Tharisa plc

(Incorporated in the Republic of Cyprus with limited liability)

(Registration number HE223412)

JSE share code: THA

**LSE share code: THS** 

ISIN: CY0103562118

('Tharisa')

Tharisa announces project completion, which will reduce the group's cost of debt

Tharisa is pleased to announce that the project completion test in respect of the

ZAR1 billion senior debt finance facility has been successfully completed. As a result of

project completion, the facility's interest rate will reduce from JIBAR + 490 bps pa to

JIBAR + 340 bps pa. In addition, the guarantee provided by the holding company to its

subsidiary will lapse.

The achievement of this milestone proves Tharisa's business model to economically mine at

the required run rate of at least 400 ktpm, the technical ability of the plants to process this

material at the nameplate capacity of 400 ktpm and to produce in specification PGM and

chrome concentrates.

The facility, which was raised to fund the expansion of Tharisa Minerals' mining footprint

and for the construction of the Voyager Plant, was raised in February 2012 and was utilised

As at 30 September 2016, the balance outstanding on the facility was in full.

ZAR502.2 million (USD36.5 million), with a final scheduled repayment date of 31 March

2019. The group holds a cash amount of ZAR135.3 million (USD9.8 million) as a debt service

reserve account resulting in a net amount of ZAR366.9 million (USD26.7 million) owing on

the facility at 30 September 2016.

The loan was provided by HSBC Bank Plc Johannesburg Branch, Nedbank Corporate and

Investment Banking (a division of Nedbank Limited) and Absa Bank Limited (acting through

its corporate and investment banking division). The independent technical consultant to the

lenders was Snowden Mining Industry Consultants Proprietary Limited.

The group targets a debt to equity ratio of 15% and as at 30 September 2016, the total debt to equity ratio (off-setting the debt service reserve account against the debt), was

approximately 17.5%.

"While commodity prices have recorded a recovery from recent lows, the commodity

markets remain volatile and to further de-risk the business the group will continue to reduce

its debt levels. I would like to give recognition to the teamwork that was required to ensure

the successful conclusion of the project completion tests and to thank the management of

Tharisa Minerals for achieving this milestone achievement," said Tharisa CFO Michael Jones.

The above information has not been reported on or reviewed by Tharisa's auditors.

Paphos, Cyprus

15 November 2016

JSE Sponsor

**Investec Bank Limited** 

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