

Market Announcement

25 SEPTEMBER 2019

FONTERRA ACHIEVES \$1 BILLION DEBT REDUCTION

Fonterra today agreed the sale of its 50% share of DFE Pharma for \$633¹ million (NZD). The cash from this sale, along with proceeds from our other asset sales across the year – which includes the significant contribution from Tip Top – will give us over \$1 billion available for debt reduction.

Fonterra CEO, Miles Hurrell, says “we set ourselves a tough initial target for debt reduction and we are pleased with the progress we are making. It’s an important milestone in our Co-op’s plan to lift our business performance.

“A year ago, we started a full portfolio review to re-evaluate every investment, major asset and partnership, to make sure they were still right for the Co-op.

“In March, we advised that we were reviewing our share of DFE Pharma, a 50% joint venture with Royal Friesland Campina. DFE Pharma was identified for sale due to the substantial capital required for its future growth.

“We are now at the end of that process and have sold our share of DFE Pharma to CVC Strategic Opportunities II, a fund managed by CVC Capital Partners, a leading private equity and investment advisory firm, managing approximately US\$83 billion of assets in 73 companies worldwide,” Mr Hurrell says.

The \$633 million sale to CVC Strategic Opportunities II is made up of a cash payment of \$537 million, payable on completion of the sale, plus an interest-accruing vendor loan of \$96 million, for a term of up to 15 years. Built into the deal is a potential additional payment of up to \$44 million based on DFE’s performance over two years.

The sale is subject to receipt of regulatory approvals from competition authorities.

Mr Hurrell said that Fonterra was pleased to have secured a good sale price and will stay committed to the ongoing success of the DFE Pharma business through a long-term supply agreement and the interest-accruing vendor loan.

“A big part of the success of DFE Pharma has been the high-quality lactose produced by the team at Fonterra’s Kapuni site in Taranaki and it is a good outcome to be able to continue to supply this.

“This milestone, along with the significant inroads made in our capital and operational expenditure during FY19, makes for a good initial chapter in our business turn-around. It puts us on the right footing to deliver our new strategy and a sustainable lift in our performance.” says Mr Hurrell.

-ENDS-

¹ Numbers are based on Euro to NZD conversion rate of 1.7475

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