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Ball Announces Expiration of Hart-Scott-Rodino Waiting Period on AB InBev Plants Acquisition

BROOMFIELD, Colo., Aug. 13 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Ball Corporation (NYSE: BLL) announced today that the Hart-Scott-Rodino (HSR) waiting period has expired without a request for additional information from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, with respect to Ball's acquisition of certain of Anheuser-Busch InBev's (AB InBev) beverage can manufacturing assets, including three beverage can plants and a beverage can end plant as well as associated contracts.

Ball also announced that it has agreed with AB InBev to close the acquisition on or about Sept. 30.

"We are pleased with this outcome and look forward to closing the acquisition and welcoming our new employees into Ball," said R. David Hoover, chairman, president and chief executive officer. "We have developed detailed integration plans which we will begin to implement immediately after closing. We expect the acquisition to be earnings accretive and cash flow positive for Ball and to earn a return in excess of our cost of capital."

Ball Corporation is a supplier of high-quality metal and plastic packaging for beverage, food and household products customers, and of aerospace and other technologies and services, primarily for the U.S. government. Ball Corporation and its subsidiaries employ more than 14,000 people worldwide and reported 2008 sales of approximately $7.6 billion.

Forward-Looking Statements

This release contains "forward-looking" statements concerning future events and financial performance. Words such as "expects," "anticipates," "estimates" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied. The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Key risks and uncertainties are summarized in filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including Exhibit 99.2 in our Form 10-K, which are available at our Web site and at *www.sec.gov*. Factors that might affect our packaging segments include fluctuation in product demand and preferences; availability and cost of raw materials; competitive packaging availability, pricing and substitution; changes in climate and weather; crop yields; competitive activity; failure to achieve anticipated productivity improvements or production

cost reductions, including our beverage can end project; mandatory deposit or other restrictive packaging laws; changes in major customer or supplier contracts or loss of a major customer or supplier; and changes in foreign exchange rates, tax rates and activities of foreign subsidiaries. Factors that might affect our aerospace segment include: funding, authorization, availability and returns of government and commercial contracts; and delays, extensions and technical uncertainties affecting segment contracts. Factors that might affect the company as a whole include those listed plus: accounting changes; changes in senior management; the current global credit squeeze and its effects on liquidity, credit risk, asset values and the economy; successful or unsuccessful acquisitions, joint ventures or divestitures; integration of recently acquired businesses; regulatory action or laws including tax, environmental, health and workplace safety, including in respect of chemicals or substances used in raw materials or in the manufacturing process; governmental investigations; technological developments and innovations; goodwill impairment; antitrust, patent and other litigation; strikes; labor cost changes; rates of return projected and earned on assets of the company's defined benefit retirement plans; pension changes; reduced cash flow; interest rates affecting our debt; and changes to unaudited results due to statutory audits or other effects.

SOURCE Ball Corporation