

## Positive BFS on Barbrook mining plan

Vantage Goldfields (the parent company of Eastern Goldfields SA) has announced the successful completion of an independent Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS) on Stage 1 of the proposed shallow underground mining production plan at its Barbrook project in the Barberton Goldfield. Vantage listed on the ASX in May this year.

The BFS has determined the economic viability of mining the pre-developed mineral resources within the Taylors Central and French Bob sections of the dormant Barbrook mine between 6 and 10 Levels and producing gold concentrate, using existing metallurgical plant infrastructure, to meet the requirements of an off-take agreement with a London-based metals trader, Mine2Market Limited (MML).

Under the agreement, Vantage has agreed to sell a specified amount of gold concentrate

to MML each month over a 36-month period. The maximum amount of gold concentrate which Vantage has agreed to sell over the period is 30 000 metric tonnes and the minimum 15 000 metric tonnes.

Turgis Consulting was commissioned by Vantage to analyse the proposed mine design, the production schedule, the metallurgical process and all associated costs of producing the required amount of concentrates to satisfy the terms of the off-take agreement. Turgis concluded that the underground production plan is economically viable at the assumed gold price of US\$1 000/oz.

Executive Director, Dr Willo Stear, commented: "We are pleased with the positive results of the Barbrook Stage 1 BFS and will be investigating various financing options for implementing the proposed production plan over the next few months."

## Plant contract awarded to RB Met

Black empowered RB Met Engineering (Pty) Ltd has been awarded a contract to supply and install a 600 000 tonnes per annum pelletising and sintering plant for Xstrata Merafe PSV's ferrochrome plant located in Rustenburg.

The plant will utilise Outotec's SBS® sintering technology, which improves energy

efficiency and which will reduce the 'carbon footprint' of the facility. The contract is subject to an environmental permit being issued by local authorities in Rustenburg.

Metix, which has successfully completed the last five chromite pelletising and sintering plants built in South Africa, will manage the project on behalf of RB Met. ■

The results of the BFS mine plan show that the ore reserves in the Taylors and French Bob sections are accessible via existing underground development from horizontal adits to surface on 4, 7 and 10 Levels. It is anticipated that mine production will commence in 2011 via the two adits at 7 and 10 Levels, and will ramp up to a production rate of 10 000 tonnes of run-of-mine ore per month, building up to 15 000 ounces of gold produced per annum. The capital costs for Stage 1, based on the engineering design work, are estimated to be A\$2,8 million.

The proven and probable reserves amount to 342 528 tonnes at a gold grade of 4,15 g/t – which equates to 45 700 ounces of gold.

Dr Stear added; "We are now confident to proceed with underground drilling with a view to completing a pre-feasibility study on Stage 2, which will analyse the viability of introducing bulk mining by mechanised methods below 10 Level on depth extensions of the same ore bodies that will be mined in Stage 1."

Vantage also owns the Lily project in the Barberton area. Lily has well established surface and underground infrastructure and Vantage has completed a BFS to expand operations to produce 35 000 ounces of gold per annum from 2011 for at least 13 years. In its June 2010 quarterly report, the company said the upgrade of Lily's metallurgical plant was on schedule and that new underground equipment had been ordered for delivery during the third quarter. ■

## Great Mines Think Alike.

When you build a mine, you need to partner with a leader in mining projects. Like DRA Mining.

- full EPCM services, competent persons' reports
- resource estimation
- consulting
- design
- scheduling
- geological modeling
- engineering
- infrastructure
- construction management
- mine closure

Backed by the resources of the DRA Group and with some of Africa's biggest miners as clients, DRA Mining is your best partner from the moment you start breaking ground.



We turn your resource into wealth



COAL ■ CHROME ■ PLATINUM ■ DIAMONDS ■ MANGANESE  
URANIUM ■ NICKEL ■ IRON ORE ■ GOLD ■ ZINC ■ COPPER

No. 3 Simba Road, Sunninghill, 2157 T: 011 517 0600 F: 011 517 0744

[www.DRAinternational.com](http://www.DRAinternational.com)/[www.lqsgroup.com](http://www.lqsgroup.com)

TMHDRA10123