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Companhia Vale do Rio Doce

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

COMPANHIA VALE DO RIO DOCE

By: /s/ Eduardo de Carvalho Duarte

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Name: Eduardo de Carvalho Duarte  
Title: Chief Accountant

Dated: December 14, 2001

Item 1

[LOGO OMITTED] Companhia  
Vale do Rio Doce

Press Release

ALBRAS BROWNFIELD EXPANSION

Rio de Janeiro, December 13, 2001 - Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) informs

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that ALBRAS - Alumínio Brasileiro S.A. (Albras), a company in which its wholly owned subsidiary Vale do Rio Doce S.A. - Aluvale holds 51% of the total capital, concluded today the expansion of its nominal production capacity of 45,000 tonnes per year.

Albras' new primary aluminum production capacity is 406,000 tonnes per year. It is the biggest aluminum smelter in Brazil and one of the lowest cash cost producers in the world.

There were invested approximately US\$ 55 million, corresponding to a cost of US\$ 1,222 per tonne of additional capacity. It is a very low capex cost, even considering that it is a brownfield project.

Albras expansion is part of CVRD strategy of creating value through the exploration of profitable growth opportunities. Its global competitiveness is supported by low capex and opex costs.

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This release includes "forward-looking statements" that express expectations of future events or results. All statements based on future expectations rather than on historical facts are forward-looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties, and the company cannot give assurance that such statements will prove to be correct.