

TELE NORTE LESTE ANNOUNCES ANNUAL DIVIDEND PAYMENT RELATED TO FISCAL YEAR 2001

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – June 12, 2002 – TELE NORTE LESTE PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A. (NYSE: TNE), the holding company of providers of fixed line public telecommunications services and holder of a PCS license in the North, Northeastern and Eastern regions of Brazil, announced today that it will pay dividends corresponding to fiscal year 2001. As per a Shareholders' Meeting held on April 25, 2002, which approved the dividend distribution, TNE will begin paying dividends in Brazil, as of June 24, 2002, in a total amount of approximately R\$ 303.5 million. Details are as follows:

1) VALUE PER COMMON AND PREFERRED SHARES:

Total: R\$ 0.000821402 per share (being R\$ 0.000811975 as principal and R\$ 0.000009427 as interest)

- 2) ACCRUED INTEREST AND TAXES:** As decided in the aforementioned Meeting, the above mentioned amount accrues interest based on the TR – Taxa Referencial – rate (a factor of 1.01161025), from January 01, 2002 until June 24, 2002. On the corresponding amount, exclusively on the accrued interest, a 20% income tax will be applied to Brazilian shareholders and a 15% income tax will be applied to foreign and non-resident investors.

For more information, please contact:

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