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BlueScope increases 2H FY2023 earnings guidance to \$700 million – \$770 million

BlueScope today announced that it now expects underlying earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) for 2H FY2023 to be in the range of \$700 million to \$770 million. This is above the prior guidance range of \$480 million to \$550 million.

Managing Director and CEO Mark Vassella said, “The improved outlook for 2H FY2023 is pleasing and a credit to the ongoing focus and dedication of our people and the loyalty of our customers. Whilst we have been able to benefit from improved prices and spreads, particularly in the US, the improved outlook also demonstrates the strength and resilience of operating a diverse portfolio of high-quality assets.”

Key drivers of the improved outlook

The main contributor to the improved outlook for 2H FY2023 underlying EBIT is North Star, our US mini-mill, where we now expect a result around 50 per cent higher than 1H FY2023. This has been driven by stronger than expected hot rolled coil prices and spreads¹, including the benefit of higher spreads on the volume from the ongoing ramp up of the expansion.

Additional drivers of the improved outlook are:

- The North America coated products business (Steelscape and ASC Profiles), due to higher US steel prices favourably impacting realised margins; and
- Australian Steel Products, with realised selling prices stronger than previously expected. The business continues to expect similar domestic despatch volumes compared to 1H FY2023.

The other segments are expected to perform in line with guidance provided at BlueScope’s 1H FY2023 results release in February 2023, including the moderate contribution from BlueScope Properties Group on the expected realisation of a project late in the half.

The revised guidance is subject to spread, foreign exchange and market conditions. BlueScope’s financial results for the year ending 30 June 2023 will be released on 21 August 2023.

¹ Benchmark prices may not be representative of realised mill prices due to a range of factors. Movements in prices across the majority of sales correlate with Midwest regional benchmark pricing, on a short lag; a minority of sales are priced on a longer-term basis. Accordingly, the degree of correlation between realised and benchmark prices can vary in a given half but is more fully reflected over the medium term.

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