

THE TAKEOVER PANEL

NORTHERN ELECTRIC PLC

Extension of bid timetable

Panel Statement delayed pending possible appeals

Suspension of dealings

The full Panel met on 20 December to consider an appeal in the offer by CE Electric UK PLC ("CE") for Northern Electric Plc ("Northern"). Following the appeal, the offer has been extended until 1pm on Tuesday 24 December. Any acceptances received after 1pm on 20 December may only be taken into account in declaring the offer unconditional as to acceptances with the agreement of the Panel. The Panel has also required that neither Schroders nor BZW should purchase shares in Northern during this period.

Northern and BZW have indicated that they wish to appeal the Panel's decision to the Appeal Committee. The Panel is meeting later this morning to hear their applications for leave to appeal. If granted, the Appeal Committee will meet as soon as possible thereafter.

Accordingly, the statement giving reasons for the Panel's decision on 20 December will not be published until the outcome of the process of appeal is known. In addition, at the request of the Executive, dealings in the shares of Northern will be suspended for the time being.

A further statement will be made as soon as possible.

23 December 1996