

JINCHUAN TAKES CONTROL IN KENYA TITANIUM MINES

Chinese mining firm Jinchuan has acquired 70% stake in Tiomin Kenya Limited in a bid to revive the titanium mining project located in Kenya's coastal region. The project has been in limbo for over ten years.

Tiomin Kenya has full rights over titanium deposits in Kwale District but a combination of financial difficulties, boardroom wrangles in the parent company and controversy over relocation of displaced landowners has rendered it unable to exploit the minerals.

The investment agreement which was signed at the beginning of this month offers Jinchuan a 70% stake in Tiomin Kenya Limited leaving the Canadian parent with 30%. Jinchuan is expected to immediately invest USD 25 million into the mining project to offer it the financial muscle it needs to take off.

The Canadian and Chinese firms hope to mine an average of 330,000 tonnes of titanium bearing limonite, 77,000 tonnes of rutile and 37,000 tonnes of zircon a year from the Kwale Mineral Sands site.

[Details Details](#)

BOEING AND VSMPO-AVISMA ANNOUNCE TITANIUM AGREEMENT

The Boeing Company and VSMPO-AVISMA have announced a joint-venture agreement for the machining of titanium forgings for use in Boeing commercial airplanes. The 50/50 equity joint venture will produce titanium parts for the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

VSMPO-AVISMA will perform rough machining of titanium forgings in Verkhnyaya Salda, Russia. Final machining and processing of the forgings will be completed by Boeing's Portland, Ore., fabrication facility and other machining subcontractors.

On April 13, 2006, Boeing and VSMPO announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding leading to the formation of the joint venture. Consistent with their long-standing business relationship, the two companies also completed a framework agreement to outline the guiding principles of their future work in the area of titanium products. [Details](#)



VULCANIUM OPENS NEW FACILITY IN THE UK

Vulcanium Metals International announced that a new titanium warehousing and processing facility will be fully operational in the UK this month. The facility, located near Belfast in Northern Ireland, will be equipped and staffed to be a state-of-the-art titanium stocking centre.

The Northern Ireland facility will support Vulcanium's business development managers located in the UK, in serving aerospace, medical device and industrial markets across Europe. [Details](#)

TITANIUM PROJECTS PARTNERS CLOSE TO RESOLVING LAND ISSUE

Things finally seem to be looking up for Titanium Projects Private Limited, the consortium setting up the maiden titanium project in Orissa at Chhatrapur entailing an investment of INR 2,000 crore.

Kolkata based Saraf Agencies Limited and the Russian promoters of Titanium Projects Private Limited have reached a certain level of understanding on the vexed issues of shareholding and allotment of land for the project. Mr Saurabh Garg state industries secretary told Business Standard that "Both the parties Saraf Agencies and the Russian promoters of Titanium Projects Private Limited have made some headway in their talks. These companies have reached a certain level of understanding on the contentious issues of shareholding and land allotment."

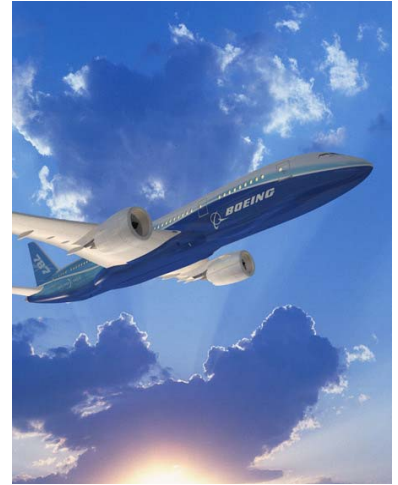
He added that Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation is monitoring the progress of negotiations between the two parties even though we are not involved in their talks.

The report added that a fresh round of negotiations was held between Saraf Agencies and the Russian promoters of Titanium Projects Private Limited to resolve the differences that had cropped up between the joint venture partners. [Details](#)

TITANIUM METALS POISED FOR A TURNAROUND

Titanium Metals is poised to rebound after experiencing a near meltdown caused by the recession and significant delays by Boeing in development of their 787 Dreamliner. Deliveries of other aircraft will increase the demand for titanium for the next five years.

In July 2009, *The Airline Monitor*, a leading aerospace publication, issued its semi-annual forecast for commercial aircraft deliveries. Aggregate annual deliveries for both Boeing and Airbus are expected to reach record numbers of aircraft during each year from 2009 through 2013 (totaling at least 960 aircraft deliveries each year during the period). Forecasted deliveries for twin-aisle aircraft through 2013 have declined 4% from 1,450 to 1,390 since *The Airline Monitor's* January 2009 forecast primarily due to production delays on the Boeing 787. Changes to production schedules for certain other commercial aircraft resulted in a 22% increase in forecasted deliveries of Boeing and Airbus single-aisle aircraft through 2013. [Details](#)



MOMA TITANIUM MINERALS MINE UPDATE

Ireland-based Kenmare Resources, which owns the Moma titanium minerals mine in Mozambique, is on target for full production before the end of 2009. A performance improvement project at Moma is nearly finished. In the second quarter of 2009, production of heavy mineral concentrate increased by 23% from the first quarter, ilmenite output rose by 12.2%, zircon production jumped 45%, while rutile output surged 158%. [Details](#)

TITANIUM MILLS, FORGERS FACE GROWING RIVALRY FOR BLOCKS

Titanium forge shops say they're getting competition for a product that's traditionally one of their specialties from an unwelcome source: titanium mills.

The product, forged blocks for the aircraft market, is often ready to be machined into a finished part in contrast to more conventional billet, which must often be re-forged or otherwise processed. "The mills are competing with us for forged blocks," an executive at an independent forgings producer said.

[Details](#) [Details](#)

WORLD TITANIUM SPONGE OUTPUT SEEN SLIDING

Paced by a 35-percent drop in the former Soviet Union, global titanium sponge production is expected to fall 30 to 35 percent in 2009, the first drop in more than four years, setting the stage for soaring prices when demand returns.

Moreover, cuts in U.S. sponge production and the slow pace of new additions to domestic capacity mean that imports will continue to supply a large part of U.S. sponge requirements, despite earlier expectations they would decline, said Sylvain Gehler, chairman of Kazakh producer Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium MagPlant. [Details](#)

S.KOREA STEELMAKER POSCO TO LAUNCH TITANIUM JV IN KAZAKHSTAN

South Korea's leading steelmaker, has announced that it plans to form a joint venture in Kazakhstan as part of efforts to produce high-quality steel products.

The venture, to be set up along with Kazakhstan-based UKTMP, will produce titanium slab that POSCO will import to process into sheet at its plants in South Korea, according to the company. The venture will start production in the second half of next year, and titanium products will be sold in South Korea, China and Europe, the steelmaker said. [Details](#)

BENCHMARK TITANIUM SURCHARGES LOG SMALLEST DROP THIS YEAR

Some benchmark surcharges on titanium have taken their smallest decline this year, while others have even increased in some cases, amid signs that market pressures are nevertheless forcing overall price cuts on some popular products.

Fourth-quarter titanium surcharges by the Allvac unit of Allegheny Technologies Inc. (ATI) indicate this pricing element might be stabilizing after steep declines early this year. [Details](#)