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2 February 2006

Santos appoints new head of government and media relations

Mr Christian Bennett has joined Santos to take up the newly created position of Group Executive, Government Strategy & Media Affairs.

Mr Bennett joins Santos from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) where he was most recently the Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

During his 14 year diplomatic career with DFAT, Mr Bennett held senior advisory roles in Canberra, including in the Office of the Foreign Minister and in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. In addition to his posting to Brunei, he also served as a political analyst at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC and at the High Commission in Zimbabwe.

In recent years Mr Bennett's primary area of focus has been in support of Australian government links and commercial ties with South-East Asia and North Asia. He brings to Santos an intimate knowledge of government processes domestically and internationally in areas of key strategic interest to Santos.

In this new role, Mr Bennett will be responsible for managing Santos' relations with government and non-governmental organisations, Indigenous groups and the media in the national and international arena as the Company builds its global oil and gas exploration and production interests and activities.

Mr Bennett has an Honours Degree in Law and a Degree in Commerce from the University of Melbourne.

"We are delighted to secure someone of Mr Bennett's calibre for this important new role. His skills and experience will be invaluable as we continue to expand our business both domestically and internationally," said Mr John Ellice-Flint, Santos Managing Director.

A photograph is available of Mr Bennett.

Ends

Santos stock symbols: STO (Australian Stock Exchange), STOSY (NASDAQ ADR), Ref #82-34 (Securities Exchange Commission)