

**PRESS RELEASE**

Monday, 8 October, 2001

**PAPERLINX SELLS CHEMICAL TRADING BUSINESS**

PaperlinX today announced the sale of Amtrade, its chemical trading business in Australia and New Zealand to AWL Enterprises Pty Ltd, a management buyout consortium comprising Amtrade's General Manager, Stuart Speight, ANZ Private Equity and a number of other private investors.

Ian Wightwick, Managing Director of PaperlinX Limited commented, "Amtrade, while a successful and profitable business, is not aligned with the core business strategy of PaperlinX. We believe this sale is in the best interest of PaperlinX, Amtrade, and Amtrade's employees, customers and suppliers. Proceeds from this sale will be reinvested in paper merchandising internationally in line with our strategic growth path for PaperlinX."

Amtrade had annual sales in the year just completed of A\$150m. It will remain a major supplier to Australian Paper, the paper manufacturing division of PaperlinX.

**ENDS**

For further information please contact:

Mr Ian Wightwick  
Managing Director  
PaperlinX Limited  
Ph: (03) 8540 2222

Mr Darryl Abotomey  
Chief Financial Officer  
PaperlinX Limited  
Ph: (03) 8540 2305

Mr David Shirer  
Executive General Manager  
Corporate & Investor Relations  
PaperlinX Limited  
Ph (03) 8540 2302