

MEDIA RELEASE

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8IP EMERGING COMPANIES LIMITED (ASX: 8EC) ANNOUNCES MAIDEN DIVIDEND

- **Maiden fully-franked dividend of 1c per share**
- **Revenue and Operating profit before tax up 101% and 66% respectively**
- **Gross portfolio performance was 7.54% over the half**
- **The Board aims to provide a stable and rising stream of dividends in the future**

8IP Emerging Companies (“8EC”) has released interim results for the half year ending 31 December 2016 and announced a maiden fully-franked dividend of 1c

Revenue from ordinary activities was \$3.1m and operating profit before tax was \$2.2m, up 101% and 66% respectively on the prior period.

Jonathan Sweeney, Chairman of 8EC, commented “This is an excellent result for 8EC given challenging market conditions for ASX-listed small companies in the 2nd half of 2016 and the Board is pleased to reward shareholders by declaring the Company’s first dividend. Our aim is to provide a stable and rising stream of dividends over the years ahead”.

The gross performance of the portfolio over the half was 7.54% compared to a 5.84% return for the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index.

Kerry Series, CIO of Eight Investment Partners (“8IP”), the Manager of the Company’s portfolio, said “Smaller company stocks sold off from mid-August until December, with the de-rating of many higher P/E growth stocks and outperformance by resource stocks. The portfolio’s return benefited from the flexibility of our mandate with gains from our decision to short index futures in August and from the listing of a pre-IPO position in December”.

8EC’s current share price of \$1.01 is at a discount to the pre-tax NTA of \$1.1403 as at 31 December 2016.

“We do not believe that the discount reflects the good performance of the portfolio and the Board is considering all options to seek to narrow the discount. We believe that the dividend signals our determination to reward shareholders”, Sweeney added.

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