



MARKET RELEASE

20 March 2006

James Hardie Industries N.V

TRADING HALT

The securities of James Hardie Industries N.V (the "Company") will be placed in pre-open at the request of the Company, pending the release of an announcement by the Company. Unless ASX decides otherwise, the securities will remain in pre-open until the earlier of the commencement of normal trading on Wednesday, 22 March 2006 or when the announcement is released to the market.

Security Code: JHX

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Small', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Stephen Small
Assistant Adviser, Issuers (Sydney)