

**CLSA Capital Partners' Sunrise II establishes a strategic and capital alliance with Worldtool Co., Ltd., owner of 'Astro Products', a leading Japanese supplier of automotive tools**

**Tokyo, 22 May, 2015** – CLSA Capital Partners and Worldtool Co., Ltd. (“Worldtool” or the “Company”) are pleased to announce they have established a strategic and capital alliance through Sunrise Capital II (“Sunrise II”), a CLSA Capital Partners fund focused on investing into established, mid-cap companies with strong growth potential in Japan.

Worldtool, owner of ‘Astro Products’, is one of the leading wholesalers and retailers of automotive tools in Japan. Worldtool’s President Mr. Tsutomu Nakajima (“Mr. Nakajima”) and Sunrise II will jointly pursue growth initiatives to strengthen the domestic businesses, expand into overseas markets, and enhance internal controls to prepare the Company for IPO. Mr. Nakajima will continue to hold shares and remain as President. Key management, operations and branding will remain unchanged.

Worldtool, established in 1995 by the current President Mr. Nakajima, is Japan’s largest specialty store retailer of service tools for auto mechanics. The Company sells its own branded automotive maintenance tools under the name of ‘Astro Products’ as well as major national brand products through its approx. 140 stores located nationwide.

The strength of the Company lies in its high quality products sold from its own stores in convenient locations and at reasonable prices. A fully integrated value chain from “Planning/Procurement” to “Sales” enables close cost control. Worldtool is one of Japan’s leading suppliers of automotive maintenance tools in terms of market share and growth. Sunrise II will work closely with Worldtool management to further accelerate growth across the country and overseas.

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**About Worldtool**

Worldtool, headquartered in Fukaya in Saitama prefecture, operates nearly 140 retail stores nationwide under the store name “Astro Products”, as well as wholesale businesses. Astro Products stores sell self-branded automotive maintenance tools as well as a wide variety of national brand products including general industrial tools, LED lights, solar panels, electric generators etc. Worldtool has approximately 730 employees and its sales in fiscal year ending July 2014 were approximately JPY6 billion. For further information on Worldtool, please visit <https://www.astro-p.co.jp>

**Worldtool Media Contacts:**

**Yasunori Maeda**  
Worldtool  
T: +81-048-501-7871  
E: [maeda@astro-p.co.jp](mailto:maeda@astro-p.co.jp)

**About CLSA Capital Partners**

CLSA Capital Partners is the alternative asset-management arm of CLSA, Asia’s leading independent brokerage and investment group. CLSA Capital Partners has approximately US\$3 billion under management and offices across the region, including Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo. CLSA Capital Partners offers a diversified and increasing range of investment vehicles.

Funds currently under CLSA Capital Partners’ management are:

- **ARIA Investment Partners**, pan-Asian private equity funds providing growth and expansion capital to Asian mid-market companies.
- **Fudo Capital**, pan-Asian real estate investment funds.
- **Sunrise Capital**, Japan dedicated private equity fund, capitalising on opportunities in the mid-cap sector.
- **Clean Resources Asia Growth Fund**, pan-Asian clean resources, private equity growth capital fund.
- **Pacific Transportation**, pan-Asian transportation private equity fund.
- **Nexen Global Co-Investment Fund**, global industrials investment fund.

CLSA Capital Partners is a diverse team of industry professionals with expertise in private equity, banking and finance, law and accountancy and industry specialisations. The highly experienced team, with long established roots in the region, has helped many Asian companies realise their growth potential. For more information visit [www.clsacapital.com](http://www.clsacapital.com)

**About Sunrise Capital**

Sunrise Capital is a Japan-dedicated private equity fund, capitalising on opportunities in the mid-cap sector. Sunrise Capital's unique features include a hands-on approach and support with overseas expansion through CLSA's global network. Sunrise Capital has helped six companies to realise their growth potential since its establishment in 2006.

**CLSA Media Contacts:**

**Simone Wheeler**

Head of Communications

CLSA

T: +852 2600 8196

E: [simone.wheeler@clsa.com](mailto:simone.wheeler@clsa.com)

**Mandy Ho**

Senior Communications Manager

CLSA

T: +852 2600 8193

E: [mandy.ho@clsa.com](mailto:mandy.ho@clsa.com)