

# Rio Tinto Serbia Highlights

## Innovating to Develop New Resources



*Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Serbia*



**Richard Storrie**  
General Manager  
Rio Sava Exploration

## Bringing the future closer

On 24 July, Rio Tinto signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Serbia with respect to the implementation of the Jadar Project that will enable us to set up joint working groups and progress the Jadar Project through the study and permitting phases.

The Memorandum was signed by Aleksandar Antić, Minister of Mining and Energy on behalf of the Government of Serbia, and by Simon Trott, Managing Director of Rio Tinto's Salt, Uranium and Borates division, and Richard Storrie on behalf of Rio Tinto. The Memorandum was signed in the presence of Ms. Ana Brnabić, newly appointed Prime Minister of Serbia, and H.E. Julia Feeney, Australian Ambassador to Serbia.

The Jadar project could bring sustainable benefits to Serbia and local communities across many generations. The project would be developed in line with the highest international health and safety, environmental and community standards. If the project gets all approvals, Rio Tinto could invest substantial capital through construction to design and build the mine and new, innovative processing technology for Jadarite. The project is currently in the middle study stages with operation expected to commence in 2023, subject to changes and approvals.

*"We are pleased to have signed the Memorandum with the Serbian Government because it will lay the foundation to progress the project through future stages and bring Serbia and Rio Tinto closer to becoming a leading source of global lithium and borate production."*

Simon Trott,  
Managing Director Rio Tinto Salt, Uranium and Borates

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## Safety First



*Team in front of NAVAK showroom*



*Driving tests*

## Safe Driving course

Use of company vehicles is recognized as one of the most hazardous of Rio Sava Exploration activities. One of our critical controls is for our employees to attend a "Safe Driving course" where they are trained on defensive driving techniques. We have continued our engagement at a local driver training academy, NAVAK Driver Academy, where our colleagues are informed about vehicles and driving risks.

The Beginners course is over four hours for our new colleagues and the eight-hour Intensive course provides more in-depth training for our more experienced employees. The next Safe Driving course is planned for the second half of 2017.



## First Aid training

In cooperation with the City of Belgrade First Aid Service, our employees took a first aid course refresher. Sometimes, lives depend on minutes and seconds, and so it is important to give help to those needing first aid in a timely manner.

## Health & Safety Statistics

Rio Tinto in Serbia continues to focus on a *zero harm* environment. We recently completed more than 750,000 hours without a lost-time injury and have kept the project's total injury rate to 0.28 to date.



## Update from the field



*B. Baatar and S. McIntosh, Rio Tinto Chief Executives (M. Risovic)*

## Leading the change

The Jadar Resource Study team recently hosted senior Rio Tinto executives Bold Baatar and Stephen McIntosh, who head Rio Tinto Energy & Minerals and Growth & Innovation products groups, respectively. The visit includes interesting and thought provoking discussions about the project. Bold and Stephen provided the team with their support and encouraged a continued focus on ensuring Jadar is a safe, efficient and sustainable operation.

“Rio Tinto sees Serbia as an attractive investment destination and the Jadar project is an important part of Rio Tinto’s growth portfolio, as we continue to focus on a strong portfolio of complementary assets delivering the minerals essential for human progress”, Bold said during his visit to

Serbia. “A project of this magnitude requires time and expertise to design and bring into operation. We can only do this with the support of the government and community. We will now continue to progress the project, bringing Rio Tinto’s operations in Serbia closer to a leading role in global lithium and borate production.”

A significant amount of work has been carried out at the potential tailings impoundment site. Field mapping, geotechnical drilling and installation of hydrogeological holes have been completed. Water monitoring is ongoing, as is geological and hydrogeological modelling. The initial results are encouraging and preparations for a ground geophysical survey are underway.



*Field visit, Western Serbia (M. Risovic)*

## Working with the Community



*Rio Tinto activities in the field, West Serbia (M. Risovic)*

## Establishing the environmental baseline

Jadar is focused on establishing the environmental baseline for the project, in line with the highest international standards of environmental protection. Information on the environment in the area will be gathered during 2017 and 2018 and will feed into an Environmental Impact Assessment in line with the legal framework of the Republic of Serbia and the EU.

