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MMC NORILSK NICKEL ANNOUNCES BUY-BACK OF ITS OWN SHARES

Moscow, August 22, 2008 – Today the Board of Directors of OJSC MMC Norilsk Nickel (hereinafter – Norilsk Nickel or the Company), acting under the Federal Law of Russian Federation *On Joint Stock Companies* (Art. 72 p. 2) and the Company's Charter (p. 9.3.8.), has taken the decision by a majority vote to buy-back up to 7,947,000 of the Company's own shares (about 4% of the authorized capital of Norilsk Nickel).

"Norilsk Nickel intends to buy-back its own shares in order to support the Company's securities, which went down in price significantly in the last several months. This price drop was impacted mostly by factors that are irrelevant to the Company's fundamentals," - said General Director Vladimir Strzhalkovsky.

Vladimir Strzhalkovsky also emphasized Norilsk Nickel's strong growth potential, which the new management team intends to fulfill to the maximum extent.

Shares will be bought-back from shareholders of Norilsk Nickel on a pro rata basis at RUB 6,167 (around USD 254) per share, which is a volume weighted average share price for the period from February 15, 2008 to August 15, 2008 according to MICEX data. The period was selected to reflect the medium-term movement of the Company's share prices and minimize the effect of short-term developments.

The number of shares to be bought-back from the shareholders was established, *inter alia*, on the basis of conservative approach to Norilsk Nickel's liquidity management and taking into consideration the program of capital investments for 2008-2009.

"In the last three years the shareholders of Norilsk Nickel received more than USD 8 billion as a result of stock buy-backs or buy-outs, and in the form of dividends. The share buy-back will be conducted in accordance with best corporate governance practices, in absolutely transparent manner ensuring equal access for all shareholders of the Company and permitting the holders of American depositary receipts (ADRs) to participate in the share buy-back process. Bought-back shares will be held as treasury shares on the balance sheet of Norilsk Nickel," - said Alexander Popov, First Deputy General Director of the Company.

Applications for Norilsk Nickel's share buy-back will be accepted from shareholders willing to sell their shares in the period from September 29, 2008 to October 28, 2008.

Shares will be purchased in the period from October 29, 2008 to November 27, 2008.

Cash payments for bought-back shares shall be made in accordance with the terms of stock purchase agreements but not later than in 15 days after the shares are recorded on the account of Norilsk Nickel in the Company's Register.

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DISCLAIMER

The preceding communication is not an offer to buy or the solicitation of an offer to sell any securities of Norilsk Nickel. The buy-back offer that is described in the preceding communication has not yet commenced. Once a buy-back commences, if at all, the company's shareholders will be provided, free of charge, with the documents relating to the offer to purchase (including notice on buyback, tender application form, information memorandum, letter of transmittal and related documents). Shareholders should read the notice on buyback and the information memorandum describing the offer to purchase and other related documents if and when they become available because they will contain important information about the offer. The notice on buyback and the information memorandum on the offer to purchase and related documents will be made available on the corporate website of Norilsk Nickel as well as through the company's agent for the buy-back.

In the United Kingdom, this document is being distributed only to persons who are qualified investors within the meaning of Section 86(7) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 who (i) have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the "Order") or (ii) fall within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order, or (iii) are persons to whom it may otherwise lawfully be communicated (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). Any investment activity in connection with the ADRs will be engaged in only with, (i) in the United Kingdom, relevant persons, and (ii) in any member state of the European Economic Area (other than the United Kingdom), "qualified investors" within the meaning of Article 2.1(e) of the Prospectus Directive (Directive 2003/71/EC) ("Qualified Investors"). Persons other than relevant persons and other Qualified Investors should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

Certain statements in this communication are not historical facts and are forward-looking statements. By their very nature, forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both general and specific, and risks exist that the predictions, forecasts, projections and other forward-looking statements will not be achieved. Achieving the targets set forth above will depend on many factors and contingencies, many of which are outside of the company's control. Norilsk Nickel does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any of the forward-looking statements contained in this statement.

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ABOUT MMC NORILSK NICKEL:

MMC Norilsk Nickel, a corporation incorporated under the laws of the Russian Federation, is the largest diversified mining and metals company in Russia, the world's largest producer of nickel and palladium and one of the world's largest producers of platinum, rhodium, copper and cobalt. In addition to this, Norilsk Nickel produces a large number of other by-products, including gold, silver, tellurium, selenium, iridium and ruthenium.

The key production units of the Group in Russia are the Polar Division and OJSC Kola Mining and Metallurgical Company. MMC Norilsk Nickel International Nickel Business includes operations in Finland, Australia, Botswana and South Africa. Norilsk Nickel is the majority shareholder in Stillwater Mining Company, the largest producer of platinum group metals in North America, whose shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Detailed information on these operations is available at the website www.norilsknickel.ru/en in the "Operations" section.