



First shipment leaves Rio Tinto's Amrun bauxite mine in Australia

Rio Tinto's Amrun project in Queensland, Australia, has achieved a significant milestone, successfully making the first shipment of bauxite, six weeks ahead of schedule.

The US\$1.9 billion (A\$2.6 billion) investment in Amrun will replace production from the depleting East Weipa mine and increase annual bauxite exports by around 10 million tonnes. Amrun is expected to reach a full production rate of 22.8 million tonnes a year during 2019.

Rio Tinto Aluminium chief executive Alf Barrios said "Bringing Amrun online further strengthens our position as a leading supplier in the seaborne market. We have the largest bauxite resources in the industry and are geographically well positioned to supply China's significant future import needs, as well as supporting our refinery and smelting operations in Australia and New Zealand.



"The Amrun mine will ensure generational jobs for Queenslanders and build significantly on our 55-year history on the Western Cape." At a ceremony on the Western Cape York Peninsula in far north Queensland, more than 80,000 tonnes of bauxite was loaded on to the RTM Weipa bound for Rio Tinto's Yarwun alumina refinery in Gladstone.

Rio Tinto Growth & Innovation group executive Stephen McIntosh said "We are proud to have delivered the project safely, ahead

of time and within budget thanks to innovation in the design and fabrication of key infrastructure purpose-built for construction at Amrun's remote location. "We thank our community and Traditional Owner partners for their continued support and congratulate the Amrun Project and Weipa Operations teams on this great achievement."

During construction the Amrun development set a benchmark in supporting local and regional suppliers with US\$1.6 billion (A\$2.1 billion) invested with Australian companies, including US\$181 million (A\$244 million) invested with local Cape York companies.

At the peak of construction 1,200 people worked on site, and since project inception in May 2016, close to 400 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been employed by the project. ■



The Chinese aluminum producer Henan Mingtai Al. Industrial Co., Ltd. has granted SMS group the final acceptance certificate for the new aluminum cold rolling mill established at the Gongyi location. Henan Mingtai is very satisfied with the plant since regular operation could be started soon after a short and efficient commissioning and ramp-up phase.

The six-high cold rolling mill with

Henan Mingtai grants final acceptance of high performance aluminum cold mill

CVC@plus (Continuously Variable Crown) rolls a wide range of materials and alloys up to a maximum strip width of 2,650 millimeters. The portfolio includes, for example, sophisticated material grades and qualities for automotive body application.

Henan Mingtai now owns a high-yield mill producing strips of excellent quality and featuring the most advanced rolling technology, with core components, including CVC@plus technology for roll shifting and the new inductive and particularly energy-efficient roll barrel

heating system, made in Germany by SMS group. (19 lines of max. 65 characters per line) To the Chinese aluminum producer Henan Mingtai Al. Industrial Co., Ltd., SMS group supplied this new high-performance aluminum cold mill. In the exit section of the cold mill, a double ironing roll supports the precise coiling of aluminum strip.

The teams of Henan Mingtai and SMS group proudly present the certificate documenting successful project completion. ■

This section is a compilation from various company press releases, business dailies, trade publications and Industry Websites.