

15th February 2011

Current Issued Capital:
200,668,425 Ordinary Shares

Market Cap
at 7.1 cents: \$14.2m

Mining Approvals received for Alpha Pit

Western Australian gold miner A1 Minerals Ltd (ASX: AAM) has already begun mobilising mining equipment to start its second open cut mine on the Brightstar project in the Laverton goldfield.

This follows receiving final mining approvals from the Western Australian Government Mines Department for the new Alpha Pit on Friday 11th February 2011.

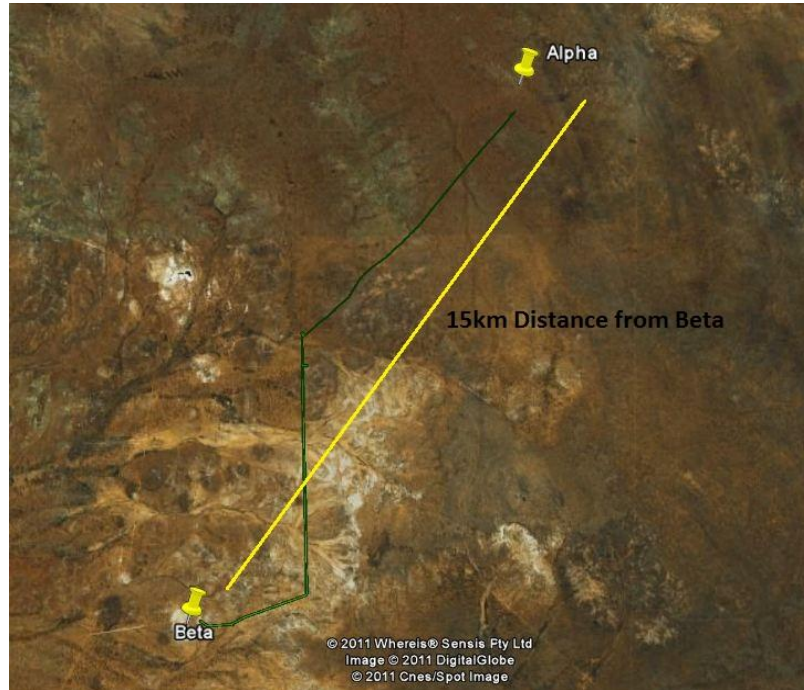
Mining contractor WATPAC has commenced mobilisation of the equipment required at Alpha and will begin site clearing as soon as possible to deliver consistent ore to the company's gold plant at the established Beta mine about 15 kilometres away.

Technical director Bill Hobba said that the current mining schedule shows mining will provide 80,000 tonnes of high grade ore in the order of 4 grams/tonne gold.



Initial Setting Up at Alpha

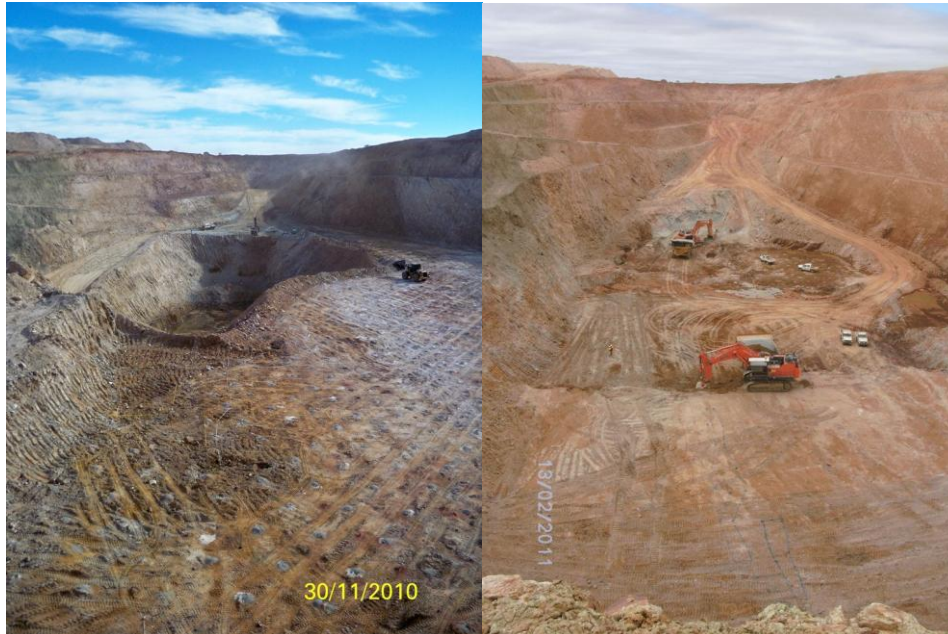
The picture below shows the location of Alpha with respect to Beta.



A1 Minerals chairman Michael Hunt said opening up of the Alpha Pit is timely, as it coincides with the completion of the Central Pit cutback at Beta (see pictures below).

Mr Hunt said the flexibility of being able to operate two pits in the forward mine plans and schedules will alleviate the problems encountered on grades and waste-to-ore ratios last year that were developed for Beta..

He said that with the pit floor now achieved at Beta this mine should be able to supply the high grade ore required during the initial development of the Alpha Pit.



Progressive pictures looking North along the Central Pit of the Beta deposit, the right picture shows the cutback has achieved the pit floor. Digging has now started in the high grade central portion, below the floor of the pit.

During the start of February, grades have steadily increased at the plant with the average grade for the March quarter achieved to date being 20% above that of the December quarter.

With the move to the Alpha pit and better grades at the Beta pit the Company forecasts gold production for the March Quarter to be higher than the December quarter. As Alpha ore is delivered to the processing plant, its grade and treatment characteristics will be assessed and production forecasts will be updated.

For further information, please see other ASX announcements or email Liam Wheaton from Investor Relations on LiamW@a1minerals.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Albert Longo

Finance Director – A1 Minerals Limited

For full reports and information go to A1 Minerals website: www.a1minerals.com.au or **ASX Code: AAM**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON A1 MINERALS LIMITED

A1 Minerals Limited (A1) is an emerging Australian gold miner with its 100% owned BrightStar Gold Project currently in full production. BrightStar is situated in the highly prospective Laverton district in the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia, a frontier for new gold deposits, some of which have become world class mines, including Barrick's Wallaby/Granny Smith and AngloGold Ashanti's Sunrise Dam gold operations. Since successfully listing on the ASX in December 2003, A1 Minerals (ASX: AAM) has grown its assets through prudent acquisition and successful exploration. In May 2010 the Brightstar Beta gold plant commenced production and is targeting a minimum of 30,000oz gold per annum.

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