

1Q 2015 OPERATIONS REVIEW

MDL's primary asset is a 50% interest in the TiZir joint venture ('TiZir'), which owns the Grande Côte mineral sands operation ('GCO') in Senegal, West Africa and the TiZir Titanium & Iron ilmenite upgrading facility ('TTI') in Tyssedal, Norway. ERAMET of France is MDL's 50% joint venture partner in TiZir.

KEY POINTS

- Mining operations continued to ramp-up at GCO
 - Dredge ramp-up gained further momentum – March quarter first quarter above 50% of nameplate
 - Finished goods production increased on a month to month basis
 - Offtake for majority of budgeted ilmenite production secured for 2015
- March 2015 represented first month of positive EBITDA at GCO
- Building of inventory at TTI ahead of the three month shutdown for works to complete the integration of TTI and GCO
- Titanium feedstock market still encountering challenges, particularly for sulphate feedstocks
- Zircon market continues to be stable

GCO

The ramp-up of GCO continued throughout the quarter with the dredge operating at an average of 61% of nameplate capacity compared with 51% in 4Q 2014. Mining operations continued to ramp-up with nameplate capacity still expected to be achieved during 3Q 2015. During the quarter, mining throughputs were impacted by electrical outages, tailings management restrictions and other standard commissioning issues that arose as GCO continued to optimise operations within the orebody. Taking these issues into account, the dredge operated at 78% of capacity at a throughput of 5,463 tonnes per hour. At nameplate capacity, the dredge is expected to operate at 7,000 tonnes per hour.

The ramp-up of the Mineral Separation Plant continued to meet expectations with both the Wet Plant and the Ilmenite Circuit of the Dry Plant continuing to operate at design feed rates. Ilmenite production increased on a month to month basis during the quarter for an average of approximately 30kt per month compared to 14kt per month in 4Q 2014. The Primary Circuit of the Dry Plant continued to produce two grades of zircon, with production levels increasing on a monthly basis. Production of ilmenite and zircon will continue to increase with the ramp-up of mining and associated increase in heavy mineral concentrate feedstock supply.

GCO production volumes

100% basis		2Q 2014	3Q 2014	4Q 2014	1Q 2015
Mining:					
Ore mined	(kt)	2,609	4,717	6,776	8,039
Heavy mineral concentrate produced	(t)	37,240	57,526	89,333	131,649
Finished goods production					
Ilmenite	(t)	11,463	47,702	41,425	89,789
Zircon	(t)	-	3,762	5,278	9,118
Rutile & leucoxene	(t)	-	190	473	1,635

GCO sales volumes

100% basis

		2Q 2014	3Q 2014	4Q 2014	1Q 2015
Sales volume					
Ilmenite (including sales to TTI)	(t)	-	28,074	46,850	71,857
Zircon	(t)	-	1,205	5,848	6,502
Rutile & leucoxene	(t)	-	-	162	22

Sales of both ilmenite and zircon increased for the third successive quarter as production continued its ramp-up.

GCO has successfully negotiated offtake agreements for the majority of its 2015 budgeted ilmenite production. This agreement will ensure that a majority of ilmenite produced during the year will be sold to external customers.

Sales of GCO zircon continued to increase, with customer demand continuing to outstrip supply.

GCO recorded its first positive monthly EBITDA result in March 2015, a strong result considering the ramp-up of mining operations is ongoing. Significant cost savings in energy and labour have been achieved through cost efficiency initiatives and continued pressure on oil prices and exchange rates.



GCO mining operations



GCO Mineral Separation Plant

TTI

Titanium slag production of 43.8kt for the quarter was slightly higher than 1Q 2014 but slightly lower than 4Q 2014 production due to planned maintenance stoppages in both the pre-reduction kiln and electric arc furnace. Sales of 30.2kt for the quarter were significantly below production levels. This was due to customers delaying shipments until Q2 2015 when northern hemisphere pigment plants will increase production to meet seasonal demand, and inventory levels being built ahead of the planned three month shutdown for the furnace reline and capacity expansion. Pricing decreased during the quarter as competition and lower demand adversely impacted market conditions.

High Purity Pig Iron production and sales volumes for 1Q 2015 were as anticipated at 24.0kt and 19.8kt respectively. Pricing in 1Q 2015 was higher (on a EUR basis) than 4Q 2014 as a result of the continuing supply uncertainty in Ukraine.

