

PRESS RELEASE

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 2.30PM

### **POWERNET AND ST JOHN ANNOUNCE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP FOCUSED ON SAFETY**

PowerNet and St John today announced a three-year partnership aimed at improving public safety and first aid education in the South.

PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin said the synergy between both organisations made the partnership an obvious choice.

“PowerNet’s core focus is safety – safety of the public and safety of the people who work on our networks. We have had contact with St John at incidents – such as a car versus a power pole - they attend as first responders. This partnership will use our combined resources to build safety and education promotion for our customers,” Mr Franklin said.

He said PowerNet had looked closely at how the company could support the communities it works in.

“St John have excellent networks and education programmes. They were assessed, using some very stringent criteria, as the best fit for our community support. We’re looking forward to working with them.”

Mr Franklin said the relationship was focused on safety through education in the first stage, and would develop further over the three years.

“We are delighted that we have a partnership that benefits both parties to reach our particular goals. St John is a very respected organisation, and their ideals of safety, reliability and security are exactly the same as PowerNet’s.”

The PowerNet/St John partnership will initially focus on key safety messages and first aid training and expand over the life of the partnership to other programmes that will help the communities we serve.”

“Working with our communities is important to us. With St John we can get out our core safety messages and support their excellent work at the same time,” Mr Franklin said.

**Ends**

**For more information, please contact**

**PowerNet, GM Business Support - Tim Brown on 0272140211**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

- **The initial focus of the partnership is to deliver first aid training and safety education across the PowerNet managed networks, Electricity Invercargill Limited and The Power Company Limited.**
- **We will work together to encourage safety education and training in the South.**
- **PowerNet views safety education and training as an important community benefit.**
- **The financial support is similar to what PowerNet put in as the major sponsor of the Tour of Southland.**