

## Metal about graphite

MOZAMBIQUE is home to Metals of Africa's Montepuez graphite project, where positive results from a recent concept study have paved the way for a prefeasibility study to take place.

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*Cherie Leeden on site at Rio Mazoe in Mozambique*

At an accuracy of plus or minus 40%, the concept study found that the project could potentially produce an average of 100,000 tonnes of graphite per annum.

The life of the mine is estimated to be 60 years.

The conceptual mine plan and economic analysis was completed by RungePincockMinarco. The maiden indicated and inferred resource for the project is 83.5 million tonnes at 8.81% total graphitic carbon and 0.23% vanadium dust for 7.4Mt of graphite and 190,602t of vanadium.

Metals of Africa managing director Cherie Leeden said the company was delighted with the results of the concept study and gave it the confidence to complete a PFS, planned for release in the third quarter in 2016.

"The strong outcomes of the concept study along with the high quality of graphite at Montepuez combine to make what we believe is a compelling case to move forward with the project permitting and financing," she said.

Capital costs of \$US166 million (\$A235 million), plus 20% contingency, would be required to establish the project as a mine site. A spheroidal graphite processing plant costing \$A133 million would also be needed.

All three prospects at Montepuez are near the surface at a depth of 2m, lending themselves to open pit mining.

Large flakes of graphite make up approximately 50% of the resource. Operational expenditure would be \$425 per tonne for the large jumbo flake and \$4959/t for the coated spherical graphite product.

Infrastructure updates for haulage will include improving the road from the project to Montepuez city. There is an airport at the larger Pembla, 260km away.

The Pembla port is being upgraded with completion scheduled for 2018, which may coincide with the commencement of the Montepuez project.

Metals of Africa has identified lithium-ion batteries as a potential target market for its spherical graphite. Expected growth sales in the battery storage market are 40% per year, supported by political green energy initiatives. Larger flakes would be marketed to the Asian region.

Testing is being conducted by the company as well as at ALS Metallurgy in Perth to establish processing methodology, grade concentrations and net recovery to product assumptions.

Metals of Africa shares are up 7% to 4.5c