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HD Gindalbie's magnetite output rose 36% in July-Sep

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Australia's Gindalbie Metals produced 1.26 million mt of magnetite from its Karara joint venture in July-September, up 35.5% from April-June, the **company** said Thursday.

The magnetite quality averaged 66.2% Fe and 6.9% silica, which compares with magnetite production quality averaging 65.4% Fe and 6.3% silica during the June quarter, Gindalbie said.

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Gindalbie shipped 1.04 million mt of hematite direct shipping ore from Karara in July-September, down slightly from 1.14 million mt in the previous quarter. A total of 35 shipments were made during the September quarter totaling 2.18 million mt of combined magnetite and hematite DSO.

The Karara project, located 225 km (140 miles) east of Geraldton in Western Australia's Mid West region, has a production capacity of 8.8 million mt/year. The plant has not reached maximum capacity since it began operating in January 2013 due to ongoing commissioning problems and technical faults.

Gindalbie said it is continuing to review how to improve Karara production. "Given the ongoing work to assess and improve the production capacity and performance of the Karara operation, the Gindalbie board is not in a position to provide guidance or forecast when the project will achieve positive cash flow," it said.

Gindalbie is also developing the Hinge iron ore project, located 23 km northeast of Karara.

Hinge will produce 3.5 **million** mt of hematite **ore** over an 18-month period. The **ore** will be crushed and screened at Hinge, then trucked to the existing rail load-out facility located at Karara. Commissioning of the project is already underway and Gindalbie expect to deliver first **ore** to Karara during the December quarter, it said.

Karara is a JV between Gindalbie (47.84%) and **China**'s Ansteel (52.16%). Ansteel also holds the right to increase its **stake** further to 62% if it is required to repay additional bank debt and concentrate pre-sales agreements totaling \$230 **million**.

Marnie Hobson

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