

*PanAust Puts Initial Cost of Frieda River Mine at US\$1.7 Billion HD

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1 Sep 2014 18:50 ET *PanAust Says Frieda River Cost Estimate Excludes Mine Fleet, Power Plant

1 Sep 2014 19:01 ET PanAust Puts Initial Cost of Frieda River Mine at US\$1.7B

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By David Winning

SYDNEY--PanAust Ltd. (PNA.AU) said Tuesday its majority-owned Frieda River copper-and-gold mining project in Papua New Guinea could cost US\$1.7 billion to build.

PanAust--currently a takeover target for China's Guangdong Rising Assets Management--said Frieda River could produce 125,000 tons of copper-in-concentrate, and 200,000 ounces of gold, annually.

Brisbane-based PanAust recently acquired an 80% stake in the Frieda River project from Glencore PLC (GLEN.LN). The remaining interest is held by Australia-listed Highlands Pacific Ltd. (HIG.AU).

"Preliminary analysis indicates that the base case development concept would be robust at a copper price of US\$2.80 per pound and gold price of US\$1,300 a troy ounce," PanAust said in a statement.

PanAust, which is preparing a feasibility study into the Frieda River project, said the initial construction-cost estimate didn't include a fleet of mining trucks or a power plant.

-Write to David Winning at david.winning@wsj.com

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