ERIEZ FLOTATION DIVISION GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Rio Tinto Kennecott Copper and Eriez® jointly operating pilot plant facility to increase recovery of base metals using Eriez Recovery Technology. Results indicate significant opportunities for additional recovery of Copper and Moly from Kennecott's Bingham Canyon Mine

Delta, BC—Eriez® Recovery Technology, including the patented HydroFloat™ technology from Eriez® Flotation Division (EFD) is being tested in a pilot plant jointly with Rio Tinto to evaluate the possibility of improving metals recovery from its Rio Tinto Kennecott Copper (RTKC) operation in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"RTKC's innovation and development portfolio has included projects to benefit ore throughput and value recovery," notes David George-Kennedy, former Director of the RTKC Innovation and Development Group. "HydroFloat is a technology offered by Eriez that has been successfully deployed at commercial scale in the phosphate and potash industries for over a decade. We think the concept has tremendous potential for RTKC"

EFD and the RTKC Innovation and Development Group have jointly investigated the applicability of the HydroFloat technology to ore containing valuable minerals that are not recovered conventionally at the RTKC Copperton Concentrator. A study supported by a pilot facility supports the case that the HydroFloat is recovering up to 70 percent of coarse particle copper and up to 90 percent of coarse particle moly that is not collected by conventional flotation technology.

As the second-largest copper producer in the United States, RTKC provides nearly a quarter of the country's copper. Throughout its history, the Bingham Canyon Mine has produced more copper than any other US mine—more than 19 million tons according to RTKC. Before testing the HydroFloat, RTKC was losing 10 percent of copper and 16 percent of moly to waste.

The HydroFloat Separator is an aerated fluidized-bed (or teeter-bed) separator. The synergistic effect of combining flotation with gravity concentration results in an outcome that cannot be achieved by either approach alone.

Air bubbles, which are dispersed by the fluidization system, percolate through the hindered-setting zone and attach to the hydrophobic component, altering its density and rendering it sufficiently buoyant to float and be recovered. The use of a dense phase, fluidized bed eliminates axial mixing, increases coarse particle residence time and improves flotation rate through enhanced bubble-particle interactions. As a result, the recovery rate is high for fully-liberated and semi-liberated particles.

Eriez Flotation Division (EFD) is a world leader in advanced flotation technology. Formerly known as Canadian Process Technologies, Inc., EFD is a wholly owned subsidiary of Eriez Manufacturing Co. EFD provides advanced testing and engineering services, in addition to sparging and column flotation equipment for the mining and mineral processing industries. For more information, visit http://efd.eriez.com or call toll-free at 888-300-3743 within the U.S. and Canada. We can also be contacted at efdca@eriez.com.

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