



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **XSTRATA TAKES OUT TOP SMART BUSINESS AWARDS HONOUR IN QUEENSLAND**

Brisbane, 10 December 2009

Xstrata (formerly MIM Holdings Limited) has been acknowledged as the Queensland business to make the largest impact to the State's economy at the Premier of Queensland's Smart Business Awards.

Premier Anna Bligh presented the company with the Retrospective/Overall Award at a ceremony marking the eve of Queensland's 150th birthday on Wednesday 10 December, and acknowledged Xstrata as a Queensland success story which continues to make a positive impact on our economy and on the lives of Queenslanders.

Mount Isa Mines Limited was established in February 1924. The early years were tough for the company and the new residents of Mount Isa, but that struggle paid off as Mount Isa Mines grew to become the cornerstone of Queensland's economy, the backbone of the State's most profitable railway, and in the 1950s, Australia's largest single creator of export income.

Chief Operating Officer, Xstrata Copper North Queensland Steve de Kruijff said Xstrata was proud to be acknowledged with such an honour and would continue to play an important role in Queensland today, and into the future.

"In 2009 we're proud to be celebrating 85 years of commerce and community in Mount Isa," Mr de Kruijff said.

"We are also happy to have recently announced Xstrata's largest investment in north-west Queensland since the acquisition, with more than \$580 million approved to transform our open pit Ernest Henry Mine into an underground operation and producer of magnetite, a high-grade iron ore product," he said.

Chief Operating Office, Xstrata Zinc Australia Brian Hearne, said Mount Isa Mines Limited was established on 19 January 1924 as Australia's most isolated mine from sea port or power generation and is the oldest asset within Xstrata's Queensland operations.



"Mount Isa is now a unique site for Xstrata globally with both copper and zinc operations represented," Mr Hearne said.

"This reflects the importance of the North West Minerals Province as a focus for investment by Xstrata."

In 1971 Mount Isa Mines became MIM Holdings Limited, an Australian-based international mining and mineral processing company whose major products were copper, coal, lead-zinc-silver and gold.

Chief Operating Office, Xstrata Coal Queensland Reinhold Schmidt said MIM Holdings was acquired in June 2003 by Xstrata and more than \$3 billion has been invested by the company in new projects, expansions and upgrades in Queensland.

"Xstrata in Queensland is represented by three commodity businesses, copper, zinc and coal, with 12 operations and projects throughout the state which employ more than 7,700 people," Mr Schmidt said.

"Our operations provide major benefits to the communities in which we operate, from the employment we provide, the local businesses we support, the Government taxes and charges we pay and the community support we provide," he said.

"In 2008 alone we contributed more than \$4 billion to the Queensland economy."

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## Notes to editors

In 2009 Mount Isa celebrates 85 years of commerce and community.

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Queensland's independence, we reflect on the significant contribution Mount Isa has made to the growth and economic prosperity of this great State.

With the establishment of Mount Isa Mines in January 1924, Mount Isa transformed for a small miner's camp to a community. It was the year commerce began and the year the community made important investments in community infrastructure including accommodation, a general store, a school and a hospital.

For more information about the history of commerce and community in Mount Isa please visit [www.celebrateisa.com.au](http://www.celebrateisa.com.au)



## Xstrata plc

Xstrata is a global diversified mining group, listed on the London and Swiss Stock Exchanges, with its headquarters in Zug, Switzerland. Xstrata's businesses maintain a meaningful position in seven major international commodity markets: copper, coking coal, thermal coal, ferrochrome, nickel, vanadium and zinc, with a growing platinum group metals business, additional exposures to gold, cobalt, lead and silver, recycling facilities and a suite of global technology products, many of which are industry leaders. The Group's operations and projects span 19 countries.

## Xstrata Copper

Headquartered in Brisbane, Xstrata Copper is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc. Its mining and metallurgical operations and development projects span eight countries: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Canada, the USA, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Its operations are administered by five separate divisions, based close to the mining operations, namely the North Queensland, Minera Alumbraera, North Chile, Southern Peru and Canada divisions. It also has a recycling business (Xstrata Recycling) with plants in the United States and offices in Canada and Asia.

Xstrata Copper is the fourth largest global copper producer with attributable mined production in 2008 of 952,000 tonnes of copper in cathodes and concentrates. The company is also the world's second and third largest producer of smelter and refined copper production respectively, including from third party materials.

## Xstrata Coal

Xstrata Coal is the world's largest exporter of thermal coal and one of largest producers of hard coking coal, producing both premium quality hard coking coal and semi-soft coal.

Headquartered in Sydney, Australia, Xstrata Coal has interests in over 30 operating coal mines throughout Australia, South Africa and Colombia. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Xstrata plc.

The Xstrata Coal business is world scale, with consolidated production of 86Mt in 2008, about 80% of which is exported. Approximately 75% of revenue is earned from the Australian businesses. Xstrata Coal has a pipeline of competitive coal projects across all of its geographies, with the potential to approximately double the scale of the business.

The Company employs more than 16,000 people (including contractors) across its underground and open cut mines, the majority of which are located in the NSW Hunter Valley, QLD's Bowen Basin and the Witbank area in South Africa.

The company continues to play a key role in community, education and skills development both in each of the countries in which it operates.

### **Xstrata Zinc**

Xstrata Zinc is one of the world's largest producers of zinc. Around half of all zinc currently consumed is used for galvanizing steel, which is an environmentally friendly method of protecting steel against corrosion. Zinc also finds application in the manufacture of die-cast alloys, brass and the production of zinc oxides and chemicals.

Xstrata's zinc and lead operations are located in Australia, Canada, Germany, Peru, Spain and the UK. They comprise: the San Juan de Nieva zinc smelter and the Arnao zinc semis plant in Asturias, Spain; the Hinojedo roasting plant in Cantabria, Spain; the Nordenham zinc smelter in northern Germany; the Mount Isa, George Fisher and Black Star zinc-lead mines and lead smelter in Queensland, Australia; McArthur River zinc-lead mine in the Northern Territory, Australia; the Northfleet lead refinery located in the UK; the Brunswick zinc-lead mine and lead smelter in New Brunswick, Canada, 25% of the CEZ zinc smelter near Montreal, Canada; 50% of Lennard Shelf zinc lead mine in Western Australia; 75% of Lady Loretta zinc lead deposit in Queensland, Australia; 33.75% of Antamina mine in Peru and the Perseverance zinc deposit in Quebec.