

Online Price Discovery System (OPDS) proposal

The OPDS initiative has been created through cooperation between this Association and the London Metal Exchange (LME) and aims to use the MMTA's expertise in minor metals, combined with the LME's technological resources to provide effective, representative pricing by collating bids and offers of metal prices to create a weekly quotation set by market participants.

The MMTA has received feedback from members requesting a postponement to the voting date to allow further consideration of the proposed OPDS system. As a result voting will close at 6pm London time Friday 20th November 2009.

The proposal is "To delegate to the MMTA's main committee the power and ability to enter into a binding agreement with the LME to develop and then launch the OPDS"

Should the proposal pass then OPDS will be developed with the consensual participation of members. Members are encouraged to participate in the Q and A forum to be held at the RAC club on Monday 12th October 2009 at 10am. On page three of this newsletter are some frequently asked questions about OPDS. The full proposal document is available to MMTA members from the Executive and has been previously circulated.

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Save over 25% on the International Minor Metals Conference 2010 (see page 4 for details)

MMTA hosts "Women In Mining" reception



On September 9th the MMTA's office hosted a reception for Women In Mining (WIM), an international network of associations designed to promote opportunities for women in the international mining industry.

As part of the MMTA's ongoing strategy to promote minor metals former MMTA chairman Howard Masters of Lambert Metals International (left) gave a short introduction about minor metals to those present.

Mr Masters summarised that minor metals may well have relatively small production tonnages, but their fortunes have risen on the back of high-technology applications to achieve major significance.

Trade and Lobby Committee update

SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP
SIDLEY

The MMTA's Trade and Lobby Committee, in association with MMTA member Sidley Austin LLP, has started to publish regular information notices on relevant topics for the benefit of the membership.

Topics that Sidley Austin and the committee have looked at so far include investigations into the EU's use of trade defence measures (including anti-dumping), emission trading regulations, and the new waste regulations that are due to be implemented in EU countries by December 2010.

These notices are for information only and can be found on the MMTA website on the Trade and Lobby page. For specific advice on any of the articles in these notices please contact the Trade and Lobby Committee or Mr Arnoud Willems at Sidley Austin on Tel: +32 2 504 6400, www.sidley.com.

New MMTA Members:

Since the last edition of *The Crucible* the following companies have joined the MMTA community:

Alex Stewart Assayers Inc. is a sampler and assayer of minor metals, their products and chemicals. The company is part of the Alex Stewart International group of companies, one of the largest providers of analytical services for metals and minerals in the world. For more information contact Mr Alex Stewart on +44 151 525 1488, alex.stewart@alexstewartinternational.com, www.asausa.com.

Innova Recycling GmbH is a specialist in the trade, sorting and processing of scraps, residues and chemicals of refractory metals, electronic metals and superalloys. It can also supply high quality APR, rhenium pellets, tantalum nuggets and vanadium flakes and ingots. Innova owns a recycling plant for specific powder wastes containing plastic and copper. Contact Mr Thomas Borchers on +49 5321 318800, borchers@innova-recycling.de, www.innova-recycling.de.

Who would you recommend to join the MMTA?

MMTA wins cricket challenge



On July 13th twelve MMTA athletes took the field against the mighty Wogen cricket-playing machine. At stake was nothing less than the Association's sporting honour.

The match was prompted by a friendly challenge from Wogen Resources which generously both hosted the event and provided refreshments.

Drenched in rare London sunshine Wogen batted first and achieved 137 runs for 7 wickets.

After a quick break the MMTA began their campaign. Tensions were high and all eyes were fixed on a few thin sticks and a red orb of leather. MMTA captain Chris Edler led from the front with a healthy 25 before retiring and gradually the run total edged closer to Wogen's lofty target.

In the end it came down to the final ball of the last over. Both sides were tied on 137 runs and everything was left to play for.

Fortunately Steve Hawkins is not a man to lose concentration under pressure and as the ball came hurtling towards him he calmly knocked it for four runs, allowing the MMTA to win the match.

Our thanks to Wogen Resources for the challenge.



Dates for your Diary

36 th Anniversary Dinner	London, UK	13 October 2009
Voting closes on OPDS proposal	-	20th November 2009
North American dinner	New York City, USA	3 December 2009
Christmas Lunch	London, UK	10 December 2009
Open day at Stewart Group's laboratory	Rotterdam, The Netherlands	tbc February 2010
The International Minor Metals Conference	London, UK	26 - 28 April 2010
Open day at KGHM Ecoren and KGHM	Wroclaw and Lubin, Poland	tbc June 2010
North American dinner	Chicago, USA	tbc June 2010

OPDS: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main objective of OPDS?

OPDS has been designed to promote price reliability through robust methodology.

How can OPDS increase price reliability?

A goal of OPDS is to encourage price contributions from all sectors of industry and therefore create a more representative pool of prices from which quotations can be established.

Why doesn't the MMTA create OPDS without a partner?

The MMTA currently does not have the resources or technical expertise to build OPDS without a partner.

Is the MMTA-LME partnership an equal relationship?

Yes. OPDS would be built on cooperation between the LME and the MMTA with both sides bringing areas of expertise to the venture.

