

Big step for historic site



High hopes: Morning Star Gold's onsite gravity processing plant (GPP) is designed to process ore at the rate of 10 tonnes per hour.

BY GABI MILLS

Morning Star Gold announced in September that broad ranging regulatory approvals have been gained in relation to the situation and operation of its onsite gravity processing plant (GPP) at Woods Point in Victoria.

The company commissioned Gekko Systems of Ballarat Victoria to construct and refabricate the GPP onsite at the Morning Star Goldmine. Gekko are considered experts in the field of gravity gold processing facilities.

The GPP is modular in design in order to cater for any future expansion and logistical ease.

It is initially designed to process ore at the rate of 10 tonnes per hour.

Morning Star aims to mill up to 50,000 tonnes per annum in its first year and be processing 80,000 TPA by FY 2012 targeting grades between 10 and 15 grams per tonne. 100 years of gold production at the Morning Star mine averaged grades of 26.5

grams per tonne. 883,000 ounces of gold were produced at the mine, much of it under WMC's ownership between the years 1934-59.

The design and implementation of the GPP is aimed at onsite gravity recovery of circa 90 per cent of contained gold. No secondary processing onsite using chemicals will occur, rather a middling concentrate will be sold to an offsite processing facility to extract the final ~10% of gold.

Various independent tests on metallurgy have overwhelmingly indicated 82-92 per cent of the gold will be free milling and able to be smelted onsite into gold 'dore' bars.

An underground tailings storage facility has also been approved as part of the milling plan. Present designs allow TSF in vacant stopes with capacity for multiple years use at full ore throughput. Underground TSF in the area is a very elegant

environmental solution if slightly more costly than surface storage. The company is also implementing local TSF planning procedures at surface to ensure long term operation of the GPP and efficient and economical operations catering for its expanding array of ore sources.

"The regulatory approval for construction and use of MCO's gravity mill is by far our most important step to date in becoming a gold producer," said Morning Star's Chairman Nick Garling.

"The GPP commissioning and first gold production are expected in the final quarter of 2010. We are also engineering haulage upgrades at the Morning Star mine to cater for future milling expansion.

"150 years have passed since gold was first discovered at Woods Point and Morning Star is excited to be involved in the imminent return of gold production for the town and surrounding communities."



Chairman: Nick Garling of Morning Star Gold.

Encouraging iron ore results from Congolese heart

Explorers Equatorial Resources have recently released the results from an airborne geophysical survey which show significant potential at its Maoyoko-Moussondji project in the Republic of Congo.

The magnetic and radiometric data has identified magnetic anomalies with a combined strike length in excess of 46km, according to the company's ASX release on September 28.

Equatorial Resources managing director and chief executive officer, John Welborn, said he was pleased with the results

and the accessibility of local infrastructure.

"We are highly encouraged by the initial results of the airborne survey, which indicate a significant increase in the potential scale of this project.

"It is rare to find a potentially large-scale iron ore project in such close proximity to existing infrastructure.

"The largest identified anomaly is located just 500m from an operational heavy haulage railway line where current capacity is significantly under-utilised," he said.

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The survey covered the company's entire 1000sq km project area at its Mayoko-Moussondji Project for a total of about 5800 line km at 200m line spacing.

In total, five target areas at the project in the south-west region of the Republic of Congo have been identified as a result.

The previously identified Makengui Prospect is the main target zone of the project, consisting of two separate anomalies that extend 12km of strike length and at only 500m from the existing railway line.

The company is expecting to receive a more detailed interpretation of the airborne survey during October which will enable the development of a maiden drilling campaign at the Mayoko-Moussondji project.

The company also expects to carry out a comprehensive airborne geophysics program covering about 5000 line km at 200m line spacing at its other iron ore project in the north west region of the Republic of Congo, the Badondo project, before the end of 2010.