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Bisha Phase II Copper



Location: Eritrea

Scope: Engineering, Procurement & Construction Management (EPCM)

Completion: 2013

The Bisha project is situated in Eritrea, East Africa. Bisha is a large, volcanogenic massive sulphide (VMS) deposit, rich in precious metals and base metals, with four principal zones of mineralisation:

1. a near-surface oxide/gossan;
2. a horizon that has been subjected to extreme acidification (acidified)
3. a supergene copper-enriched horizon
4. a primary massive sulphide horizon.

Bisha went into commercial gold and silver production from the near-surface oxide layer in February 2011 (Phase I), and transitioned into low-cost copper production in the third quarter of 2013 (Phase II).

The 2.4 Mt/a Bisha Copper Process Plant (Phase II) was designed utilising proven flotation process technology to produce sale-able copper concentrate from the treatment of supergene ore.

Supergene ore, containing recoverable gold and silver in addition to the copper was treated over the last 3-years of life-of-mine, after which the plant was extended to treat the primary sulphide ore containing high grade copper (Phase II) and further zinc (Phase III) - by others.

The Copper Process Plant has thus been designed to ensure ease of expansion for the Phase III development. Bisha is expected to produce copper for approximately 11 years.

