

## Sumitomo Corporation Acquires Equity Stake in HOWCO Group

### Expansion in Oilfield Service Business

Tokyo, Japan ----Sumitomo Corporation (“Sumitomo”; President: Motoyuki Oka) executed a strategic partnership agreement with HOWCO Group (Chairman: Malcolm Howat; President: John Ferguson) and acquired a 50% equity stake.

HOWCO Group is a global supplier to the Oilfield Services Sector focusing on supply chain management activities which include tubular and bar distribution, added-value processing and manufacturing.

With the increasing demand for energy projected over the next decade and strong oil and metals prices, the high levels of exploration and production in the oil and gas industry are set to continue. Additionally, technological advancement in deepwater intervention and intelligent well systems that encounter hostile environments, create more demand for high nickel products, a part of the market which HOWCO has traditionally specialized in.

HOWCO has a leading market share of more than 30% with its advanced systems, technology and customer-oriented supply services.

Sumitomo plans to expand from its existing trade and supply of OCTG products to the Oilfield Services Sector and combine its existing tubular products business with HOWCO Group’s continued development of Supply Chain Added-Value Processes and Technical Advantage in order to provide not only tubular products but also accessories and related services. Sumitomo intends to expand its service capability in order to address “Total Oil Industry Needs” for Enhanced Services.

### Company Summary

Name: HOWCO Group  
Locations: USA; Canada; Singapore; China; Norway; England and Scotland  
Business: Leading Oilfield Services Provider to OEM’s  
Activities: Supply Chain Management - Manufacture, Processing and Distribution of Speciality Metals.  
Incorporation: 1982  
Ownership by Sumitomo: 50%