



Media Release

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New MD for LeasePlan Australia

The Australian arm of the world's leading vehicle leasing and fleet management company, LeasePlan, has announced Spiro Haralambopoulos as its new Managing Director, commencing early 2006.

Melbourne-based Mr Haralambopoulos is a Fellow of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants and has completed his MBA at the Melbourne Business School, Melbourne University. He joins LeasePlan after stints with Motorola, Moore Business Systems, Clarks Shoes, Hartman Pacific and more recently within the large Hastings Funds stable.

He takes the reins at an exciting time, with LeasePlan Australia in a very healthy state having enjoyed sustained growth that has established it as one of the leading players in the 27-country global operation. The brand is becoming more widely recognised in this country and will continue to grow in prominence after the decision to extend its major sponsorship of AFL club, the Western Bulldogs, through to 2008.

"I am delighted to be joining this true success story of Australian business and dynamic industry leader," said Mr Haralambopoulos. "LeasePlan was a very appealing prospect for me - a vibrant business with excellent people that has enjoyed continual success and growth since its inception in 1988. As the new Managing Director, I look forward to continuing this pattern of success."

An external appointment, Mr Haralambopoulos replaces Abe Tomas who departs LeasePlan Australia to join the Managing Board of the global parent company - LeasePlan Corporation in The Netherlands - as Chief Financial Officer.

Mr Tomas has been part of LeasePlan Australia since it opened in 1988, fulfilling various management roles before assuming the Managing Director's position in March 2001. He has overseen the growth of the company to its current domestic leadership status, in keeping with its global industry leadership position, and his new global role is a testament to the success of LeasePlan in Australia.

"Spiro will assume control of a fantastic company. I am certain that the strength of the people and systems of LeasePlan Australia will see it continue to get better and clearly remain the best in its class under his leadership," said Mr Tomas. "While I am excited at the prospect of joining LeasePlan's global Managing Board in The Netherlands, I will keep a fond eye on the progress of LeasePlan in Australia, and hope to return to join Spiro at an AFL Grand Final featuring the Western Bulldogs in the next few years."

Preferred fleet management partner to Government, leading corporates and many smaller businesses around the country, LeasePlan Australia is rapidly approaching 80,000 vehicles under management, with assets exceeding \$1.2billion.

The company is optimistic about 2006, with continual improvements in its ebusiness offerings to streamline dealings with customers, as well as the development of a dedicated business unit to provide products and services designed purely for Australia's booming Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) market.

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