

HAMBLEDON MINING PLC
(AIM: HMB)

Boiler accident at Sekisovskoye - update

Hambledon Mining plc ("Hambledon" or the "Group" or the "Company"), the AIM-listed gold mining and processing company operating in Kazakhstan, announces that the investigation into the boiler accident at the process plant of its gold mine at Sekisovskoye on 12 February 2008 is ongoing and is likely to be completed in the next few days.

The boiler in use was the same as those used for the same purpose in several other mining companies' gold plants in Kazakhstan and the cause of the accident is still unclear.

The damage to the processing facility was relatively minor and can be rectified by maintenance crews whilst a replacement boiler is procured. A suitable boiler has been located in Russia and could, if necessary, be air-freighted to Sekisovskoye, though preference will be given to a local supplier. The order for a new boiler will only be placed once the result of the investigation is known so that any lessons learned or recommendations arising from it can be followed. Once the inquiry is completed and orders can be placed, it is expected that the plant could be closed for up to a further five weeks. This period could be reduced if a suitable boiler can be sourced locally.

Prior to the accident, operations had been progressing well. Metallurgical recovery had reached 85% and would have been expected to reach the design level of 92% upon the commissioning of the Falcon gravity concentrator, which was ready and waiting for the Falcon commissioning engineers to arrive.

During the shut-down, the workforce have been redirected to other site-work and rectification of the remaining crusher problems with the intention that the plant will operate at design capacity when it restarts.

Nick Bridgen, Chief Executive, commented:

"Our thoughts and sympathy are with the family of the operator who was tragically killed. We have always made it our priority to make sure that the plant is safe and will do everything in our power to ensure that no accident like this happens again."

Enquiries

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Note to editors

Hambledon Mining plc is an AIM-listed gold mining and exploration company, which is operating the Sekisovskoye gold mine and the Ognevka processing plant, both of which are close to Ust Kamenogorsk in East Kazakhstan.

At Sekisovskoye, the Company is mining from an open pit and has constructed an 850,000 tonnes per year treatment plant. Production from the open pit will average over 40,000 ounces per annum. After the start of open pit processing, the Company plans to develop the much larger underground resource that is expected to lead to a combined production rate of around 100,000 ounces per year.

The Ognevka processing plant is producing concentrates containing gold, silver, copper, iron and coke from the re-treatment of zinc smelter residues.