



## Rusal Prepares Testing Site for RA-550 Reduction Cell

Global aluminium producer Rusal has completed preparation of a testing site for the RA-550 reduction cell.

Prior to this, the Russia-based company completed engineering works and plans to commission the first cell in the third quarter of 2016.

According to Rusal, the RA-550 cell development is aimed at achieving better levels of technical and economic performance in aluminium smelting.

Rusal technical director Viktor Mann said, "RA-550 is a reduction cell with a breakthrough design for future smelters and upgrade projects at Rusal's existing smelting capacities. Alongside the technical and process standards, it is a compulsory requirement for any modern production



facility to comply with health and safety standards and to minimize hazardous emissions into the atmosphere. So, all technological processes involving RA-550 cells are supported by the most advanced

process control systems." With the new technology in place, the company plans to venture even into external technological design markets. Compared with older cells, the new cell is expected to have a 50%-80% higher productivity.

RA-550 will also help evacuate pot gases in order to improve the pot sealing coefficient and enables better environmental efficiency. In 2007, Rusal's Engineering and Technology Centre started the RA-550 design as a project.

At present, a pilot potroom at Rusal's Sayanogorsk aluminium smelter is in the process of assembling engineering structures and busbars in a test production area.

In addition, a substation has been built, and booster units have been installed.

## Kuantan MP Seeks Govt. Intervention in Suspension Issue



The federal government of Malaysia needs to step in and suspend all licenses issued to export bauxite from Pahang until it can implement

regulations to deal with the allegedly rampant pollution caused by the industry, Kuantan MP Fuziah Salleh said.

The PKR lawmaker claimed that everything from Kuantan's air to its water supply and physical environment have been contaminated by the red taint of bauxite mining since it took off in a big way sometime last year.

Fuziah said bauxite mining is only regulated under the Environmental Quality Act (EQA) 1974 if it is done on a plot of land measuring 250 acres or more, with smaller mines not required to prepare any environment impact assessment (EIA).

"There are loopholes in the law, so they get away without needing an EIA," she said at a news conference at the Parliament lobby.

Fuziah, who was among the harshest critics of the controversial Lynas Advanced Materials Plant (LAMP) in Kuantan some

five years ago, claimed that the rising demand from China for bauxite has led to numerous cases of illegal mining and traffic hazards involving lorries racing to the port to make as many trips as possible.

The mining activities at the same time have released heavy metal particles into Kuantan's air and water supply, which have allegedly sparked an outbreak of respiratory problems and skin disease while water treatment plants are unable to filter out the contaminants, she added.

"Three companies alone can export about one million tonnes of bauxite a month, and we have 44 companies which is about 15 million tonnes a month" Fuziah said.

She further updated that they have collected ample signatures from Kuantan's residents in support of a petition seeking Parliament's intervention and pressure the Pahang state government to suspend all export licenses to make way for a review of the relevant laws and procedures and to rehabilitate the environment. She added that they are pushing for the petition to be tabled in Parliament on November 25.

"It has not yet become full blown, but we have enough bauxite to last another three to five years. I don't think the people of Kuantan can go through this for another three to five years we have to put a stop to this," she said.

## U.S. Companies Join Hands against China's Trade Practices



Aluminum companies across the United States have come forward to form a new coalition aimed at fighting trade practices by China they think will cause potential damage to the U.S. aluminum industry in as little as eight to nine months.

The coalition holds China responsible for heavily subsidizing its aluminum production that is causing a situation of oversupply in the global market resulting in price fall unlike ever before. The group comprising several aluminium producers is headed by embattled Century Aluminum, which posted a significant quarterly loss of \$51.6 million and recently cut down production at its Kentucky plant.

The coalition argues that China's subsidization violates World Trade Organization rules. "As such, USTR should invoke its rights under the WTO and request immediate bilateral talks with China to either remove or eliminate these subsidies or face retaliation," said coalition spokesman Will Dempster.