

## PRESS RELEASE

### HSS HIRE ACQUIRES IRISH DIVISION OF MOBILE TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS

**17th September 2013:** HSS Hire Services Group (“HSS Hire”), the UK and Ireland’s leading national supplier of tools, equipment and related services, has acquired the Irish division of Mobile Traffic Solutions (“MTS”), a specialist provider of traffic management equipment, from Dublin-headquartered Rennicks Group.

MTS’ Irish business has a successful track record supplying traffic and crowd management solutions – for hire or purchase – to major road contractors as well as Local Authorities and event companies throughout Ireland. The business is one of the largest traffic management suppliers in Ireland.

HSS will combine the Irish division of MTS with its own Irish subsidiary, Laois Hire, to complement capabilities and facilitate rapid expansion.

The transaction is the latest in a series of acquisitions by HSS Hire aimed at generating new growth and accelerating expansion throughout the UK and Ireland, with a focus on improved local service. Other recent acquisitions include the purchase of Abird Generator Hire, one of the UK’s leading diesel electric generator hire companies, enabling HSS to offer a more comprehensive service in the growing temporary power market and UK Platforms, the powered access specialist which HSS acquired from Haulotte Group, making HSS the second-largest provider in the powered access market in the UK and Ireland.

The acquisition was managed by Investec, who acted as advisers for Rennicks.

Michael Killeen, Managing Director for HSS in Ireland and Scotland and for Laois Hire said: “We believe there is enormous potential to grow the Irish based MTS business and Laois Hire together – significantly increasing our combined market share, skilled capabilities and overall customer offering at what is a dynamic time for our group business.”

Chris Davies, Chief Executive Officer at HSS Hire added: “Today’s announcement is an important milestone in the growth of our company in Ireland which continues to go from strength to strength. MTS fits well within our existing equipment portfolio and will further enhance our position as a trusted partner and service leader in the tools and equipment rental, outsourcing and services sector. It is an exciting time for our business as we embark upon the next stage of growth and development – increasing our presence in existing markets and expanding in new ones throughout the UK and Ireland”.

Gareth McWeeney, Operations Director at Rennicks said: “Mobile, trailer mounted Variable Messaging Boards have been an important part of the product offering at Rennicks for over 10 years but this sale of our VMS Rental business gives us the opportunity to focus on our core business of Reflectorised Traffic Signage, Maintenance Solutions, Electronic Road Signage, and other Intelligent Traffic Solutions. We are delighted with the transaction and will work with Laois Hire to facilitate a smooth transition of the business and to ensure continuity of service for the Customer.”

## ENDS

### Notes to editors:

#### About HSS

HSS Hire Service Group is a tool and equipment hire chain that has been serving big businesses, trade and DIY customers in the UK and Ireland since 1957.

Operating under the banner of HSS Hire, the Group has an established nationwide network of over 240 locations and continues to open new branches around the country. The company also runs a dedicated training division and offers a range of innovative hire related services including HSS LiveHire, HSS Outsource and HSS Pitstop. The Group recently completed the acquisition of specialist power providers, Abird and specialist powered access company, UK Platforms.

HSS Hire is ISO9000, ISO14001, OHSAS18001 and SAFE-Hire certified and holds Investors in People status as well as a 4 star British Safety Award. HSS won the HAE's 'Excellence in Customer Care' award and was the ERA's European Rental Company of the Year in 2011. In 2012, HSS was the HAE's Hire Company of the Year.

HSS Hire has traded successfully and posted consistent growth during the last four years. A diverse client base protects the business from over-exposure to any one sector and a quarter of HSS Hire's revenues are derived from key national accounts. In October 2012, HSS was acquired by Exponent Private Equity in a transaction which unlocked fresh capital to enable the company's future growth plans.

#### About MTS (Irish division)

The Irish division of MTS is a specialist provider of traffic management equipment including Mobile Variable Message Signs (Highways Agency-compliant). Its equipment is routinely used on Ireland's busy roads: providing driver information on motorways and urban roads, at maintenance work zones and for incident management, traffic calming and event management.

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