



# Information Release

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## MIM's ISA PROCESS CHOSEN FOR COPPER REFINING UPGRADE IN CHINA

The first copper refinery to be modernised in China has selected MIM's ISA PROCESS technology.

The landmark sale follows the sale of MIM's ISASMELT copper smelting technology in China last year.

ISA PROCESS was developed at MIM's Townsville copper refinery which refines Mount Isa's copper production. The technology involves the use of re-useable stainless steel mother plates on to which the cathodes of refined copper are deposited in the electrolytic refining process.

The Jianxi Copper Company has entered into a \$20 million contract for the issuing of an ISA PROCESS licence and the supply of 40 000 mother plates for its refinery at Guixi near Ying Tan city. The plant will produce 200 000 tonnes of copper annually.

Twenty five people will be employed in manufacturing the plates at the Townsville refinery and in providing specialist services as the plant is planned, built and commissioned.

"This is an important development for MIM and Australian technology marketing," Mr Ross Thompson, General Manager of MIM's Townsville Operations, said today.

"ISA PROCESS is one of Australia's most successful technology exports with 51 licencees around the world. More than 35% of the world's copper refining capacity is now licensed to use it, but until now it has not been applied in China, one of the world's largest mining and mineral processing nations.

"China currently has copper refining capacity of 1,500 000 tonnes a year, and we shall now be looking for further opportunities to assist China's copper refining industry to upgrade."

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## **ISASMELT in China**

Meanwhile, the construction of the first MIM ISASMELT copper smelter to be built in China - for the Yunnan Copper Company in Kunming - is progressing well with commissioning of the new smelter planned for later this year. Lyle Bruce, General Manager of MIM Process Technologies, said: "The ISASMELT plant is forming the core of a modernisation project of an existing smelting complex, reducing energy consumption and improving the smelter's environmental performance. The project in China brings to more than 2 million tonnes the annual feed capacity of ISASMELT copper smelters around the world."

### About MIM

MIM is an Australian-based mining and mineral processing company producing copper, gold, zinc, lead, silver and coal in Australia, UK, Germany and Argentina. The group has around 8,000 employees worldwide and in 1999/2000 generated sales revenue of almost \$3 billion.

MIM aims to create shareholder value as an efficient and competitive mining and exploration company.

Safety has the highest priority with employees at MIM, and the company has a strong commitment to environmental management and reporting.

For more information visit our website: [www.mim.com.au](http://www.mim.com.au)

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