Kalgoorlie Miner

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HD Spring in Phoenix's step after Norton nod to project offer

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Chinese-controlled gold miner Norton Gold Fields will proceed with plans to mine the Mick Adams and Wadi projects, north-west of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, after taking up an offer from Phoenix Gold.

It represents a double dose of good news for Phoenix, which marked the opening day of this week's Diggers and Dealers **Mining** Forum with the start of **mining** at its Kintore West mine.orth-west of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

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The nearby Mick Adams and Wadi developments are expected to produce 142,800 ounces and could potentially add \$17.5 million cash to Phoenix's coffers over two years.

Phoenix and Norton are now proceeding to a formal licence to mine and ore sale agreement.

Mining should begin within three months of the agreement being finalised, pending fleet availability.

"We welcome the potential contribution the projects could make to Norton's vision to increase annual production to 300,000 ounces of **gold** in the near to medium term and to our strategy to focus on cost reduction,"

Norton managing director Dianmin Chen said. Norton will fund upfront capital development while taking responsibility for **mining**, haulage and milling at its Paddington plant. Rehabilitation works also fall on Norton.

Phoenix managing director Jon Price said the deal with Norton would complement Kintore West and the **company**'s recent \$2 **million acquisition** of a heap leach plant from **Gold** Fields St Ives.

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