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Press release

Rio Tinto Minerals and Loznica officials sign cooperation agreement in support of Jadar lithium-borate project

1 July 2011

Rio Tinto Minerals leaders today signed a memorandum of understanding with Loznica Municipality, reinforcing an ongoing agreement to cooperate and share information to support development of the company's Jadar lithium-borate project in Serbia.

The Jadar project recently entered an exploration phase called pre-feasibility that involves a more detailed investigation of the deposit and the social and environmental impacts associated with its development. If studies justify full development, Rio Tinto Minerals hopes to bring Jadar into production by 2016.

"I am very pleased to offer our support to Rio Tinto Minerals in responsibly developing this important natural resource," said Vidoje Petrovic, the Mayor of Loznica. "We believe the project has the potential to have a significant and positive impact on Loznica's economy and development plans," he added.

"Rio Tinto Minerals and Loznica have a history of cooperation that dates back more than ten years to the project's earliest exploration phase. We appreciate the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to keeping the people and administration of Loznica informed as the project advances," said Rio Tinto Minerals Director Nenad Grubin.

Rio Tinto Minerals' goal is to build enduring relationships with its neighbors that are characterized by mutual respect, active partnership and long-term commitment.

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About the Jadar project

Jadar is a pre-feasibility stage lithium and borates development project managed by Rio Sava, the Serbian legal entity that operates under the Rio Tinto Minerals banner. Rio Tinto Minerals is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto, a leading international mining group combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borates, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

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