

**HD Baosteel, Aurizon clear foreign takeover approval for Aquila**

**WC** 205 words

**PD** 29 May 2014

**ET** 15:23

**SN** Reuters News

**SC** LBA

**LA** English

**CY** (c) 2014 Reuters Limited

**LP**

SYDNEY, May 29 (Reuters) - **Chinese** steel giant Baosteel and Australia's Aurizon Holdings Ltd said on Thursday they have cleared a key regulatory hurdle to proceed with a \$1 **billion** takeover of Australian explorer Aquila Resources Ltd.

The approval from the Australian Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) puts Baosteel and rail **company** Aurizon one step closer to securing their own **iron ore**, which means relying less on top suppliers Vale, Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton.

**TD**

In a joint statement, Baosteel and Aurizon said they each received letters from the FIRB saying it had no objection to the deal. There are no **Chinese** regulatory hurdles for the **sale**, the companies added.

The FIRB clearance meant there were fewer conditions associated with the offer, which now only needs 50 percent shareholder approval to proceed, they added.

Baosteel and Aurizon said they would soon send Aquila shareholders a bidders statement.

Aquila shares were trading steady at A\$3.51 at 05.14 GMT, a premium to the takeover offer of A\$3.40 per share. Aurizon shares were down 4 cents at A\$4.90. (Reporting By Byron Kaye; Editing by Miral Fahmy)

**RF** Released: 2014-5-29T06:23:07.000Z

**CO** aqres : Aquila Resources Ltd. | qrntnl : Aurizon Holdings Limited | baois : Shanghai Baosteel Group Corp

**IN** i222 : Steel Products | imet : Mining/Quarrying | i22 : Primary Metals | ibasicm : Basic Materials/Resources | i211 : Metal Ore Mining | i2111 : Iron Ore Mining | i221 : Iron/Steel/Ferroalloys | i71 : Railroads | icargo : Freight/Cargo Transport | irailtr : Road/Rail Transport | irfrght : Railroad Freight | isteel : Steel Production | itsp : Transportation/Shipping

**NS** c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Takeovers | cacqu : Acquisitions | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : FC&E Industry News Filter

**RE** austr : Australia | sydney : Sydney | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania | nswals : New South Wales

**IPD** Business

**IPC** SERVICE:AUF

**PUB** Thomson Reuters (Markets) LLC

**AN** Document LBA0000020140529ea5t003bh