

MEDIA STATEMENT

23 October 2023

For immediate release

Thunderbird is go as processing operations commence

- Processing operations have commenced at the Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project
- First ore has been processed through the Dry Mining Unit and the Wet Concentrate Plant
- On track for first shipment in early 2024

Kimberley Mineral Sands (KMS) is pleased to announce the start of processing operations at its Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project, with the first ore being successfully fed through the Dry Mining Unit and processed through the Wet Concentrate Plant (WCP). The Project remains on track for first shipment of valuable mineral sands products to customers in early 2024.

Kimberley Mineral Sands Chief Executive Officer Stuart Pether said the lost time injury free completion of the construction phase and the start of processing was the biggest milestone the company had achieved to date and heralded the start of 36 years of operations.

“The first feed of ore into the Dry Mining Unit and through the Wet Concentrate Plant is a cause for great celebration at Thunderbird as it marks the start of processing operations.

“A huge amount of work from many different people and organisations has been involved in getting the Project to this stage, and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported and contributed to our journey to date,” he said.

The Project has already provided significant employment and business opportunities in the region. Moving forward it will generate an estimated 280 jobs once at full production and a local business spend of up to \$750 million over the first 20 years of operations.

Ambitious Aboriginal employment and business targets have also been set by the company, which aims to have a workforce which is 40% Aboriginal, and an annual Aboriginal business spend of \$10 million per year by year eight of operations.

Commencement of operations has been enabled by completion of construction ahead of time and within the \$484 million budget.

Additional Project Facts:

- KMS employs 121 people directly, of which 26% are Aboriginal, 29% are female and 80% live in the West Kimberley
- Key contractors employ a further 78 people to date
- KMS local spend of more than \$60 million during construction phase
- KMS Aboriginal business spend of more than \$11 million during construction phase
- Estimated to increase household spending in West Kimberley by \$740 million over 20 years
- Ore mining contractor Piacentini and Son will operate the Dry Mining Unit
- Waste mining contractor Carey Mining excavated the starter pit enabling the setup of the Dry Mining Unit and will continue with waste mining activities ahead of the mining path
- KMS operates the processing infrastructure which separates the mineral sands into different concentrate products for export.

More information is available at www.kmsands.com.au.

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ABOUT KIMBERLEY MINERAL SANDS:

Kimberley Mineral Sands Pty Ltd (KMS) operates the Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project (Thunderbird) which is located mid-way between Derby and Broome, in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Thunderbird is one of the largest and highest-grade zircon mineral sands deposits in the world and contains valuable heavy minerals including ilmenite, zircon, leucoxene, and rutile, which will be extracted and exported via the Port of Broome.

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Interviews with Kimberley Mineral Sands available by request.



Image: First mineral sands concentrate onto the stockpile after processing.



Image: Mining area with ore stockpile and Dry Mining Unit