

31 January 2007

## **SKILLED Group expands in New Zealand through acquisition of ICE Personnel Limited**

SKILLED Group Limited ("SKILLED"), Australia and New Zealand's leading provider of labour hire and staffing services, today announced the acquisition of Auckland business ICE Personnel Limited ("ICE").

A privately owned business established in 2003, ICE provides contract and permanent skilled and semi skilled labour to the industrial, engineering and commercial sectors. With annual revenues of NZ\$5 million, ICE operates from South Auckland and has around 160 field employees.

Commenting on the acquisition Greg Hargrave, SKILLED Group's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer said:

"ICE is a well managed business that has grown steadily over the past three years under the guidance of Jos Eegdeman. We are pleased that Jos will remain with the business over the next couple of months and will work with our New Zealand General Manager Chris Sharples throughout the transition."

"The acquisition of ICE provides us with deeper penetration of the Auckland market, particularly in the Greater South Auckland region. New Zealand is a growing market and we will continue to build on our position both organically and through acquisition."

Jos Eegdeman, General Manager of ICE Personnel Limited said:

"SKILLED Group has a good track record of acquiring businesses and building on the opportunities that arise. Our clients, staff and field employees will benefit from being a part of a company that is focused on growing its presence in New Zealand."

SKILLED expanded into the New Zealand market in 1997 and now has five offices in Auckland, the Bay of Plenty and Christchurch.

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### **About SKILLED Group**

SKILLED Group Limited is Australia and New Zealand's leading provider of labour hire and staffing services. SKILLED Group has over 150 offices across Australasia with annualised revenues over \$A1.5 billion. SKILLED partners with clients to improve their workforce efficiency and increase their productivity levels by providing staffing services in the blue collar, call centre and nursing sectors. SKILLED is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX: SKE) and has approximately 6,200 shareholders, predominantly in Australia.