

## Media release

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### **Rio Tinto boosts driverless truck fleet to 150 under Mine of the Future™ programme**

**2 November 2011**

Rio Tinto is to become the owner of the world's largest fleet of driverless trucks after it signed a deal to buy at least 150 from Komatsu Limited over the next four years.

The new trucks, which will start arriving in 2012, will be used in Rio Tinto's Pilbara iron ore mines in Western Australia and can be controlled from its Operations Centre in Perth more than 1500km away. The move signals a 15-fold expansion from its previous plan to double the fleet to 10 trucks.

This is the latest development in Rio Tinto's Mine of the Future™ programme, which introduces next-generation technologies for mining operations with the aim of reducing costs, increasing efficiency and improving health, safety and environmental performance.

Implementing autonomous haulage on this scale means more material can be moved more quickly and safely, creating a direct increase in productivity.

In Tokyo Rio Tinto chief executive Tom Albanese and Komatsu Limited president and chief executive officer Kunio Noji, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the supply and purchase of the trucks. Also present at the signing ceremony were Rio Tinto Iron Ore President Pilbara Operations Greg Lilleyman and senior executives from both companies.

Mr Albanese said "This announcement further reinforces our longstanding alliance with Komatsu. We have been partnering with Komatsu, using their advanced truck technology at our mines, for almost 20 years.

"Autonomous haulage is an important component in our Mine of the Future™ programme. These 150 new trucks will work with our pioneering Operations Centre that integrates and manages the logistics of 14 mines, three ports and two railways. These technologies are revolutionising the way large-scale mining is done, creating attractive hi-tech jobs, and helping us to improve safety and environmental performance and reduce carbon emissions."

Mr Noji said "Komatsu is extremely excited to sign the MOU with Rio Tinto to expand the fleet to at least 150 Komatsu Autonomous Haulage System (AHS) trucks in their Western Australian Pilbara operations by the end of 2015.

"Komatsu and Rio Tinto are global partners and have developed a strong alliance throughout the years.

"We are confident that our leading-edge AHS Technology will accelerate Rio Tinto's Mine of the Future™ objectives through improving safety and mine operations."

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Rio Tinto has been testing the Komatsu Autonomous Haulage System, the world's first commercial autonomous mining haulage system, in the Pilbara since December 2008. During the trials the AHS technology demonstrated benefits in health, safety and productivity.

Elsewhere in its Mine of the Future™ programme, Rio Tinto will begin more widespread deployment of its automated drills, both in the Pilbara and at coal and copper mines.

### **About Komatsu**

Komatsu, founded in 1921, has established a solid leading international market position in the areas of construction and mining equipment as well as industrial machinery.

By upholding "Quality and Reliability" as the most important management policy, Komatsu is resolutely committed to providing safe, innovative products and services that best meet the needs and expectations of its customers around the world.

### **About Rio Tinto**

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, 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 (borax, titanium dioxide, salt) 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.

**Photographs of the MOU signing and of the autonomous trucks are available on request. Please email [enquiries.mediaaustralia@riotinto.com](mailto:enquiries.mediaaustralia@riotinto.com).**

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For further information, please contact:

**Media Relations, Australia / Asia**

David Luff  
Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3620  
Mobile: +61 (0) 0419 850 205  
Karen Halbert  
Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3627  
Mobile: +61 (0) 412 119 389  
Bruce Tobin  
Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3612  
Mobile: +61 (0) 419 103 454

**Media Relations, EMEA / Americas**

Illtud Harri  
Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 1152  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7920 503 600  
Tony Shaffer  
Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 1138  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7920 041 003  
Christina Mills  
Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 1154  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7825 275 605

**Media Relations, Canada**

Bryan Tucker  
Office: +1 (0) 514 848 8151  
Mobile: +1 (0) 514 825 8319

**Investor Relations, Australia**

Dave Skinner  
Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3628  
Mobile: +61 (0) 408 335 309  
Christopher Maitland  
Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3063  
Mobile: +61 (0) 459 800 131

**Investor Relations, London**

Mark Shannon  
Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 1178  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7917 576597  
David Ovington  
Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 2051  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7920 010 978

**Investor Relations, North America**

Jason Combes  
Office: +1 (0) 801 204 2919  
Mobile: +1 (0) 801 558 2645

Website: [www.riotinto.com](http://www.riotinto.com)  
Email: [media.enquiries@riotinto.com](mailto:media.enquiries@riotinto.com) [enquiries.mediaaustralia@riotinto.com](mailto:enquiries.mediaaustralia@riotinto.com)  
Twitter: Follow @riotinto on Twitter

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