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HD Highlights of AAP Finance Wire March 10, 2014

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LP HIGHLIGHTS Updated highlights of the AAP Finance Wire for Monday, March 10:

PERTH - Leighton holdings shares have surged more than 11 per cent as Germany's [Hochtief](#) moved to boost its stake in the company and take control of the board. (LEIGHTON, with factbox, on file)

TD SYDNEY - Jobs growth in February is expected to have bounced back after a weak result in January but not enough to bring down the unemployment rate. (LABOUR FORCE PREVIEW, with factbox, on file)

SYDNEY - [Origin Energy](#) chairman and former beverages executive Gordon Cairns is the new chairman of retailer David Jones. (DAVID JONES on file)

MELBOURNE - Ship builder Austal has won a \$US125 million (\$A138.71 million) contract to build two vessels for an unidentified naval customer in the Middle East. (AUSTAL on file)

SYDNEY - A Queensland coal seam gas operator has received a \$160 million takeover offer from a Chinese firm. (WESTSIDE on file)

SYDNEY - [Westpac](#) has appointed a former chief executive of eBay Australia and Hoyts Cinemas to its board. (WESTPAC on file)

#### PREMIUM FINANCE STORIES

The following finance stories and features are available on AAP's premium FinEx content service.

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By Peter Trute, AAP Senior Finance Writer

SYDNEY - Rich Chinese investors are buying up almost one-fifth of new housing built in Sydney as part of a \$5 billion annual outlay on Australian real estate that is pushing up prices and will ultimately change the way property values are calculated. (FINEX: PROPERTY CHINA, with factbox, on file)

By Garry Shilson-Josling, AAP Economist

SYDNEY - Just as Australia's top central banker was warning that house prices can go down as well as up, they continued going up. (FINEX: HOUSING on file)

See also on the general wire:

SYDNEY - Prime Minister Tony Abbott wants to relax media ownership laws, potentially leading to greater consolidation across the sector. (MEDIA)

SYDNEY - There are growing calls for a coal seam gas project in northwest NSW to be scrapped after an aquifer was contaminated with uranium 20 times higher than safe drinking water levels. (SANTOS)

Also Stocks Aust, Dollar Aust and Stockwatch on file.

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