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HD (AEAOH) Altona cements Chinese JV at Cloncurry

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LP Sydney - Thursday – June 02 (RWE) – Perth's Altona **Mining** has finalised its joint venture deal with **China**'s Sichuan Railway Investment Group (SRIG) over the Cloncurry **copper** project in Queensland.

The formalised agreement is now undergoing **Chinese** regulatory approval through the Sichaun Government and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC), with all conditions to be satisfied and closed prior to October 31, 2016.

TD Under the agreement, the **Chinese** state-owned entity will contribute US\$213.53 **million** (A\$294 **million**) in cash to the new joint venture **company**, with Altona to put in US\$25 **million**.

Altona will decrease its **stake** in the JV from 40% to 34%, reducing the **company**'s **equity** commitment from US\$38 **million** to US\$25 **million**.

With A\$43 **million** on its balance sheet, Altona can meet its obligations without having to dilute shareholder interests.

Altona **Mining** managing director Alistair Cowden said that by diluting at the project level and not taking on debt or raising **equity** to finance development, Altona shareholders would see higher – and more immediate – returns.

"Altona avoids large dilutive **equity** raisings, debt, debt service taking precedence over shareholder dividends, mandatory hedging capping **copper** price upside and bank covenants limiting the ability to grow," Cowden said.

"On closing of the transaction, the project will be fully funded to production. The joint venture will have A\$329 **million** in cash plus the Cloncurry project."

The Altona/SRIG JV plans to develop a 7 **million** tonne per annum open pit mine at the Cloncurry project, capable of producing 39,000 tonnes of **copper** and 17,000 ounces of **gold** per annum for 11 years.

"The project is significant for Queensland bringing 300 construction jobs and when in production it will sustain 280 new direct jobs," Cowden said.

CO unvres: Altona Mining Ltd.

IN i211: Metal Ore Mining | i2114: Copper Ore/Nickel Ore Mining | ibasicm: Basic Materials/Resources | imet: Mining/Quarrying

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