

23rd April 2014

BMT Completes Expert Review for Woodlark Island Gold Mine Project

BMT WBM (BMT), a subsidiary of BMT Group Ltd, has completed an independent expert review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) for the proposed Woodlark Island Gold Project, situated in the maritime province of Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea.

BMT was commissioned by the Papua New Guinea Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) to provide technical review, advice and recommendations which were then incorporated into the final EIS Assessment Report for the Director of Environment to present to the Environment Council.

BMT's assessment was undertaken through a staged process which included a detailed technical review of the EIS and EMMP documentation and development of a numerical model to analyse the predictions made in the EIS regarding the behaviour of tailings from the Deep Sea Tailings Placement (DSTP) in the receiving environment.

Lyn Leger, Senior Environmental Consultant at BMT WBM explains: "In the review we undertook independent modelling based on Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) and with Discrete Element Modelling (DEM) software to predict the behaviour of DSTP plumes and provide a basis for cross-checking the impact predictions generated by the modelling outlined in the EIS."

Another key aspect of BMT WBM's work included a thorough review of the sedimentation impacts in downstream waterways from the mining activities such as construction and operation of the mining voids. BMT WBM's sister company, BMT Cordah also provided support in assessing potential social impacts related to food, water and cultural resources and helping to determine whether or not the local people's livelihoods would be affected by the associated environmental impacts.

Dr Darren Richardson, Project Director at BMT WBM comments: “We are extremely proud to have been given the opportunity to support DEC with this project. Since presenting our findings to DEC enabling them to put forward a recommendation, the Environment Council has recently provided approval for this project – a true indicator of the confidence our team of experts instilled as part of our thorough, independent review.”

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Notes to Editors

BMT WBM Pty Ltd

BMT WBM Pty Ltd is a leading edge consultancy with more than 40 years national and international experience in the mechanical, maritime and water and environmental engineering fields. It employs approximately 200 staff, consisting of highly qualified engineers, ecologists, scientists, field and office technicians. Initially based in Brisbane, Australia, BMT WBM has expanded to include offices across Australia, North America and the United Kingdom.

Website: www.bmtwbm.com.au

BMT Cordah

BMT Cordah is a leading multi-disciplinary environmental consultancy with extensive experience in providing support to decommissioning programmes. Having been involved in many offshore programmes since 1994, we have successfully delivered a range of services, including; preparation of environmental scoping reports; full EIAs; detailed estimates of energy usages and gaseous emissions; Comparative Assessments of pipelines and BPEOs; in-depth environmental support to decommissioning engineering teams; Comparative Assessments of options for decommissioning structures that are candidates for derogation under OSPAR 98/3; prepared PONs, PWAs, and Consents to Locate; and compiled full Decommissioning Programmes for Consultation before facilitating the submission of formal Decommissioning Programmes to the Secretary of State.

The company has offices in Aberdeen and London

Website: www.bmtcordah.com

**BMT Group**

BMT is an international design, engineering and risk management consultancy, working principally in the energy and environment, marine risk and insurance, maritime transport, defence and ports and logistics sectors.

BMT invests significantly in research. Its customers are served through a network of international subsidiary companies. The group's assets are held in beneficial ownership for its staff.

Website: www.bmt.org

To learn more about BMT's work in Water and Environment please go to:

<http://www.bmt.org/markets/water-and-environment/>

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