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# Media release

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## For immediate release

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## Whyalla pays tribute to KordaMentha

The City of Whyalla gave thanks and paid tribute to company KordaMentha with a special presentation at its last general council meeting.

KordaMentha is the advisory and investment company assigned to find a new owner for Arrium, the operators of the Whyalla steelworks, after it collapsed under a multi-billion debt load and was placed in to administration.

Taking over as administrators of the steelworks, while sorting through prospective buyers during a tense 18-month period, KordaMentha triumphantly announced the London-based GFG Alliance and its Liberty operation as the successful bidder in July this year with the steelworks now operating as Liberty OneSteel.

It was outcome hailed by Whyalla Mayor Lyn Breuer as the “biggest turning point in the history of Whyalla” as she presented chief administrators Mark Mentha and Sebastian Hams with a spectacular framed photo of the steelworks.

“It was a very happy day today, saying goodbye to KordaMentha, but it is also a very sad in doing so because Whyalla community and council owe these guys an incredible debt,” Mayor Breuer said.

“When Arrium went into administration, it was heartbreaking, people shook their heads and thought ‘what happens now?’.

“But KordaMentha came in, took over and gained the confidence of the Whyalla community in a big way. We could see they were serious, they cared about us and were going to do their very best to get that best outcome for us.

“Without KordaMentha, we wouldn’t be here today.”

In return, KordaMentha’s Mark Mentha paid tribute to the people of Whyalla for the role they played in saving the city’s primary industry.

“Grit is usually something you associate with Whyalla when you get dust in your eye from high winds but this city has grit and perseverance in spades,” Mr Mentha said as he accepted the City of Whyalla gift.

“From the mayors and councillors, the chamber of commerce, community service clubs and leaders, unions, business leaders and the Small Business Commission John Chapman and his team, OneWhyalla community updates became our battle cry for Whyalla to be informed and be heard.

“We saw off a statewide blackout, a pay decrease, volatility in all input commodities - iron ore, coal, gas and electricity - a fire on our offshore barge and yet the community and employees came through.

“Thank you for placing your trust in us. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you.

“Whyalla has proven time and time again it is made of the right stuff ... and it will be prosperous again.

“I can say we did it and we did it together.”

Ends

For further information contact Mayor Lyn Breuer on 0419 806 415.

*Pictured: Mayor Lyn Breuer, KordaMentha's Mark Mentha and Sebastian Hams and Council CEO Chris Cowley during the presentation of a framed photo at the general council meeting.*

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