through its subsidiary, Premium Pipe Services Pty Ltd.

The trial is the Water Corporation of W.A. Refurbishment of Sewer Access Chambers for Stage 2 – On-site Trial. The contract involves the refurbishment of four sewer access chambers at various locations in the Perth metropolitan region. Vortex proposes to refurbish the sewer access chambers using a fibreglass and resin liner as a “sleeve” to provide a sealed structural lining to the old access chamber. The expected effect of this liner is to give the refurbished access chamber a new extended life without having to be replaced.

Vortex Managing Director Trevor Gosatti said the trial is important as the successful completion of the trial with the Water Corporation may lead to ongoing access chamber refurbishment works in the future. It is understood that the Corporation will consider creating a panel of operators in the near future to complete works on a structured program of access chamber refurbishments across the state.

“The company is very pleased to be awarded this trial as we see it as a strategic move to form a stronger commercial relationship with the Water Corporation of W.A., which maintains most of the sewer reticulation networks in Western Australia,” said Mr Gosatti.

“We believe that the Vortex access chamber refurbishment solution using composite materials is unique and we are pleased to have the opportunity to further demonstrate this to the Water Corporation and the market. The successful completion of these works will assist us in being able to secure future access chamber refurbishment contracts here and interstate,” he said.

“The Water Corporation has in excess of 11,000 sewer access chambers (constructed from brick and/or reinforced concrete) across the state of Western Australia. Over the decades, sewer gases have caused different levels of deterioration to many of these access chambers and remedial work is required to prevent future failures of these access chambers,” said Mr Gosatti.

“The market for infrastructure rehabilitation is largely untapped in Australia and in many other parts of the world. Vortex is well-placed to take advantage of the need for governments and other major asset holders to address their aging infrastructure.”

**ENDS**

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## Background on Vortex Pipes Limited

Vortex Pipes Limited listed on the ASX in August 2004 as ShieldLiner Limited, a company focused on the development of its proprietary ShieldLiner System, a trenchless technology for the in-situ repair and rehabilitation of pipes.

The Company has continued to develop the ShieldLiner System and in doing so recognised an opportunity to establish an integrated pipe services business providing a range of trenchless and composite technology solutions.

Vortex, through acquisitions, is evolving into an integrated pipe services and supply company with three distinct business units:

- Vortex Rehabilitation
- Vortex Cleaning; and
- Vortex Composite Pipes

## Vortex Rehabilitation Business Unit

Vortex's subsidiary (Premium Pipe Services) is the Australian and New Zealand distributor and installer of the Saertex cured in place liner system. This system uses ultra violet light technology to cure a pre-impregnated fibreglass and resin liner. It offers many environmental, space utilisation and time advantages over other methods as well as providing a premium product. The Saertex system is an excellent **pipe rehabilitation solution for gravity sewer, stormwater and non pressure pipe primarily in smaller diameter pipes.**

The ShieldLiner system is a unique multi layered pipe lining technology developed and owned by Vortex that has the potential for lining, repairing and sealing pipelines in situ to prevent leakage, improve structural integrity and decrease flow friction. The ShieldLiner System is being developed primarily for rehabilitation of larger diameter pipes high pressure and potable water pipes.

As part of Vortex's pipe rehabilitation solution the Company has recently completed several pipe bursting jobs and is looking to expand its use of this technology, in particular in Western Australia.

## Vortex Cleaning

Vortex's Pipe Services division provides specialist pipe services, utilising leading edge technologies including

- **CCTV pipe inspections**, (using robotic CCTV equipment, pole camera equipment and lateral camera equipment)
- **pipe cleaning and jetting**, (using high pressure water and cutting equipment)
- **drain and gully cleaning** (utilising mechanical suction and vacuum equipment).

The Company is planning to expand capabilities in this area through the acquisition and license use of further unique cleaning technologies.

## Vortex Composite Pipe

Vortex is the exclusive distributor for Australia and New Zealand for a range of glass reinforced epoxy ("GRE") pipes and fittings manufactured by FiberGlass Systems LP ("FGS") of San Antonio, Texas.

FGS is a leading worldwide manufacturer of fibreglass reinforced epoxy pipe products used primarily **for corrosion control in low to high pressure applications of enhanced oil recovery projects.** The products also have **applications in the gas, water, marine offshore, industrial and chemical industries** and have temperature ratings of up to 220 degrees (104.4C), depending on resin system. Unlike steel pipes the pipes require no protective coatings and their use reduces maintenance costs caused by corrosion. The pipes are light and easy to handle and less personnel and equipment is needed during installation. FGS markets its products under the trade names Star, Smith and Fibercast.

The Company has also commenced a joint venture with Quickstep Holdings Limited (ASX Code: QHL) to develop "QuickPipes". QuickPipes is the venture to develop and market a new range of advanced composite pipes using the Quickstep technology to manufacture pipes and related products. It is believed that these pipes will be the "next generation" of composite pipe systems.