

THE TAKEOVER PANEL

FREEPORT PLC
(“FREEPORT”)

CEREP INVESTMENT I SARL
(“CEREP”)

On 19 March, CEREP announced a firm intention to make an offer for the entire issued share capital of Freeport under Rule 2.5 of the Code. Under Rule 30.1 the offer document was due to be posted by no later than 16 April. On 17 April, CEREP announced that, with the consent of Freeport and the Panel Executive, there would be a short delay in posting the offer document.

On 27 April, CEREP submitted a request to the Panel Executive seeking permission not to proceed with its proposed offer for Freeport under Rule 2.7 on the basis that it would be permitted to invoke certain conditions to the offer if the offer were made.

The Panel Executive has subsequently received submissions from Freeport arguing that such permission should not be given on the basis that CEREP should not be entitled to invoke conditions to the offer.

At this stage the Panel Executive has not formed any view on the relative merits of the arguments that have been presented by CEREP and Freeport. The Panel Executive will be investigating and ruling on this issue in due course.

The Panel Executive has ruled that CEREP’s obligation to post the offer document will be suspended pending resolution of this issue. Each of the parties has accepted this ruling.

3 May 2007