

## Quickstep secures contract with leading global automotive manufacturer

**Sydney, 9th July 2015**– Advanced manufacturing company Quickstep Holdings (ASX: QHL) today announced that it has received authorisation for its first global automotive OEM<sup>1</sup> project. A production order is expected within weeks from a leading global car manufacturer. The niche volume order to produce a series of up to 1,000 lightweight carbon fibre engine compartment parts is expected to begin production in early 2016.

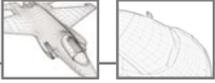
Quickstep managing director, David Marino, said: "We are delighted to have secured another contract for the automotive sector. Under the contract, we will manufacture carbon fibre components in a comparatively short time frame. Importantly, this demonstrates our serial production capabilities and represents early success for the first phase of our automotive strategy. Over the next eighteen months, we will target small volume automotive projects, of about 500 to 2,000 parts per annum, as we increase our volume capability to secure larger projects."

Quickstep has developed two patented technologies for the manufacturing of composite components. The Qure technology is a patented process which manufactures carbon fibre composite components to clients' production and volume specifications. It uses the company's Resin Spray Transfer (RST) technology to create carbon fibre parts with a 'Class A' surface finish more efficiently than traditional composite manufacturing systems. These processes are the building blocks upon which Quickstep is developing RapidQure, a higher volume, lower cost composite manufacturing process to address higher volume manufacturing opportunities. The current project represents a logical step along this pathway to becoming a significant supplier to the automotive industry.

The new contract further strengthens Quickstep's automotive credentials, building on its letter of intent to deliver carbon fibre composite components for Thales Australia's Hawkei protected mobility vehicle and will be first program to go into production for its newly established Automotive Division, based in Waurin Ponds, Victoria.

**-ENDS-**

<sup>1</sup> Original Equipment Manufacturer



## **Background on Quickstep Holdings Limited**

Quickstep Holdings (ASX:QHL) is a manufacturer of advanced carbon fibre composites for the aerospace and automotive industries. The company operates from state-of-the-art aerospace manufacturing facilities at Bankstown Airport in Sydney, NSW; a production site for automotive in Waurn Ponds, Victoria; and an office in Munich, Germany.

Quickstep is an approved supplier for the international F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program - the largest military aerospace program in the world, valued in excess of US\$300 billion worldwide. To date, more than 130 JSF aircraft have been delivered to the US Department of Defense, and this number is now expected to grow rapidly. The company has also been selected by Lockheed Martin as the sole supplier of composite wing flaps for the C-130J "Super Hercules" military transport aircraft. Quickstep is currently partnering with some of the world's largest aerospace/defence organisations, including the US Department of Defense, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Airbus.

Quickstep is also developing patented manufacturing technologies to produce high-volume A-grade finished composite components for automobiles. The company has secured a letter of intent to deliver components for Thales Australia's Hawkei protected mobility vehicle.

### **For further information:**

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