

**ASX**

AUSTRALIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

MARKET RELEASE

24 March 2005

FORTESCUE METALS GROUP LTD**TRADING HALT**

The securities of Fortescue Metals Group Ltd (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, 30 March 2005 or when the announcement is released to the market.

Security Code: FMG

Anthony Walsh

Assistant Manager Companies