

BOARDROOM WAR SETBACK HITS TITANIUM MINING PROJECT

The Kwale-based titanium mining project has suffered yet another setback after a vicious boardroom war broke out at Tiomin Resources, the Canadian firm that was granted rights over the mineral deposits more than 10 years ago.

The war erupted last week after Jaguar Financial Corp, a Canadian merchant bank, which owns 10 per cent of Tiomin Resources, revealed that directors of Tiomin planned to irregularly relinquish their interest in the project to Jinchuan Group, a government controlled Chinese firm.

This move could further delay the commencement of the project that is billed as Kenya's biggest but has been on the cards since the mid 1990s. [Details](#)

LADISH MAY NIX SCRAP SALES; MEXICO PLANT ON HOLD

Plummeting prices have prompted Ladish Co. Inc. to consider stockpiling scrap, and the Cudahy, Wisconsin based company also has put on hold plans for a new titanium aerospace castings plant in Mexico. [Details](#)

SLUMPING TITANIUM SCRAP MARKET SHOWS NO SIGNS OF TURNAROUND

The titanium scrap market, in the midst of a slump that's probably even more severe than the downturn in demand for mill products, shows no signs of recovery.

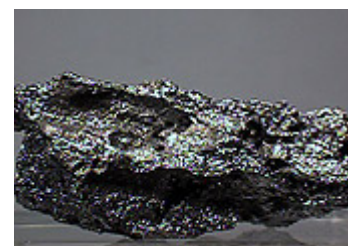
Michael W. Wellham, president and chief operating officer of RTI International Metals Inc., Pittsburgh, estimated that the price of unprepared bulk weldable titanium scrap his company normally buys is now around \$1.15 per pound. [Details](#)

ANDRITZ SUPPLIES BAOJI TITANIUM

Andritz has received an order from Baoji Titanium Industry Co. Ltd, China's largest titanium producer, for the supply of cold rolling and strip processing equipment, including automation. The order comprises a continuous pickling line for hot rolled and cold rolled titanium strip for the automobile and aerospace industries. With a capacity of approximately 20,000tns/yr, the plant will process strip in the thickness range from 0.3 – 7mm up to 1370mm wide. Andritz will supply the mechanical equipment and complete pickling section including all ancillary equipment and will supervise erection and commissioning. [Details](#)

ATI PETROLEUM GRANTED TITANIUM MINING LICENSE

American Technologies Incorporated Petroleum (ATIP) has announced that the People's Committee of Vietnam has approved its license for mineral exploration and development of an ilmenite/titanium reserve in June of 2008. Production is currently underway with reserves estimated at over 5 million metric tons. ATIP is the process of negotiating contracts that will make this mining project increasingly profitable. ATIP, a subsidiary of American Technologies Incorporated Group (ATIG), upon receiving the license has gone into immediate exploration and development. The mining area consists of 586 hectares and currently produces Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon and Monazite in commercial quantities. [Details](#)



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HARDIDE DEVELOPS TITANIUM COATING

Hardide, the provider of unique metal surface engineering technology, has successfully developed a process to enable the Hardide coating of titanium - a strong but light, high-performance metal commonly used in the aerospace, defence and Formula 1 motorsport industries. In February 2009, the Group successfully coated its first titanium components for customers in the UK and US, as well as a number of its own test samples. Components manufactured from titanium can now benefit from the wear, abrasion and chemical resistant properties of Hardide. This development gives Hardide access to the global titanium thermal spray coatings market estimated to be worth £100 million per annum. The Group estimates that Hardide-suitable niche applications in the UK alone are worth £10 million annually.

[Details](#)

TITANIUM MODELLING BOOK

Woodhead Publishing has published a book dedicated to the modelling of Titanium, entitled "Titanium alloys: Modelling of microstructure, properties and applications." Modelling techniques for both titanium alloys and titanium aluminides are discussed as well as an examination of experimental techniques such as microscopy, differential scanning calorimetry and dislocations relevant to TiAl. Physical models are reviewed with chapters detailing thermodynamic modelling and the Johnson-Mehl-Avrami method adapted to continuous cooling. A summary of neural network method, models and applications is strengthened with the inclusion of both time-temperature-transformation and fatigue stress life diagrams. [Details](#)

ALLEGHENY MANAGER BANKING ON US MAGNESIUM

The general manager of Allegheny Technologies' new \$460 million titanium plant at Rowley has stated his company is on track for a third-quarter opening this year, and will continue ramping up production through 2010, and is banking on a relationship with US Magnesium to make the operation profitable. Steve Knight has 28 years experience in the aluminium industry. He will oversee an operation that will combine magnesium from nearby US Magnesium with titanium tetrachloride to form titanium — for use in various industries — and magnesium chloride, which will be returned to US Magnesium for producing more magnesium. Knight said that process makes the relationship between the two companies highly symbiotic. [Details](#)

WESTERN METAL MATERIAL TO COMPLETE WESTERN TITANIUM TAKEOVER IN H1

Interfax China reported that Shenzhen-listed Western Metal Material Co Ltd intends to complete its full acquisition of Xi'an-based Western Titanium Co Ltd by the end of June 2009.

According to Western Metal Material's previous announcement, the company obtained approval from the China Securities Regulatory Commission in December 2008 to issue between 15 million and 25 million new shares in order to raise a maximum of CNY 550 million.

The funds would help finance the acquisition of a controlling 97.78% stake in Western Titanium as well as per 5,000 tonne titanium processing line technical upgrade project at Western Titanium, which requires investment of CNY 503.7 million. In addition, the company also pledged to buy the remaining 2.22% stake in Western Titanium with its own funds. [Details](#)

OFFICIAL SAYS MARTINSVILLE TITANIUM PLANT ON SCHEDULE

An RTI Metals official says the company still expects to open a \$100 million titanium plant in Martinsville. Vice President Richard Vandegrift says the plant remains on schedule to open in late 2010 or 2011. Vandegrift denied rumours that the plant has been delayed or cancelled. [Details](#)

OSAKA TITANIUM TO SLASH OUTPUT ON RECESSION, BOEING 787 DELAYS

Osaka Titanium Technologies Co., the world's second-largest producer, plans to deepen output cuts to more than 40 percent from April as a global recession and delays in Boeing Co.'s 787 Dreamliner hurts demand.

The production cuts will be maintained for at least the next six months, Osaka Titanium President Masaaki Tachibana said in an interview. Earnings growth may be restored from the second half of the year ending March 2011, he said. The company is currently cutting output by 30 percent from capacity. The 787, Boeing's best-selling new model, is almost two years behind schedule, forcing Osaka Titanium and rival Toho Titanium Co. to postpone shipments of the lightweight and strong material. The financial crisis has reduced demand for titanium, also used in ships, chemical plants and golf clubs, driving down export prices in 2009 for the first time in five years [Details](#)

EUROPEAN TITANIUM CONFERENCE 2009

23rd-24th June

The Titanium Information Group, in association with the Special Metals Forum and NAMTEC, is hosting a European Titanium Conference to be held at the Belfry Golf Club and Conference Centre, in Birmingham.

The conference will cover up to date technical developments, academic research and market reviews from various perspectives. We have confirmed speakers from world leading organisations and renowned academic institutions. [Details](#)