The topic of noise modelling is especially important. Measuring of noise levels in the construction area of the mine decline, processing factory and the associated infrastructure is being conducted in two periods: previously during the summer of 2016 (one-off measurements combined with 72 hours' noise screening), and in the winter of 2017 (one-off screening).

Measurements were conducted at five locations and the results indicated the level of baseline noise typical for the

given environment and agricultural households. Once baseline noise measuring has been finalised, noise modelling will help us to define and understand the noise levels that could be expected during the operation of the mine, processing factory and the associated infrastructure.

Results of noise modeling are required, among other things, by the engineering team so that engineered solutions and adjustments to the current design can be completed in order to reduce the noise levels. Some of the noise reduction management activities include physical barriers, such as planting the trees that can act as a noise shield. This has a two-fold positive effect: protection from excessive noise and enriching the environment with new forest. As with all activities, Rio Tinto acts in partnership with relevant government institutions, local self-governance as well as the residents of the area where activities relating to the Jadar project take place.

## Preserving cultural heritage



*Artefacts from the Jadar Museum in Loznica*

The Museum of Jadar and Rio Tinto have an excellent long term cooperation focused on cultural heritage protection. Thanks to the courtesy of the Museum of Jadar, the Info centre of Rio Tinto in Loznica has new items on display: bracelets, needles, ceramic pots and glass paste ornaments found in tumuli in the area of Paulje, originating between 1420 – 1250 B.C. The exhibits were excavated with the financial support of Rio Tinto in the period 2010-2015.



## Innovation and technology



*Bundoora Integrated Continuous Chemical Power Plant (BICCPP)*

## New integrated pilot plant for jadarite processing

The expert team of Rio Tinto technology engineers has continued to work on the development of a new mineral processing technology in order to extract borates and lithium from the ore of a new mineral, Jadarite. For this purpose, Rio Tinto has built a special test or pilot plant facility based in Australia called the Bundoora Integrated Continuous Chemical Pilot Plant (BICCPP).

Since the last newsletter, the task of recruiting and training operators and commissioning the pilot plant has been completed and the plant was successfully operated, 24

hours per day, for more than 30 days. The engineering team has worked on the sampling of products and on the collection of data which is now being analysed. The data generated from the BICCPP will form important inputs into the Prefeasibility Study and further support the development of the overall Jadar project.

Most important, all the test work has been completed safely. We thank our colleagues for putting their own safety and the safety of their operations first.



## Our people

# Diversifying our talent pool

We are seeing further expansion of our Jadar team in a number of departments: we warmly welcome eleven new colleagues who spread across functions, geographies and project activities.

The energy and the enthusiasm of our newcomers boosted the already energised atmosphere of our alignment workshop that took place in Belgrade in June 2017. One of the outcomes of the meeting was to develop further not only the *what* of what we do, but also the *how* - the strong cultural agenda of alignment and empowerment has been set for all of us.

Jelena, Tanja, Jovana, Ana, Kristina, Borko, Nenad, Mitar, Aleksandar, Stefan, David – welcome to the Jadar project. What an exciting time to join the team!

## Graduates

We are especially proud to take on board new graduates in finance, environment and communities. With these new team members, Serbia has joined the global Rio Tinto graduate development programme and has opened its doors to some of the most talented young people to gain experience abroad as well as locally.

## People



Inclusion and Diversity: promoting our values in whatever we do

# Rio Tinto's commitment to inclusion and diversity

*An inclusive culture and diverse workforce will deliver superior performance by engaging our people, leveraging their different perspectives and retaining the best talent.*



### **Inclusion:**

We embrace workforce diversity and value our differences in age, gender, race, national or ethnic origin, religion, language, beliefs, sexual orientation and physical ability.

### **Diversity:**

We value diversity of perspective and leverage the diverse thinking, skills and experience of our workforce and other stakeholders.