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Press release

Regional initiatives to drive distribution for Argyle diamonds in India

Mumbai, August 13, 2009 - The regional diamond cutting centres of Surat and Bhavnagar were the focus of attention this week, as a senior delegation of Rio Tinto Diamonds executives visited both centres and met with key manufacturers involved in the processing of production from the Argyle Diamond Mine in Western Australia.

Mr Bruce Cox, Managing Director of Rio Tinto Diamonds, who led the delegation, commented, "I am delighted to be visiting the heartland of the Argyle manufacturing centres here in the state of Gujarat. The value addition undertaken here is critical to the successful distribution of our diamonds through the pipeline ". Mr Cox also made it very clear that Rio Tinto Diamonds' future is inextricably linked to the Indian manufacturing sector and, "We are committed to working together on regional initiatives that will ensure profitable growth for our customers and our customers' customers."

The Rio Tinto Diamonds delegation attended the opening of a new trading office in Bhavnagar for long standing customer, Dianco, from the D. Navinchandra group. Dianco has built on its 15 years experience in the distribution and manufacture of Argyle product by opening its Bhavnagar office to directly assist the many small manufacturers that have historically processed much of the Argyle production.

Mr Manoj Mehta, one of the principal partners of Dianco, commented on the opening of their new trading office, "following the success of our Surat office, we are very pleased to now be operating directly from Bhavnagar. This positions us even closer to our customers and the direct distribution channels into the cutting centres of India."

As part of their visit, Rio Tinto Diamonds executives also met in the Surat trading office of long standing customer, Diambel NV, where they discussed the future of the Argyle mine, its

current transition to underground mining and the resulting extended mine life through to at least 2018. Several manufacturers who work with Diambel NV were present and Paresh Sanghvi, who heads up Diambel NV's rough diamond sales function, was delighted to host the delegation.

"As a specialist distributor and manufacturer of Argyle diamonds, this has been an important meeting of minds and has allowed us to discuss future opportunities, face to face with Rio Tinto Diamonds. It is very important that we work together to ensure the future for the Indian cutting and polishing industry", said Mr Sanghvi.

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Notes to editors

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, talc) 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.

Website: www.riotinto.com

About Rio Tinto Diamonds

Rio Tinto is one of the world's major diamond producers through its 100 per cent control of the Argyle mine in Australia, 60 per cent of the Diavik mine in Canada and a 78 per cent interest in the Murowa mine in Africa.

These three mines allow Rio Tinto to be present in all segments of the market. Rio Tinto's share of the production from these three mines was approximately US\$1billion in 2007 and sold through its Diamonds Sales and Marketing headquarters in Antwerp, Belgium.

Rio Tinto Diamonds is a leading supporter of the Kimberley Process as well as a founding member of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices.

Website: www.riotintodiamonds.com

About Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine

Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond mine (100% owned by Rio Tinto), in Australia, is the world's only consistent supplier of rare pink diamonds and provides a large proportion of the world's coloured diamonds. Production commenced in 1983 and at its peak the mine produced more than 40 million carats per annum.

The discovery of the Argyle diamond deposit is one of innovation, patience, foresight and meticulous attention to detail in an area that is remote, even for Australians. The search for diamonds in the Kimberley region began in 1972 with a number of exciting finds proving

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uneconomic. However, in October 1979 diamonds were found embedded in an ant hill in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia.

In a classic exploration exercise these discoveries were followed up along a creek bed and led to what is known as the AK1 pipe, the remnant of an ancient volcano and the site of the vast Argyle deposit. Today most of the valley floor is occupied by the Argyle open pit. The Argyle Diamond mine is currently transitioning from an open pit mine to an underground mine, which on current estimates will extend its life to 2018.