

## Vedanta to complete Gamsberg zinc project by 2017-18

As the global zinc market faces capacity constraints, Vedanta Resources has set a deadline of 2017 to 2018 for completing the first phase of its Gamsberg project with USD 630 million investment.

Mr. Kishore Kumar CEO of Vedanta Group's CEO Base Metals (Africa, Ireland and Australia) said, "In zinc business, there is a capacity constraint coming in the next 3 to 5 years. We have committed USD 630 million for the phase 1 of the Gamsberg development project. This will be completed by 2017 to 2018."

Vedanta Resources had bought the

Gamsberg deposit and Skorpion mine in Namibia from Anglo American Plc as a part of a package of zinc assets in 2010 for about USD 1.3 billion.

The mine, which is the biggest known undeveloped zinc deposit in the world, has around 215 MT of zinc deposits. The company plans to develop 50 MT in the first phase, which is a little more than 25%. The project would also be a very big support to Vedanta's own businesses because some of its mines like Lisheen mine in Ireland would be closed down by 2015-2016 and the Skorpion mine in Namibia would also be shut in 2018



to 2019.

Mr. Kumar said that "So our own capacity will be falling unless we bring Gamsberg into production. Once the first phase is over, we will come back to Board and take further approvals. But it is sufficed to say that the expansion of this project will be one of the largest zinc deposits in the world."

## Mitsubishi, Siemens JV start operations

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) and Siemens AG recently announced the closing of their joint venture in the field of metallurgical industry. The new company is named Primetals Technologies, Limited and headquartered in London, UK. With this joint venture both partners are forming a globally operating complete provider for plants, products and services for the iron, steel and aluminum industry.

Mitsubishi-Hitachi Metals Machinery, Inc. - an MHI consolidated group company with equity participation by Hitachi, Ltd. and IHI Corporation - holds a 51-percent and Siemens a 49-percent stake in the joint venture. With closing of the transaction, the joint venture will start operations with 9,000 employees coming from both partners.

Shunichi Miyanaga, President and CEO of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries said, "MHI and Siemens have been sharing extremely favorable 'chemistry' in their corporate cultures, and each of them has different areas of strength in terms of both products and geographic regions, and therefore we stand to benefit significantly from synergy merits. By joining forces, we will be able to provide customers with even better solutions than ever before."

Joe Kaeser, President and CEO of Siemens said, "With Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, we have a trusted partner with an outstanding technology portfolio. Primetals Technologies' customers can rely on a powerful global player offering world-leading technologies. With this move we further execute on Siemens Vision 2020 to strengthen our core activities."



## Rio Tinto to export uranium to India

Diversified mining giant Rio Tinto group, one of the largest exporters of uranium from Australia, said recently that it expects another year or two before it starts shipping the nuclear fuel to India.

"The memorandum of understanding for civil nuclear cooperation was signed last year but there is still work that needs to be done on certain safeguards about the end use of the uranium. It is an elaborate process and though both sides are committed, I think it will take another year or two before we start exporting uranium to India," said Sam Walsh, group Chief Executive Officer, Rio Tinto.

Walsh added that he expressed interest in bidding for coal blocks in his discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Commercial mining of coal is still some way off, but we are open to opportunities," he said.

The group currently has a two way trade with India of about \$2 billion. Rio Tinto is still awaiting environment clearances for its \$2 billion iron ore project in Odisha and \$500 million diamond mining project in Madhya Pradesh. "The Madhya Pradesh project is an important one. It has the potential to create 30,000 jobs. We hope that approvals for this and the Odisha iron ore project will come through soon," said Walsh.

He added that over the three meeting with Modi in the last six month, the issue of pending approvals has been raised.

