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## Australian netballer Natalie Medhurst to join Firebirds line-up in 2010

The Queensland Firebirds will gain more experience, speed and accuracy at the attack end of the court with Netball Queensland Chief Executive Officer Cameron O'Hara announcing Australian representative Natalie Medhurst in the 2010 line-up today.

The 25 year old, 2009 Australian Diamonds and Adelaide Thunderbirds player has signed a two-year deal with the Firebirds under new coach Roselee Jencke.

Medhurst's greatest strengths as goal shooter and goal attack are her accuracy, elusiveness, speed, and cool demeanour and this will be a welcome addition to Jencke's Firebirds team next year.

"Natalie is going to be a great asset to the Firebirds with her speed, agility and good timing and the shooting circle will really benefit from this," Jencke said.

"I've worked with her in the Australian 21 and Under team in 2005 and in recent years with the Diamonds and she's a very skilled netballer. I'm very excited to have her on the team."

Medhurst has played for the Adelaide Thunderbirds since 2004 and the Australian Diamonds from 2007.

"I'm really excited to be joining the Firebirds. It's going to be a new and exciting time for the club next year and I'm so happy to be a part of it," Medhurst said.

"I wanted a change, to give myself more of a challenge and better opportunity in the ANZ Championship and I think the Firebirds are a great club to do that with."

As well as looking forward to being part of a close knit team in 2010, Medhurst is excited to be playing under Jencke, who she has had some interaction with as part of the Australian Diamonds.

"Roselee is lovely, she is cool and calm headed and has great experience working under Norma (Plummer) for the Australian Diamonds. I am really looking forward to working more closely with her," Medhurst said.

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Medhurst admitted it was a hard decision for her to make after spending six years with the Adelaide Thunderbirds.

“It will be very hard for me to leave my team mates in Adelaide because I have played with them for such a long time and they’re a great bunch of girls but I need this new experience and I know this is the right decision,” she said.

Netball Queensland will have more exciting announcements for the 2010 Queensland Firebirds team in the coming weeks.

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