

Commencement of Mining at Grande Côte

Mineral Deposits Limited (“MDL”) is pleased to advise that mining has commenced at Grande Côte in Senegal, with sand now being processed through the Wet Concentrator Plant (“WCP”), producing heavy mineral concentrate (“HMC”).

As mining and processing rates through the WCP are ramped up, and after a few weeks to allow a stockpile of HMC to be built, processing through the Mineral Separation Plant will commence, giving rise to first product.

Rick Sharp, Managing Director of MDL, commented, “the commencement of mining is clearly a very significant day in the life cycle of Grande Côte. After more than two years of actual construction, and many more years of evaluation and planning before that, we now have a world-class project of which we are very proud. A project of this scale does not come easily or without its challenges. I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate Adam Smits, the Project Manager, and his team for delivering such an exceptional project, and thank the Government of the Republic of Senegal for its support in helping us to reach this important milestone. Now it’s over to our highly-experienced operating team, led by Simon Finnis, to ramp up production.”



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About MDL

Mineral Deposits Limited (ASX: MDL) is an Australian based mining company in the business of finding, mining and processing mineral sands resources.

MDL owns 50% of TiZir Limited which owns the Grande Côte Mineral Sands Project in Senegal, West Africa and an ilmenite upgrading facility in Tyssedal, Norway.

Grande Côte is anticipated to produce on average approximately 85ktpa of zircon and 575ktpa of ilmenite (and small amounts of rutile and leucoxene) when in full production over an expected mine life of at least 20 years.

The Tyssedal ilmenite upgrading facility smelts ilmenite to produce a high-TiO₂ titanium slag which is sold to pigment producers and a high purity pig iron which is sold as a valuable co-product to ductile iron foundries. The facility currently produces approximately 200ktpa of titanium slag and 110ktpa of high-purity pig iron.

Once Grande Côte reaches expected average production rates, TiZir will be producing approximately 7% of both global zircon and titanium feedstock supply.