**Press Release**

## CARGILL COMPLETES US$12.5 MILLION INVESTMENT IN ANIMAL FEED PREMIX MANUFACTURING FACILITY

*23 February 2015:* **Astral Foods Limited** (Astral), a leading Southern African integrated poultry producer, announces the completion of the redevelopment and expansion of the animal feed vitamin and mineral premix manufacturing facility at Provimi SSA (Pty) Limited (Provimi SSA) based in Pietermaritzburg.  Following the acquisition of half of Astral's interest in Provimi SSA, Cargill became the majority (75%) shareholder in the company in 2012 and assumed managerial control.  Astral owns the remaining 25% interest in the company.

On 14 December 2012, Cargill and Astral issued a joint statement on the approval of the redevelopment and expansion of the manufacturing facility, which produces micronutrient blends used in the manufacture of compound animal feed.  The investment was driven by an increase in demand from customers throughout the region for animal feed products. Chris Schutte, CEO of Astral, stated that the expansion, which includes new equipment, technology and resources has increased the plant's efficiency and will ensure consistent product quality. Schutte adds: "This investment reinforces Astral's commitment towards its stated strategy of being a fully integrated feed and poultry producer, making continued investment in the poultry value chain."

This investment demonstrates Cargill's commitment to an animal production market in sub-Saharan Africa that is experiencing significant growth.  The state-of-the-art facility produces poultry, ruminant, swine and pet food vitamin and mineral premix blends and base mix products for animal feed producers, which are marketed under the Provimi brand throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

The facility combines the latest feed safety technology and product quality capabilities, including automated barcode scanning and ingredient dosing. The design provides operational flexibility and minimal cross-contamination risk. The Pietermaritzburg facility positions Cargill to achieve its growth plans through increased production capacity and flexibility in product manufacturing, packaging and logistics.

Gary Arnold, Business Development Director at Astral, adds: "Consistent quality and complete traceability in the production of these micronutrient blends is essential for safe animal feed and safe food, and the new investment delivers superbly on these requirements through a world class, technically advanced and highly automated manufacturing process."

"In addition to producing animal feed products that contribute to feeding billions of animals which ultimately reach the dinner tables of more than 1 billion people every day, our Pietermaritzburg facility employees support the local community and provide assistance to many worthy organisations;" added David Webster, President and business leader of Cargill Animal Nutrition's premix business. "We understand how important it is to be both a viable business and a good neighbour in the community, and we work hard to fill both needs."

**Ends**

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## Company background

**Astral Foods Limited** (Astral), a leading South African integrated poultry producer, with key activities in animal feed pre-mixes, manufacturing of animal feeds, broiler genetics, production and sale of day-old chicks and hatching eggs, with integrated breeder and broiler production operations, abattoirs as well as sales and distribution of various key poultry brands. The brands in the Astral stable include:

- County Fair
- Festive
- Goldi
- Earlybird
- Mountain Valley
- Ross Poultry Breeders
- National Chicks

- Meadow Feeds
- Tiger Animal Feeds (Zambia)
- Tiger Chicks (Zambia)
- Meadow Feeds (Mozambique)
- Mozpintos (Mozambique)
- CAL Labs
- Provimi SSA