

## **Austin Awarded Significant Aluminium Smelter Component Contract**

**Brisbane, 16 May 2005:** Austin Engineering Limited (ASX Trading code: **ANG**) today announced that it had been awarded a contract by Comalco valued in excess of \$2M to manufacture aluminium smelter components for the Boyne Island Aluminium Smelter in Gladstone, Queensland.

The work will commence immediately with completion expected by the end of August 2005. The contract will utilise Austin Engineering's proprietary automated welding technology to produce over 8,000 anodes which are used to conduct the power within the smelter's aluminium production line (potshell).

Austin Engineering's Chairman Mr Peter Fitch said this contract recognises that the company's automated welding technology offers considerable advantages both in terms of time and cost savings and has multiple applications across a number of industries.

"Importantly, the award of this significant contract achieves our objective of applying our welding technology to the manufacture of parts in the aluminium smelter industry. It is our intention to pursue more contracts in relevant industries where we assess our technology provides us with a competitive advantage over manual welding practices".

The welding processes normally utilised on a project of this nature would require 60 skilled welding personnel and 25 unskilled personnel. Skilled personnel are currently in limited supply due to shortages within the industry. The company's automated welding processes will result in a requirement for only 32 unskilled personnel.

**End**

For further information, contact Michael Buckland or Colin Anderson on 07 3271 2622.

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**About Austin Engineering:** Austin Engineering Limited is an engineering company with manufacturing facilities in Brisbane and Perth. The Brisbane facility provides fabrication facilities servicing the mining, oil, gas and industrial sectors. Key product lines include structural steel, piping, mineral processing equipment, potshells and superstructures. The Perth facility (formerly Johns Engineering) designs and manufactures products used in the resources industry including dump truck bodies, excavator buckets, materials handling equipment and large service vehicles. Austin own rights to innovative welding processes which are being introduced to improve welding productivity, coupled with robotic applications to suit product lines, general fabrications and any repetitive production processes.