

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Saudi Mining and Minerals to shed light on Kingdom's path to becoming major global player**

*Experts see potential for Saudi Arabia to become a regional hub for commodities*

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; 20 October 2015 – Saudi Arabia well positioned to become a leading commodities supplier in the region, and a major player in the mining and minerals sector globally.

Leading local and international experts agree that the Kingdom has what it takes to be a mining and minerals superpower with its massive natural resources, combined with a number of state initiatives focused on giving the sector a major boost.

Among these initiatives include the forthcoming Saudi Mining and Minerals 2015 conference and exhibition, which is being organised for the first time under the patronage of His Excellency Ali bin Ibrahim Al-Naimi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, to help shed light on how the Kingdom can achieve its global mining and minerals aspirations.

“Saudi Arabia holds rich mineral resources such as Tantalum, Niobium, REE, Quartz, and Iron ore among others that provide manufacturing opportunities to develop high value products for the growing demand of several advanced industries such as automotive, aerospace, solar and oil & gas. Investors in these opportunities will benefit from the Kingdom competitive advantage in energy and the provided financial incentives,” says Khalid Al-Salem, President, National Industrial Cluster Development Programme (NICDP), a government entity set up to grow and diversify the Kingdom's economy by developing targeted industrial clusters and leveraging its rich natural resources.

For Saudi Arabia to succeed, Al-Salem says that the Kingdom should “continue to uncover its abundant natural resources through more exploration, pro-actively market new opportunities, develop the mining services sector, and integrate with downstream industries to strengthen competitiveness and maximize value addition.”

Another key speaker at the event, Paul Robinson, Director at CRU Group, global leaders in mining and metals analysis, says phosphate is one commodity where Saudi Arabia is well positioned to become a leading regional supplier. “Saudi Arabia has ample phosphate reserves and its production cost is amongst the lowest in the world. With India and Asia on its doorstep, Saudi Arabia can easily supply the major consumers of the world. Ma'aden has also been very astute, inviting partners with expertise to the Wa'ad Al Shammal project. The partnership with Mosaic and SABIC brings Saudi Arabia extensive technical and operating experience. Looking forward, despite subdued market price prospects, Ma'aden should continue to operate with best-in-class operating margins, for the sector.”

According to Robinson, the Kingdom also has the potential to build commodity clusters in a number of base metals and other commodities to meet the growing domestic needs, as well as

those within the Gulf region. He will share further insights on key developments in the global commodity market and the mining industry at the symposium.

Further, Robinson believes that for all developers and operators of mining assets, the uncertainty around the future economic growth of China and the impact this has on the global demand for commodities is a key issue. "With the expectation of oversupply in many commodity markets, miners are focused on three things today - protecting their operating margin by lowering costs, preserving their cash reserves by delaying capex, and reviewing and postponing their project pipelines."

"There will be a cyclical recovery following China's structural reset," Robinson adds. This would require "new mine investment in many commodities and stakeholders with the right risk appetite, the right project and right timing to benefit from the next positive price cycle."

The Saudi Mining and Minerals Symposium 2015, jointly organised by MEED Events and Montgomery Star, will also feature an exhibition participated in by leading local and international companies showcasing the very latest products, services and technologies in the mining and minerals sector. It will be held on 27-29 October 2015 at the Prince Sultan Grand Hall, Al Faisaliah Exhibition & Convention Centre in Riyadh.

The first event of its kind in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Mining and Minerals Symposium is supported by Saudi's Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources and the National Industrial Cluster Development Programme; as well as Ma'aden, Atheeb, Outotec, Ali Salem Al-Raddadi Factory, Saudi Specialty Chemical Ind. Co. Ltd., ThyssenKrupp, SRK Consulting, and Roscoe Postle Associates, Inc.

As interest is expectedly high, those keen on attending or exhibiting are requested to visit [www.saudi-mining.com](http://www.saudi-mining.com) for further information.

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**Saudi Mining & Minerals 2015** is a senior 3-day conference dedicated to providing critical market intelligence, commentary and real insight into the Kingdom's mining opportunities and diversified industrial value chain development. With a stellar expert speaker line up of government ministries, Ma'aden, mine owners, operators, world class service providers the content will reflect the views and inside knowledge of leading market authorities and stakeholders to the current and future challenges facing the Kingdom's mining and minerals sector. A series of keynote presentations and case studies will examine all aspects of the value chain, the full spectrum projects and developing businesses and of opportunities for investors, sustainability and transport & infrastructure. Panel discussions with key stakeholders, CEOs and Business Leaders will also be a feature for exploring many business opportunities within the value chain.

For more information about the Saudi Mining and Minerals Symposium 2015, contact:

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