Cost optimisation initiatives implemented throughout 2014 continued to be successful in reducing operational costs and maintaining the competitiveness of TTI products as soft market conditions persist.

TTI physical volumes

100% basis		1Q 2014	2Q 2014	3Q 2014	4Q 2014	1Q 2015
Titanium Slag						
Produced	(kt)	42.0	48.4	45.8	47.5	43.8
Sold	(kt)	38.4	48.1	43.9	47.8	30.2
High Purity Pig Iron						
Produced	(kt)	23.5	27.4	25.7	26.4	24.0
Sold	(kt)	29.9	28.3	27.0	20.5	19.8



TiZir Titanium & Iron ilmenite upgrading facility, Norway



Storage and conveyor facilities at Dakar Port

MARKETS

Conditions in the titanium dioxide pigment industry remained seasonally weak throughout the quarter, reflecting the impact of the northern hemisphere winter. Market conditions were stimulated in March as pigment producers began to set themselves for the seasonally stronger second and third quarters. High grade titanium feedstock prices continue to be stable and the potential remains for some price rises as global pigment producers increase their utilisation rates.

Sulphate feedstock prices remain under pressure, due in large part to structural overcapacity within China. This situation is likely to persist in the short term.

The zircon market continues to be stable. Pertaining to our main markets, North American demand has increased as its economy continues to show signs of improvement whilst the European market remains competitive.

CORPORATE

In April, the Company participated in World Titanium Resources Limited's (ASX: WTR) 1 for 3 pro-rata non-renounceable entitlement offer. The Company accepted its full entitlement of 23,046,042 shares in WTR for a cash payment of approximately A\$807,000. After completion of the issue, the Company's investment now represents 20.0% of the total issued capital of WTR.

MDL's Annual General Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, 8 May at 10.30am and will be held at the office of Minter Ellison, Level 23, 525 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. We encourage all shareholders to attend.

The Company has also released informational videos in relation to its operations which are available on the MDL website.

At 31 March 2014:

- issued shares were 103,676,341
- cash was US\$23.8 million
- zero debt

ABOUT MDL

Mineral Deposits Limited (ASX: MDL) is an Australian based mining company in the business of mining, integrating and transforming mineral sands resources.

MDL owns 50% of the TiZir joint venture in partnership with ERAMET of France. The TiZir joint venture comprises two integrated, operating assets – the Grande Côte mineral sands operation ('GCO') in Senegal, West Africa and the TiZir Titanium & Iron ilmenite upgrading facility ('TTI') in Tyssedal, Norway.

GCO is anticipated to produce on average approximately 85ktpa of zircon and 575ktpa of ilmenite (and small amounts of rutile and leucoxene) when in full production over an expected mine life of at least 25 years.

The TTI ilmenite upgrading facility smelts ilmenite to produce upwards of 200kt of high quality titanium products, which are primarily sold to pigment producers and around 100kt of high purity pig iron, a valuable co-product that is sold to ductile iron foundries.

Once Grande Côte reaches expected average production rates, TiZir will be producing approximately 7% of both global zircon and titanium feedstock supply.

Forward looking statements

Certain information contained in this report, including any information on MDL's plans or future financial or operating performance and other statements that express management's expectations or estimates of future performance, constitute forward-looking statements.

Such statements are based on a number of estimates and assumptions that, while considered reasonable by management at the time, are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties. MDL cautions that such statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual financial results, performance or achievements of MDL to be materially different from the Company's estimated future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by those forward-looking statements. These factors include the inherent risks involved in mining and mineral processing operations, exploration and development of mineral properties, changes in economic conditions, changes in the worldwide price of zircon, ilmenite and other key inputs, changes in the regulatory environment and other government actions, changes in mine plans and other factors, such as business and operational risk management, many of which are beyond the control of MDL.

Except as required by applicable regulations or by law, MDL does not undertake any obligation to publicly update, review or release any revisions to any forward looking statements to reflect new information, future events or circumstances after the date of this report.

Nothing in this report should be construed as either an offer to sell or a solicitation to buy or sell MDL securities.

Contact details

Level 17 530 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia
T +61 3 9618 2500
F +61 3 9621 1460
E mdlmail@mineraldeposits.com.au
W mineraldeposits.com.au

For further information please contact:

Nic Limb
Executive Chairman
T +61 3 9618 2500
E nic.limb@mineraldeposits.com.au

