



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RUSSEL METALS COMMENTS ON STRIKE AT BOUCHERVILLE PLANT, QUEBEC

TORONTO, CANADA –September 11, 2012-- Russel Metals Inc. (RUS – TSX) today announced that it is in discussions with the Québec Ministry of Labour and the Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN) representatives to reach agreement on language and issues related to the Company's Acier Leroux plant in Boucherville, Quebec. During this process the union has taken strike action.

Brian R. Hedges, President and CEO, stated "The decision by the union to strike before the Company had even tabled the offer on wages, reinforces the confrontational approach taken throughout our negotiations. Our employees and their families will unfortunately be impacted by this decision. We will take all avenues open to us to allow us to provide continued service to the customers of our Boucherville facility."

Marion E. Britton, Vice President and CFO, stated that "Boucherville is our main hub in Quebec, however, we will service most of our customers from our numerous locations in Quebec and elsewhere. Our Quebec team will take actions as needed to minimize the negative impact on our earnings."

Russel Metals is one of the largest metals distribution companies in North America. It carries on business in three metals distribution segments: metals service centers, energy tubular products and steel distributors, under various names including Russel Metals, A.J. Forsyth, Acier Leroux, Acier Loubier, Acier Richler, Alberta Industrial Metals, Arrow Steel Processors, B&T Steel, Baldwin International, Comco Pipe and Supply, Fedmet Tubulars, JMS Russel Metals, Leroux Steel, McCabe Steel, Mégantic Métal, Métaux Russel, Métaux Russel Produits Spécialisés, Milspec, Norton Metals, Pioneer Pipe, Russel Metals Specialty Products, Russel Metals Williams Bahcall, Siemens Laserworks, Spartan Energy Tubulars, Sunbelt Group, Triumph Tubular & Supply, Wirth Steel and York-Ennis.

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