

SE News Stories; **Copper**
 HD **Alara Resources lifts Saudi zinc-copper JV project to 60%**
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 WC 182 words
 PD 14 March 2014
 SN Platts Metals Daily
 SC METLSDLY
 VOL ISSN: 2325-0658, Volume 3, Issue 52
 LA English
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 Australia's Alara Resources has increased its **stake** in its joint-venture Khnaiguiyah zinc-**copper** project in Saudi Arabia with United Arabian **Mining Company** to 60% from 50% previously, and will now take control of the project's development, Alara said on March 14.
 Production at Khnaiguiyah — Alara's flagship project, located some 200 km west of Riyadh — is scheduled to start in 2016 by which time zinc prices are expected to have strengthened significantly, the **company** has said previously.
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 The mine will have a throughput of 2 **million** mt/year, with zinc concentrate output capacity peaking at 90,000 mt/year and **copper** concentrate capacity peaking at 6,250 mt/year.
 Alara has said it expects production to be sold to customers in **China** and India.
 Operating costs — including treatment and refining charges — to produce zinc at the project are expected to be 50 cents/lb.
 Alara expects preliminary construction work at the site to begin over the next few weeks, the **company** said.
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 CO alraur : Alara Resources Limited
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 IPD Projects
 PUB The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.
 AN Document METLSDLY20140411ea3e0000f