



HD Paladin Energy Ltd Quarterly Activities Report for Period Ending: March 31, 2014

WC 2,568 words

PD 22 April 2014

ET 20:00

SN Marketwired

SC CCNWS

LA English

CY © Marketwire L.P. All rights reserved.

LP

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA--(Marketwired - April 22, 2014) - Paladin Energy Ltd ("Paladin" or "the Company") (TSX:PDN)(ASX:PDN) is pleased to provide its Quarterly Activities Report for the three month period ended March 31, 2014.

HIGHLIGHTS

TD

-- Key strategic initiatives successfully implemented.

--

sale of 25% minority joint venture **equity** to **China** National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) for US\$190M.

-- Paladin satisfies conditions for US\$20M deposit from CNNC to become non-refundable.

-- refinancing of Langer Heinrich and Kayelekera facilities, allowing significant reduction in debt repayments over CY2014 and CY2015.

-- decision to place Kayelekera on care and maintenance, saving appreciable cash outflows at current **uranium** prices.

-- Continued steady production at both Langer Heinrich and Kayelekera mines in March quarter.

-- combined production of 2.089Mlb (948t) U3O8.

-- production was down slightly by 5% from December quarter mainly due to fewer days in the quarter and rundown in production at Kayelekera in preparation for care and maintenance.

-- Langer Heinrich produced 1,392,694lb (632t) U3O8 for the March quarter, 4% above budget.

-- overall recovery for the quarter was 85.8%.

-- feed grade for the quarter down to 750ppm U3O8.

-- Kayelekera produced 696,710lb (316t) U3O8 for the quarter, in line with the revised care and maintenance budget.

-- recovery of 86.7% for the quarter.

-- announcement on February 7 to place the project on care and maintenance due to low **uranium** price with production expected to continue until early May when reagent stocks will be depleted.

-- Revised production guidance of 7.8Mlb to 8.0Mlb for FY14 remains on track.

SAFETY

The **Company** incurred nine lost time injuries (LTIs) across the organisation for the quarter - six at Langer Heinrich Mine (LHM), two at Kayelekera Mine (KM) and one in exploration. At LHM, two were lower back

injuries, two ankle injuries, one wrist dislocation and one fingertip injury. At KM, both involved minor fractures (leg and thumb). The exploration injury involved hypothermia. Full investigations have been conducted and recommendations made and are being implemented. The **Company's** 12-month moving average Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) increased to 2.8 from 1.0.

A major health and safety review was undertaken at LHM. This identified several areas for improvement including additional safety training, which is a major initiative for the next 12-24 months. The annual NOSA CMB 253 (HSE) audit was conducted at LHM and resulted in a 3-star Platinum accreditation dropping from its 4 star rating the previous year.

QUARTERLY **URANIUM** SALES

Sales

Sales for the quarter were 2,405,159lb U3O8, generating revenue of US\$88.56M, representing an average sales price of US\$36.82/lb U3O8 (average weekly Ux spot price for the quarter was US\$35.15/lb U3O8).

LANGER HEINRICH MINE, Namibia (100%)

Production by quarter

	Jun 2013 Qtr	Sep 2013 Qtr	Dec 2013 Qtr	Mar 2014 Qtr
LHM				
U3O8 Production (lb)	1,353,348	1,429,378	1,431,307	1,392,694

The March 2014 quarterly production of 1,392,694lb U3O8 was above budget by 4%.

Mining

	Dec 2013 Qtr	Mar 2014 Qtr
Ore mined (t)	1,254,668	909,533
Grade (ppm U3O8)	664	1,021
Additional low grade ore mined (t)	1,150,223	357,922
Grade (ppm U3O8)	331	325
Waste (t)	3,235,604	3,729,823
Waste/ ore ratio	1.35	2.94

Ore mining activities concentrated on the eastern side of the deposit in Pit G1. Fewer **ore** tonnes were mined during the period, but the **ore** grade was significantly higher than in the previous quarters. The majority of waste material mined came from Pit H on the western side of the open cut. **Mining** also commenced in Pit G3 during the quarter.

ROM **ore** stocks have been maintained at approximately four weeks' supply and are being supplemented by medium grade **ore** from long term stockpiles in line with the plant's blend requirements.

Process Plant

The plant continued to perform well during the quarter, with record throughput and reduced feed grade as reflected below:

	Dec 2013 Qtr	Mar 2014 Qtr
Ore milled (t)	962,930	982,209
Grade (ppm U3O8)	771	750
Overall recovery (%)	87.8	85.8
U3O8 Production (lb)	1,431,320	1,392,694

The processing optimisation strategy during the quarter focussed on continuous improvement utilising existing equipment and continued positive gains in both production and unit cost:

-- Quarterly

ore processed increased by 2% from the previous quarter to a new record high.

-- Overall recovery impacted by reduced loading capacity on the IX resin. This issue will be addressed in the coming quarter.

