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*BHP Billiton 3Q Iron-Ore Output +23% On-Year at 49.6M Tons

WC 734 words 16 April 2014 PD ΕT 08:47 Dow Jones Institutional News SN SC **DJDN Enalish** LA CY Copyright © 2014, Dow Jones & Company, Inc. ΙP 15 Apr 2014 18:48 ET *BHP Billiton 3Q Copper Output -5% On-Year at 413,900 Tons 15 Apr 2014 18:49 ET *BHP Billiton 3Q Petroleum Output +10% On-Year at 60.9 BoE TD 15 Apr 2014 18:50 ET *BHP Billiton 3Q Metallurgical Coal Output +28% On-Year at 11.5M Tons 15 Apr 2014 18:51 ET *BHP Billiton 3Q Thermal Coal Output +11% On-Year at 17.7M Tons 15 Apr 2014 18:52 ET *BHP Billiton Sees Total Production +16% in Two Years to FY15-End 15 Apr 2014 18:52 ET *BHP Billiton Says Limited Impact on Iron-Ore Output from Bad Weather 15 Apr 2014 18:53 ET *BHP Billiton Lifts FY14 Iron-Ore Output Guidance to 217M Tons 15 Apr 2014 18:54 ET *BHP Billiton FY14 Iron-Ore Output Guidance Up 10M Tons on Initial Estimate 15 Apr 2014 18:54 ET *BHP Billiton Ups FY14 Met Coal Output Guidance by 2.5M Tons to 43.5M Tons 15 Apr 2014 18:56 ET *BHP Billiton Cuts Petroleum Output Guidance 2% to 245M BoE 15 Apr 2014 18:58 ET *BHP Billiton Sees FY14 Spend on Jansen 25% Below US\$800M Guidance 15 Apr 2014 18:59 ET *BHP Billiton Says Jansen Could Ramp-up in Decade Beyond 2020 15 Apr 2014 19:00 ET *BHP Billiton Says Mineral Resource at Escondida Mine Lifted 28% 15 Apr 2014 19:02 ET *BHP Billiton Says Will Cut Capacity at Alumar Aluminum Refinery 15 Apr 2014 19:03 ET *BHP Billiton Sees Nickel West Output -10% in FY15 15 Apr 2014 19:37 ET BHP Billiton Boosts Iron-Ore Production Outlook

By Rhiannon Hoyle

SYDNEY--BHP Billiton Ltd. (BHP) boosted its outlook for **iron-ore** production for the second time this fiscal year, saying it expected to produce more of the steelmaking ingredient than expected thanks to a strong performance from a new Australian mine and productivity improvements across its **operations**.

The world's biggest mining company said Wednesday it expected to produce 217 million metric tons of iron ore from its Australian mines in the year through June, up from previous guidance of 212 million metric tons and an initial estimate for the year of 207 million tons. The lift in output signals confidence China's rapid industrialization will continue to lift demand for the raw material used for building everything from cars to skyscrapers. BHP produced 187 million metric tons of iron ore from its Australian mines last financial year.

A key factor in the higher guidance figures--which include the share of output of minority venture partners--has been improvements to its supply chain, as well as the start of production at a new mine, Jimblebar, ahead of schedule. BHP also said it had only seen limited disruptions from bad weather in Australia's northwest in recent months.

In a quarterly report, the group said its independent share of **iron-ore** production increased by 23% to 49.6 **million** tons in the three months through March compared with a year earlier.

BHP also reported a 28% rise in production of metallurgical coal, used in steelmaking, and an 11% lift in thermal coal, used to generate electricity. It increased its full-year guidance for metallurgical coal production by 2.5 million tons, to 43.5 million tons.

Quarterly petroleum output totaled 60.9 **million** barrels of **oil** equivalent, up 10% on year, largely because of a lift in production from its Atlantis oilfield in the Gulf of Mexico. The **company** trimmed its full-year estimates by 2% following the **sale** of its Liverpool Bay oilfield in the U.K. and on expectations of lower gas production in the Hawkville area of the Eagle Ford.

The miner's aluminum business, meanwhile, continued to struggle.

"Challenging conditions in the aluminium industry continue to persist," the company said as it announced it would cut its capacity at the Alumar refinery in Brazil by 58,000 tons in the current quarter through June. It had already cut output there in 2013 and said total group aluminum production fell 6% on-year last guarter to 286,000 tons.

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