



Refractory bauxite source nears

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Guyana set for a new refractory bauxite mine as First Bauxite completes FS

First Bauxite Corp. has detailed its plan to bring a new source of refractory bauxite to production in Guyana as part of its completed feasibility study (FS).

The Vancouver-based company will mine the Bonasika 1, 2 and 3 deposits at a rate of 298,500 tpa raw and dry bauxite ore from which it will extract the suitable material for refractory consumption.

This ore will be concentrated to 160,000 tpa which is submitted to the wash plant before being sintered in the shaft kilns designed by German company, Polysius AG part of the ThyssenKrupp group.

First Bauxite is targeting 100,000 tpa production of refractory grade sintered bauxite.

Refractory bauxite pricing

The company has based its financials on cost of \$182 to produce one tonne of final product.

At present, refractory grade material from Guyana (FOB Linden) is priced between \$460-510/tonne while Chinese material from Shanxi (FOB Xingang, round kiln product 87/1.8/3.20+) has recovered from a mid-2009 dip to a high of \$535/tonne.

The lower grade material from Shanxi (FOB Xingang, rotary kiln 85/1.8/3.15) is trading for a low \$405/tonne and a high of \$425/tonne.

The challenges for a new source

There are very few refractory bauxite sources in the world and the one that falls outside of China, also located in Guyana, is under Chinese control through Bosai Minerals.

Supply restrictions on Chinese exports have closed the doors on a readily available source for much of the industry, forcing consumers to look for replacements such as andalusite.

“The challenge facing a new supplier of refractory grade bauxite is to convince the customer that he can be assured of a reliable supply of consistent quality product,” explained First Bauxite’s CEO and director, Hilbert Shields.

“This project is exciting to develop since it ‘moves refractory bauxite production out of the stone age’ and introduces new, energy efficient and environmentally friendly technology by creating a new value added product to complement Guyana’s traditional spectrum of quality refractory bauxites,” he added paraphrasing industry expert Bill McCracken.

For the prices of all grades of refractory bauxite see the [IM Prices Database](#)