All operating mines in the area, including LHM, are now obtaining the majority of their water supplies under a water supply agreement executed with NamWater in November 2013 using marine desalinated water from existing infrastructure. Since being signed, LHM has been receiving a reliable and secure water supply.

KAYELEKERA MINE, Malawi (85%)

Production by quarter

	Jun 2013 Qtr	Sep 2013 Qtr	Dec 2013 Qtr	Mar 2014 Qtr
KM				
U3O8 Production (lb)	789,430	614,603	777,015	696,710

Uranium production for the March quarter was affected by the consequences of transitioning KM towards a care and maintenance status. This announcement was made on February 7 and the plant was shut down for the 3 days after the announcement was made to facilitate the transition. Production is consistent with the revised guidance provided in that announcement.

Mining

There was no **mining** production during the March quarter as a result of both the **mining** cessation over the Christmas break and the decision to proceed to care and maintenance. There are sufficient existing ROM stockpiles to feed the plant while the mine transitions toward care and maintenance.

Mining data

	Dec Qtr 2013	Mar Qtr 2014

Ore mined (t)	207,192	No mining during Qtr
Grade (ppm) U3O8	1,403	
Additional low grade ore mined (t)	96,026	
Grade (ppm)	383	
Waste (t)	642,830	
Waste/ore ratio	2.12	

Process plant

Operating data

	Dec Qtr 2013	Mar Qtr 2014
Mill feed (t)	319,385	325,416
Grade (ppm) U3O8	1,291	1,141
Overall recovery (%)	85.9	86.7
U3O8 Production (lb)	777,015	696,710

- Overall recovery increased to 86.7% for the March quarter compared with 85.9% for the December quarter.
- Resin-In-Pulp (RIP) recovery remained at record levels and well above budget (96%) at 98.4%. RIP recovery in excess of 98% is now established as a benchmark and resin consumption in RIP remains well below budget. Total acid consumption for the March quarter was 48.42kg/t compared with a budget of 62.81kg/t (down 22.9%). This is a direct result of optimal

ore blending and the very successful Acid Recovery Project that was commissioned last quarter.

Product Shipment Incident, Feb 10, 2014

As previously reported, there was an incident with a routine product shipment on February 10 where a small quantity (30kg) of Class 7 uranium product concentrate was spilled a short distance from the mine in Malawi. A truck travelling in convoy failed to make a turn while headed from the mine to the Port of Walvis Bay in Namibia. The truck tipped to its side damaging the cargo container. The driver suffered only minor injuries and there were no consequent health or environmental impacts. The small area involved with the spillage was cleaned up and radiologically tested and Malawi's Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority declared that it was satisfied with Company's response and clean-up procedure.

Care and Maintenance

On February 7, the Company announced that KM would be placed on care and maintenance due to the low uranium price and non-profitability of the operation. With this decision being taken, the plant will now operate until all necessary reagents in the supply chain are run down and consumed to the maximum extent possible. Currently, it is anticipated that the plant will continue to produce into early May. During care and maintenance staffing levels will be reduced as appropriate.

During the period of care and maintenance, subject to being granted the necessary exploration licences, exploration work will be carried out on the existing Mining Lease and adjoining tenements. This work will

be focused on expanding the current mineral resource base in order to extend the project life once **operations** resume. A number of social community programmes will be continued.

It is expected that production will restart once the **uranium** price provides a sufficient incentive (circa US\$75/lb) and the ESCOM grid power is available on site to replace the diesel generators with much lower cost hydro electricity.

PRODUCTION GUIDANCE FORECAST FOR FY14

Production for FY14 is expected to be within the 7.8Mlb - 8Mlb U3O8 range specified in the revised guidance announced on February 7, 2014 as a result of placing the Kayelekera operation on care and maintenance.

AURORA - MICHELIN **URANIUM** PROJECT, Canada (100%)

The winter drilling programme was completed in March for a total of 15 holes for 4,432m. The results are currently being collated. Also, another 608 line kilometres of ground magnetic surveys were completed. The exploration camp was closed late March until the commencement of the forthcoming summer field season in August.

CORPORATE

Sale of Minority Interest in Langer Heinrich Mine, Namibia

On January 20, 2014 Paladin announced that it had signed an agreement to sell a 25% joint-venture **equity stake** in its flagship Langer Heinrich **uranium mining** operation in Namibia to **China Uranium** Corporation Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of CNNC, the leading **Chinese** nuclear utility, for consideration of US\$190M.

The offtake component of the agreement will allow CNNC to **purchase** its pro-rata share of product at the prevailing market spot price. There is also an opportunity for Paladin to benefit by securing additional long term offtake arrangements with CNNC, at arm's length market rates, from Paladin's share of Langer Heinrich production.

