

ASX Announcement



23rd December 2009

Current Issued Capital:
170,994,462 Ordinary Shares

Market Cap
at 30 cents: \$51m

Cash at Bank:
\$2.4m

BrightStar Update Gold Plant Commissioning Underway

Highlights

- 15,000 tonne of high grade ore is already stockpiled on the ROM pad and there is 20,000 tonne of low grade
- Crushing has started
- Ball Mills are online and testing underway
- New gold zone (Turtle Zone) near plant currently being optimised by Mining Engineers

The gold plant for A1 Minerals near its Beta open cut mine at the BrightStar project in the Laverton region has now begun commissioning.



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The mining team has stockpiled 15,000 tonnes of high grade ore on the run-of-mine (ROM) pad and also has 20,000 tonnes of low grade material at the site.



Managing director John Williams said the ball mills are online and are undergoing testing and crushing has begun.

He said commissioning was underway and expected to be completed within two weeks to allow for the first gold pour.

The company pointed out earlier this month that plant construction work had been slowed by the pressure on the build up of work by contractors and consultants elsewhere with the regeneration of boom conditions in the Western Australian mining sector.

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“We have, however, fared better than many other project developments in the State and we have a team of workers and contractors working through the Christmas period to target a gold pour early in January,” Mr Williams said.

The company also has mining engineers looking at the potential for early mining of shallow high-to-medium grade gold mineralisation in the new Turtle zone near the Beta pit that was discovered by a new drilling programme in part acting as sterilisation drilling near the plant.

Part of the Turtle discovery is outside of A1 Minerals established resources of 1.7 million ounces on its BrightStar leases. The mine development is working on the significant part of JORC Code reserves of 150,000 oz that exist in and near the Beta pit.

John Williams
Managing Director – A1 Minerals Limited

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

The information in this report which relates to the Brightstar Gold Project is based on information compiled by Mr John Williams who is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and has sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the mining method undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the JORC Code (2004). Mr John Williams is a full time employee of A1 Minerals Ltd and consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on this information in the form and context in which it appears.

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 development. The 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 to a total ground holding of more than 2500 square kilometers; JORC Resources of more than 1.7Moz gold including JORC Reserves of more than 150,000oz gold; and its own gold treatment plant. The BrightStar Gold Project is scheduled to be in production in December 2009 and planned to produce a minimum of 30,000oz gold per annum for at least 4 years.

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