The MMTA will lose none of its independence by working with the LME on OPDS.

Which minor metals are under consideration for inclusion on OPDS?

Antimony (Sb), bismuth (Bi), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), indium (In), magnesium (Mg), manganese (Mn), selenium (Se), silicon (Si), titanium (Ti), tungsten (W), and vanadium (V).

MMTA members will be consulted to refine this list should members vote in favour of OPDS.

Who will be able to input prices to OPDS? Will it be limited to MMTA members?

Any company in the world can contribute prices if they can demonstrate an involvement in the physical minor metals industry and specifically involvement in those metals for which they are posting bids and offers.

Participation will not be limited to MMTA members, but MMTA and LME member companies will have lower subscriptions to OPDS than non-members.

Is this a trading platform?

No, this is a price discovery system, not a trading platform. Although the system refers to bids and offers, there is no facility to make a market or to book business on an anonymously posted price.

Will OPDS cause minor metals markets to be regulated?

No. Although the LME is regulated by the UK's Financial Services Authority's (FSA) rules, the OPDS would not be subject to FSA regulation.

Who can vote on whether MMTA continues to develop OPDS?

All member companies of the Minor Metals Trade Association are eligible to vote once on whether the MMTA continues to develop OPDS as set out in the proposal document.

Votes by fax or email must be sent to +44 207 183 9933 or executive@mmta.co.uk by 18:00 London time on **Friday 20th November 2009**. Members who do not vote or whose votes arrive after this time will be considered as having abstained.

If votes for and against the motion are tied then the MMTA chairman has the casting vote per MMTA's Articles of Association.

How can I learn more about OPDS?

There will be an open meeting on Monday 12th October at the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) club in London for members to discuss OPDS with the MMTA and LME panel who drafted it.

If you cannot attend this meeting but have questions regarding OPDS please email them to the Executive by 11th October 2009. A report from this meeting will be circulated to all members.

The RAC is situated at 89-91 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HS. A map is available on this link: <http://www.royalautomobileclub.co.uk/guestarea/rac.asp?s=CO&ss=MP>.

Please note there is a dress code at the RAC requiring men to wear a jacket and tie.

Focus on

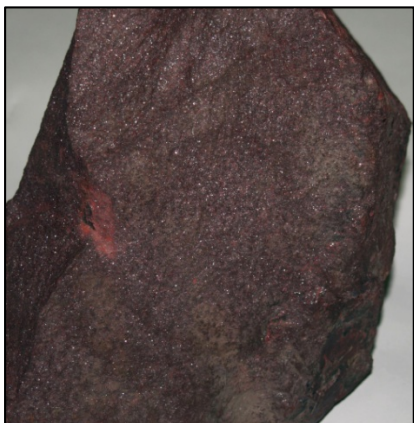
Mercury

Howard Masters of Lambert Metals International explores the world of mercury.

Mercury, chemical symbol HG and also known as quicksilver, is a naturally occurring element and the only metal that is liquid at normal room temperature and pressure.

World resources are estimated at 600,000 tonnes located principally in China, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine. Of these only about 120,000 tonnes are considered recoverable as either a primary product or as a by-product of gold, zinc or copper mining.

Production peaked at about 7000 tonnes per annum (tpa) in 1987 since which time many mines have closed, resulting in primary production falling to a low of approx 1500 tpa in the last decade. Consumption also fell but only to around 3500 tpa with the shortfall being obtained from the recovery of secondary Mercury from many of its uses and from stockpiles.



Mercury sulfide or cinnabar is a common ore of mercury.

About 75% of demand comes from Chlorine and Caustic Soda producers, artisanal gold mining and the battery industry. Other uses include dental amalgams, fluorescent lighting, heat and pressure measuring instruments, electronic switches, medicinal substances and as driers in paints.

Mercury is highly toxic and releases from its use in products and particularly from the burning of fossil fuels is harmful to the environment. The UN, with strong support from the EU and USA, are working towards curbing Mercury emissions with the result that new mining is continuing to reduce and as substitutes for its many uses are developed, existing supplies of mostly secondary mercury will be securely land-filled back into the earth's crust.

To discover MMTA suppliers of mercury visit www.mmta.co.uk



The International Minor Metals Conference[©] 2010

Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London, 26-28 April

SAVE +25% ON THE FULL DELEGATE FEE WHEN YOU BOOK BY 30th OCTOBER 2009

Programme & delegate lists are now available.

Presentations from: Heraeus; Firth Rixson, Umicore Precious Metals Refining; Magnesium Elektron, Johnson Matthey, Less Common Metals and Retorte.

Gala Dinner will be at the Science Museum on April 27th sponsored by LN Metals International.

Full details at www.metalevents.com contact sales@metalevents.com or +44 20 7840 0145



North American Dinner New York City, December 3rd 2009

SAVE THE DATE!

The third annual New York minor metal dinner will take place at Cornell Club on December 3rd.

The special guest speaker will be a senior executive from Molycorp Minerals LLC talking about rare earth metals.

The Cornell Club is in midtown Manhattan close to Grand Central Station.

For full details and to book your place contact executive@mmta.co.uk or +44 20 7833 0237.

