



## Rio Tinto to offer independently certified responsibly produced aluminium



Rio Tinto has become the first mining and metals company to be granted the aluminium industry's Chain of Custody certification by the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI). The certification means Rio Tinto will be the only company selling aluminium that customers can be assured has been produced to the highest environmental, social and governance standards, placing Rio Tinto at a competitive advantage.

The certification reinforces Rio Tinto's commitment to responsible mining and metals production by providing independent verification that material can be traced through a 'chain of custody' spanning Rio Tinto's Gove bauxite mine in Australia to its alumina refinery, aluminium smelters and casthouses in Quebec, Canada.

Rio Tinto Aluminium chief executive Alf Barrios said "Achieving this certification demonstrates Rio Tinto's commitment to the highest international production standards and offers customers the ability to provide end consumers with the confidence that the aluminium in their products has been responsibly produced.

"Aluminium has a key role to play as a material of choice to reduce carbon and increase recycling across a wide range of end products from food packaging to buildings, planes, cars, mobile phones and computers."

Rio Tinto has led the establishment of responsible production certification for the

aluminium industry as a founding member of the ASI, working alongside customers and a broad range of stakeholders.

Rio Tinto Aluminium vice president sales and marketing and ASI Board member Tolga Egrilmezer said "We see certified sustainable aluminium as a point of differentiation for Rio Tinto as customers become increasingly interested in ensuring that metals have been responsibly produced. The ASI certification will enable us to generate value for Rio Tinto and our customers because we believe there will be a fundamental shift in demand for these products."

ASI chief executive officer Fiona Solomon said "We applaud Rio Tinto for their commitment to ASI's mission since joining as a founding member, and for being the first to achieve ASI certification for both ASI Standards. This successful Chain of Custody certification demonstrates ASI's potential to create impact through

voluntary uptake of its program. We look forward to the positive example being set by upstream producers, like Rio Tinto, extending into downstream aluminium use sectors such as automotive, construction and packaging."

The ASI is a global, multi-stakeholder, non-profit standards setting and certification organisation. It works toward responsible production, sourcing and stewardship of aluminium following an entire value chain approach. ASI launched its Performance Standard and Chain of Custody Standard in December 2017.

ASI's 60+ members include leading civil society organisations, companies with activities in bauxite mining, alumina refining, aluminium smelting, semi-fabrication, product and component manufacturing, as well as consumer and commercial goods, including the automotive industry, construction and packaging, as well as industry associations and other supporters. ■

## RUSAL restarts operation of the Friguia alumina refinery in Guinea

The official ceremony to mark the restoration of the Friguia refinery was attended by the President of Guinea, Alpha Conde, the Russian Ambassador to Guinea, Alexander Bregadze, as well as the management of RUSAL. This follows agreements reached in 2016 between the Republic of Guinea and the company, which provide for the ramp up of production up to 550-600 thousand tonnes of alumina per year within 12 months from the resumption of operations.

"The commencement of shipments from the Dian-Dian deposit and the resumption of the operation of the Friguia alumina refinery are important developments both for RUSAL and the Republic of Guinea. Thanks to the support of the country's leadership, the previously reached agreements on the implementation of these large-scale projects have been fulfilled on time, which is hugely beneficial for the development of the city of Friguia, the industrial centre of Guinea," said Yakov Itskov, Director of the Alumina Division at UC RUSAL. ■