

Statement from Thanet Earth Ltd

For immediate release



1st May 2019

Christopher Mack, Chairman of Thanet Earth Limited, has issued this statement today on behalf of the business.

“I can confirm that after four years of service with the Thanet Earth business, Des Kingsley has informed us of his intention to step down as its Managing Director. He will be moving on to a new role in the food industry, with provisional leaving date of 14th June.

On behalf of the Board of Thanet Earth Limited I want to thank Des for his commitment to the business and to wish him well in the future. He has overseen the continuing development of the site and managed Thanet Earth through a period of fast-paced change in the market.

We anticipate a smooth handover to the new Managing Director of Thanet Earth Limited. To this end, I am pleased to announce that Chris Butler is to join the business from 7th May.

Chris has been with Fresca Group (joint venture partner at Thanet Earth) for more than twenty years, most recently as General Manager of the company’s service provision business at The Fresh Produce Centre in Paddock Wood. He has broad experience and training behind him, with key leadership roles in procurement, commercial and operations. This is a well-deserved promotion and the natural next step for Chris.

Many will know Chris already, but he will make it a priority to settle quickly into the new role, getting to know our customers, our growers and the team at Thanet Earth.

There’s a bright future in UK food production and the Board of Thanet Earth are pleased to have appointed Chris to help bring the next phase of our growth to fruition. We wish him every success.”

- ENDS –



Des Kingsley



Chris Butler

Information for editors:

Thanet Earth is the UK's largest single producer of speciality tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers on a 95 hectare site near Birchington in Kent. Six greenhouses (from a planned total of seven) are operational, with production assisted by supplementary lighting through the winter months. The extent of the lit production is very unusual for a UK grower and enables the business to harvest tomatoes all year round. It also ensures the earliest UK crop of cucumbers, helping to keep delicious and nutritious, British-grown food on shelf for longer.

Having just completed its tenth year of production and created over 700 new jobs, this £152m investment in the commercial horticulture sector has become a key supplier to the UK's best-known retailers. 24.5 hectares of glasshouse are devoted to the production of speciality tomatoes. When picking at full capacity the site produces up to 850,000 cucumbers and 750,000 peppers each week.

The very latest in technology is employed across the Thanet Earth site, along with a commitment to the most environmentally-friendly methods of commercial production.

For more information, email press@thanetearth.com or call 01892 831222.