

**NEWS RELEASE**

Wednesday, 6 December 2000

**PAPERLINX DISPATCHES OFFER  
TO SPICERS PAPER SHAREHOLDERS**

PaperlinX Limited ("PaperlinX"), through a wholly-owned subsidiary, Paper Australia Pty Ltd, today commenced the dispatch of its Bidder's Statement and associated Offer documents to shareholders of Spicers Paper Limited ("Spicers").

The offer closes at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 10 January 2001, unless extended by PaperlinX.

On 16 November 2000, PaperlinX announced a scrip-for-scrip or combination scrip/cash offer for Spicers, comprising:

- 7 PaperlinX shares for every 8 Spicers shares held; or
- 4 PaperlinX shares plus \$10 cash for every 8 Spicers shares held.

The scrip-for-scrip offer valued Spicers at \$2.99 per share based on the closing PaperlinX share price of \$3.42 on 29 November 2000, the last date before the bidder's statement went to print.

This represents a premium of 32% to the volume weighted average price ("VWAP") for Spicers shares for three months to 8 November 2000.

PaperlinX Managing Director, Mr Ian Wightwick, said PaperlinX had dispatched its Offer to Spicers' shareholders in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Corporations Law.

"We believe the offer represents full and fair value for Spicers. It has been recommended by the Spicers' Board, subject to there being no higher bid", said Mr Wightwick.

“The merger will enable PaperlinX to establish a strong platform for overseas growth. It will help build an independent, Australian-owned paper distributor that can compete in the challenging international market place”, said Mr Wightwick. “There are considerable synergy benefits in combining the domestic operations of the two companies that will provide substantial efficiencies which will flow on to the Australian paper distribution market.”

The Offer is subject to a number of conditions that are set out fully in the Bidder’s Statement.

Shareholders requiring further information about the PaperlinX Offer can contact Computershare Registry Services on 1800 232 867. The Offer and Bidder’s Statement are available for viewing at [www.paperlinX.com.au](http://www.paperlinX.com.au) under “Offer for Spicers”.

For further information, please contact:

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