



SABODALA GOLD MINING OPERATION



The Sabodala Gold Project comprises two open pits and a gold leach plant and refinery with conventional crushing, gravity, and CIL leaching. Other infrastructure includes a power station, an accommodation village and tailings and water storage dams. Commissioning of plant equipment is well advanced and on schedule for the first gold pour planned for March 2009.



Accommodation Village

The new US\$15M site village was completed in September 2008 and at any time is accommodating and catering for up to 700 workers.



MINE CONSTRUCTION

Open Pit Mine Development

The mine has been operating for some time. Since work commenced in June 2008, over 3.5 million tonnes of material has been mined and in excess of 850,000 tonnes of ore containing over 75,000 ounces of gold is already stockpiled on the ROM pad at the crusher and ready for processing.



Power Station

Construction of the Wartsila 30MW heavy fuel oil power station was completed and it was commissioned during late 2008.



Processing Plant

The metallurgical processing facility designed by Ausenco Limited to process more than 2 million tonnes per annum of gold ore is comprised of the Ball & SAG mill, the crusher super-structure and CIL tanks as shown below. This plant is mechanically complete and undergoing commissioning.



MINING METHOD

The Sabodala and Niakafiri deposits will be mined by open pit methods, using 15m³ and 11m³ hydraulic shovels loading 90 tonne capacity haul trucks. A rotary blasthole drill will be used for production drilling of a 10 metre bench and a ramp width of 26 metre at a 10% grade. Berm widths are 7 metres. The new mining fleet of drills, face shovels and trucks is on site and at work.

The new Sabodala pit design is approximately 1,000 metres in length, 600 metres across and 250 metres deep. Total contained material is 142 million tonnes, including 120 million tonnes of waste and 22 million tonnes of ore to be processed.

The current pit dimensions for the Niakafiri pit at surface are 360 metres by 460 metres, with a final mined depth of 90 metres.

Water

Total water levels in the storage dams on site were in excess of 3.1 million cubic metres at the end of the 2008 wet season. Approval has also been received to lay a water pipeline of some 40 kilometres to the Faleme River to ensure ample process water is available for the project into the future, and this construction is underway.

