



ASX/Media Release – 27 March 2017

## Orinoco Appoints Highly Experienced International Mining Executive as Chief Operating Officer

*Former Sandfire and LionOre/Norilsk operations executive Craig Dawson joins the Orinoco team*

Orinoco Gold (ASX: OGX) is pleased to announce the appointment of highly experienced mining executive Craig Dawson to the role of Chief Operating Officer, effective immediately.

Mr Dawson will travel to Brazil next month to oversee the imminent resumption of mining at its Cascavel Gold Mine in Brazil, as well as the planned ramp-up to achieve commercial production in the second half of this year. Mr Dawson will work closely with the Project Manager appointed by Orinoco in August last year, Alessandro Dotta, who has been managing the re-commencement process and operations since the beginning of this year.

Mr Dawson has more than 30 years' experience in the Australian and international mining industry with a proven track record in the development and operation of small to large scale mining operations. He has a broad range of skills encompassing areas ranging from mine development, operating system development, contract and contractor management, financial management, strategic planning and team development.

During his extensive career, Mr Dawson has held senior operational positions at a number of highly successful mid-tier and global mining companies, including as Mining/General Manager with the LionOre/Norilsk Nickel group for their operations in Western Australia, General Manager of the Nifty Copper Mine for Aditya Birla and General Manager Operations at Sandfire's flagship DeGrussa Copper Mine.

He has also held a number of executive corporate roles including as Managing Director of Northern Mining and Managing Director and CEO of Noble Mineral Resources, giving him a strong blend of corporate, project development and operational experience.

Mr Dawson holds a Degree in Mine Engineering and an Associate Diploma in Mine Surveying from the Western Australian School of Mines, an MBA from the University of WA and a First Class Mine Manager's Certificate. He is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) and a Graduate and Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Orinoco's Managing Director, Mr Mark Papendieck, said the Company was delighted to have recruited someone with Craig's vast operational experience, impeccable credentials and strong track record in the global mining industry to fill the key position of Chief Operating Officer.

"Craig is a practical, hands-on manager and a strong team player whose skills and expertise will be extremely important for us. We are very much looking forward to having him on board at this important time as work gets underway to recommence operations at Cascavel," he said.

"We are now moving into a crucial phase with mine development recommencing in early April in line with our new mine plan and work set to begin shortly on finalising the required mill improvements," he said.

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For further information, please contact:

**Mark Papendieck**  
Managing Director  
Orinoco Gold Limited  
08 9463 3241  
[info@orinocogold.com](mailto:info@orinocogold.com)

**Nicholas Read**  
Managing Director  
Read Corporate  
08 9388 1474

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