



P&O EXPANDS PRESENCE IN SOUTH AMERICA

10th October 2000

P&O announces that its Cold Logistics business has acquired the refrigerated logistics assets of Swift Armour SA based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The US\$20m acquisition includes a modern cold storage and distribution facility with a capacity of approximately 75,000 cubic metres and consolidates P&O Cold Logistics position as the leading cold logistics provider in Buenos Aires.

The new business facility benefits from a strong distribution resource and significant additional capacity for future expansion that complements P&O existing cold logistics business in Argentina. Swift Armour, one of Argentina's largest meat exporters, will also remain a major customer of the facility.

Richard Hein, Chairman of P&O Cold Logistics said: "This acquisition confirms our commitment to expand aggressively in the fast-developing South American market where we are in a unique position to provide established logistics skills and proven systems sought by major international and regional companies alike."

John Randall, Managing Director of P&O Cold Logistics, added: "Swift Armour will be integrated into our existing business in Argentina and will be an excellent platform for future growth. It will also help underpin the relationships already successfully established with major food and beverage companies in Argentina including industry giants such as Coca-Cola and Unilever."

Further information:

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Note to Editors

P&O Cold Logistics is part of the P&O Group. It operates a total of 35 refrigerated distribution centres in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Brazil. It is the world's sixth largest refrigerated logistics operator.

P&O Cold Logistics first entered the South American market through the acquisition of Cool Queen in Argentina in 1996.

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