Completion is now subject only to certain **Chinese** regulatory approvals (including the National Development and Reform Commission), which are expected to be obtained by June 2014. Consents for the transaction from Paladin's project financiers and the Bank of Namibia have been received and as a consequence on 16 April 2014 the US\$20M deposit paid by CNNC has been released from escrow to Paladin and is non-refundable.

Securing CNNC as a joint-venture partner is considered a significant achievement by Paladin given CNNC's stature and high regard in **China** and internationally due to its ability to develop, build and operate nuclear power plants. Having this highly respected member of the **Chinese** nuclear power industry participating in Langer Heinrich is a very important and positive development for both the **Company** and for Namibia.

Successful Refinancing of Langer Heinrich and Kayelekera Facilities

On January 17, 2014, Paladin announced it had entered into agreements with its lenders to refinance the LHM and the KM project finance facilities. This new facility provides significant cash flow benefits to both projects and leaves Paladin in a much stronger financial position. The annual principal repayments across both projects have been reduced from US\$53.8M to US\$18.3M in CY2014, a substantial reduction of US\$35.5M, with the first repayment not being due until June 2014. In CY2015, annual principal repayments under the existing facilities compared to the new facility will be reduced by a further US\$23.7M.

The KM finance facility (currently US\$48.1M) was repaid in full immediately, however, the facility and existing security arrangements will remain in place to support the US\$10M Performance Bond.

Overall, this rationalisation in the project financing reduces the **Company's** debt position and, by substantially reducing repayments over the next three years, conserves operational cash flow.

Sale of Shareholding by Newmont **Mining** Corporation

The **Company** announced on March 12, 2014 that Newmont **Mining** Corporation sold its 5.4% shareholding in Paladin through a book-build process. The **sale** was underwritten by investment bank UBS at a fixed price of \$0.525 per share and Paladin has been informed the shares were sold to a broad range of institutional investors.

Newmont acquired the shareholding through its **acquisition** of Fronteer **Gold** in 2011, which had previously sold the Aurora **uranium** assets in Canada to Paladin. Paladin understands the **sale** is consistent with Newmont's strategy of divesting non-core assets to align its investment interests with its global **gold** production business.

URANIUM MARKET OUTLOOK

The spot **uranium** price was reported at US\$34.50/lb at the beginning of the quarter before rising to US\$35.75/lb in mid-February. The price retreated to US\$34.00/lb by the end of March. In February, as a potential sign the market is bottoming out, **Uranium** Participation Corporation, secured financing totalling C\$57.6M and to date has reportedly purchased a total of 850,000lb for near-term delivery.

The term contracting market has begun to show activity, as a large US nuclear utility requested offers for deliveries spanning 2016-2022. Paladin believes that increasing term contracting will strengthen the term price as the year progresses and additional term demand enters the market.

On April 11, 2014 the Japanese government approved a new **energy** policy, which incorporates nuclear as "an important base-load **energy** source". This new **Energy** Basic Plan defines nuclear **energy** as an important part of the **energy** fuel mix Japan intends adopting and calls for the restart of their idled reactors. The independent Nuclear Regulatory Authority agreed to place two reactors, Kyushu Electric's Sendai 1 & 2, on an expedited review process, which could **lead** to restarts by mid-year. Recent forecasts of reactor restarts envision 5-8 reactors operating by end of CY2014 and circa 32 reactors by end of CY2016.

In another important development, after extensive debate and numerous drafts, the European Commission on April 9, 2014 adopted, in principle, the new rules designed to replace subsidies for renewables with market based schemes. The rules will take effect from July 1, 2014 and from 2017 all member states will be required to adopt the new process, following a pilot phase during 2015-16. These new rules are seen as being supportive of nuclear generation development due to the introduction of market realities into renewable generation economics.

Declaration

The information in this Announcement relating to exploration and mineral resources is, except where stated, based on information compiled by David Princep **B.Sc** who is a Fellow of the AusIMM. Mr Princep has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity that he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and **Ore** Reserves", and as a Qualified Person as defined in NI 43-101. Mr Princep is a full-time employee of Paladin **Energy** Ltd and consents to the inclusion of this information in the form and context in which it appears.

ACN 061 681 098

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: Paladin **Energy** Ltd John Borshoff Managing Director/CEO +61-8-9381-4366 or Mobile: +61-419-912-571 john.borshoff@paladinenergy.com.au

Paladin **Energy** Ltd Greg Taylor Investor Relations Contact +1 905 337-7673 or Mobile: +1 416-605-5120 (Toronto) greg.taylor@paladinenergy.com.au

CO palrs : Paladin Energy Limited

IN iuran : Uranium Ore Mining | i211 : Metal Ore Mining | ibasicm : Basic Materials/Resources | imet : Mining/Quarrying

NS npress : Press Releases | ncat : Content Types

RE austr : Australia | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania

PUB Marketwire L.P. (Canada)

AN Document CCNWS00020140422ea4m000rv