



Altech Loan to Fund High-Purity Alumina Production



Altech Chemicals Ltd. has told investors of the progress it made on securing a US\$90-million mezzanine loan facility noting that due diligence continues on the deal between the two committed parties.

As per the firm, collaboration continues between itself and Macquarie Bank, with the most recent development being a meeting in London between the two firms' agents.

Altech said that the bank reaffirmed its commitment to the project, citing the rise in interest in Europe in lithium-ion batteries and the attendant interest in constructing production facilities for such batteries.

Altech noted that financing continues to be contingent upon completing the necessary due diligence, with which it continues to work with Macquarie, senior lender KfW IPEX-Bank and its outside

counsel Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

While the financing deal remains on solid footing, Altech advised that lenders stressed the importance of landing a deal to sell a portion of its production of high-purity alumina at a fixed price to a third party, noting that such an arrangement would help add pricing clarity to a market where it is otherwise not apparent. Altech, however, said that it does have a ten-year offtake agreement currently in place with Mitsubishi Australia for HPA, with more such arrangements expected to arise from talks between other European firms and an alternate corporate director who has recently relocated to the continent.

Altech Chemicals is based in Subiaco, Western Australia and is attempting to implement a marketable process for delivering 99.99% (4N) HPA using conventional equipment at a lower production cost than methods currently available.

It plans to construct a 4,500 metric ton per annum HPA plant at Tanjung Langsat Industrial Complex, Johor, Malaysia that will use kaolin clay from a company-owned mine in Meckering, Western Australia. The firm is fast-tracking HPA production due to an agreement with Mitsubishi for 100% of its proposed HPA production for ten years. At present, Altech intends to commence project development later this year. ■

Alba Reports Gross Profit Increase of 6 PC In 2019

Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. reported better results for 2019 due to the commissioning of aluminium production at Line 6.

In the fourth quarter, Alba recorded a profit and total comprehensive income of BD13.82 million (US\$36.76 million), reversing a loss from 2018's closing quarter of BD17.54 million (US\$46.65 million). Alba's gross profit in the quarter totaled BD44.77 million (US\$119.08 million), also flipping a loss from 2018's fourth quarter of BD8.37 million (US\$22.26 million). Revenue from contracts and

customers rose by 39 percent on the year to BD293.67 million (US\$781.05 million), and the firm's basic and diluted earnings per share totaled fils 10, reversing last year's fourth-quarter loss per share of fils 13.

For the year as a whole Alba reported a profit and total comprehensive income of BD5.38 million (US\$14.31 million), off by 91 percent from the prior year's total of BD59.76 million (US\$158.92 million). Gross Profit rose by 6 percent to BD90.22 million (US\$239.95 million) over 2018's total of BD

84.99 million (US\$226.04 million). Revenue from contracts and customers in 2019 came to BD1,029.38 million (US\$2,737.7 million), a rise 3percent on the year.

In 2019 Alba became the world's most prolific aluminium smelting operations outside the People's Republic of China thanks to the opening of its new Line 6. Production at the site rose by 35 percent on the year to 1,365,005 metric tons, while sales volumes rose by one-third on the year to 1,350,326 metric tons. ■