

Bulk Earthworks Contract Awarded for Early Works at Mahenge Graphite Project

Highlights

- Contract for bulk earthworks at the Mahenge Graphite Project awarded to Tanzanian contractor Taifa Mining and Civils Limited for a total contract sum of US\$11.0m:
 - Early works component of \$0.9m
 - Post Final Investment Decision Works of \$10.1m
- Tender process conducted as a competitive process in full compliance with Tanzanian *Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018*. Formalisation of the contract is subject to Mining Commission approval under the local content regulations.
- Contract pricing and schedule aligns with the Company's Front End Engineering Design (**FEED**) update¹.
- Work is structured in two phases:
 - Separable Portion 1 (**SP1**): Early Work to commence immediately upon regulatory approval; and
 - Separable Portion 2 (**SP2**): Main Works subject to Final Investment Decision (**FID**).
- Construction of the Mdindo stream diversion channel creates unrestricted access to the plant site area, enabling a rapid ramp-up of construction activities post FID.
- This milestone follows the successful completion of the Resettlement Action Plan (**RAP**) and compensation for non-contested Potentially Affected Persons (**PAPs**) for impacted areas outside of Special Mining License (**SML**) including the Faru John Road (Lower access road)².

Tanzanian graphite developer Black Rock Mining Limited (ASX: BKT) (Black Rock, BKT or the Company) is pleased to advise that following a competitive tender process, the contract for bulk earthworks at the Mahenge Graphite Project (**Mahenge or the Project**) has been awarded to **Taifa Mining and Civils Limited (Contractor or Taifa)**. Taifa is a Tanzanian national company and has previously bid and won on the tender for contract mining services for the operational phase of the Project³.

The contract has been awarded for a total sum of **US\$11.0m**

While Taifa has been advised of this selection as the preferred contractor, formalisation of the contract in writing is subject to approval by the Mining Commission. The Company confirms that an approval request has been submitted to the Mining Commission.

Black Rock Managing Director John de Vries commented:

"We are pleased to award the bulk earthworks contract to Taifa Mining and Civil, a leading Tanzanian contractor. This award follows a competitive tender process and demonstrates our commitment to local content compliance and delivering value for the Project.

¹ ASX Announcement 10 October 2022 - Black Rock Completes FEED and eDFS Update

² ASX Announcement 13 January 2026 – Mahenge Graphite Project Early Works Progress

³ ASX Announcement 17 July 2024 – Black Rock signs mining services contract with Taifa

"By structuring the contract into two phases, we can proceed immediately with the critical diversion of the Mdindo stream followed by the main body of the earthworks. This is a vital de-risking step that clears the path for the main construction phase. It ensures that once our Final Investment Decision is made, the site is physically ready for a rapid transition into full-scale construction.

"The pricing we have secured is consistent with our FEED¹ estimates, further validating the robust economics of the Mahenge Graphite Project as we move toward execution."

Tender Process and Evaluation

The bulk earthworks tender was conducted as a competitive process in full compliance with the *Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018*. Following a rigorous evaluation, Taifa was selected as providing the lowest cost technically conforming tender and representing the best value to the Company.

The contract price and schedule are in line with the estimates contained in the FEED update.

Scope of Works

The contract pricing is based on two distinct sections to allow for immediate commencement of critical path activities while project financing is finalised:

- SP1 – Early Works Phase: Valued at US\$946,522.
 - Focus on mobilisation, Mdindo stream diversion and contractor facilities
- SP2 – Main Works Phase (Post FID): Subject to financing and FID
 - Site earthworks including internal roads, process plant area, dry stack tailings preparation, dams and internal roads and contractor laydown areas.

A Limited Notice to Proceed (**LNTP**) will be issued to proceed with the early works. Site works will commence once regulatory approvals are in place.

Strategic Rationale

The construction of the Mdindo stream diversion channel under SP1 is a critical early works activity. Completing this diversion, creates unrestricted access to the plant site area, ensuring the Company can execute a rapid ramp-up of construction activities for the main works (SP2) once Project financing is secured and FID has been made.

A separate tender process will be developed for the Faru John Road and resettlement villages area.

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expressions and include, but are not limited to, the timing, outcome and effects of the financing process. Indications of, and guidance or outlook on, future earnings or financial position or performance are also forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Any such statements, opinions and estimates in this release speak only as of the date hereof, are preliminary views and are based on assumptions and contingencies subject to change without notice. Forward-looking statements are provided as a general guide only. There can be no assurance that actual outcomes will not differ materially from these forward-looking statements. Any such forward looking statement also inherently involves known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors and may involve significant elements of subjective judgement and assumptions that may cause actual results, performance and achievements to differ. Except as required by law the Company undertakes no obligation to finalise, check, supplement, revise or update forward-looking statements in the future, regardless of whether new information, future events or results or other factors affect the information contained in this announcement.

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About Black Rock

Black Rock Mining Limited is an Australian based company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: **BKT**). The Company has an 84% interest in the world-class Mahenge Graphite Project (**Mahenge**) located in Tanzania. The Company released an enhanced Definitive Feasibility Study (**eDFS**) for Mahenge (ASX announcement 25 July 2019). Black Rock has obtained all Environmental approvals, Mining Licences and its Resettlement Action Plan.

Black Rock entered into a Strategic Alliance with POSCO for the development of Mahenge in June 2022, including an equity investment of US\$7.5m, followed by an offtake agreement for the fines for Module 1 (32% of volume) plus a US\$10m prepayment facility. POSCO has also signed an MOU for 6ktpa of large flake graphite (7% of volume) increasing POSCO's offtake interest to almost 40% of Module 1. POSCO approved its US\$40m equity investment in Black Rock and secured the fines offtake for Mahenge Module 2 in September 2024.

Black Rock holds a Special Mining Licence (SML) via a Framework Agreement with the Government of Tanzania confirming a 16% Free Carried Interest shareholding (September 2022).

Black Rock completed a FEED process (Front End Engineering Design), re-estimating the capital and operating costs for Mahenge as part of the **eDFS Update**¹. The **eDFS Update** confirmed Mahenge as a robust project with attractive returns. Key Project metrics comprise:

- *Tier 1 Scale*: Mahenge has a resource of over 200Mt and the 2nd largest graphite reserve globally
- *Modular development approach*: Initial Capex of US\$231m²;
- *1st quartile on the global cost curve*: Adjusted C1 Cash cost of US\$359/t³
- *Attractive projected returns*: Unlevered IRR post-tax, post free carry of 36%⁴
- *Substantial upside potential*: NPV_{10 nominal} post-tax, post free carry of A\$2.1bn or US\$1.4bn⁴

Black Rock announced that it had signed the Facilities Agreement for US\$179m in facilities with DBSA, IDC and CRDB (September 2024). The Company is now construction-ready subject to securing the balance of funding.

The estimated Ore Reserves and Mineral Resources underpinning the production target has been prepared by competent persons in accordance with the requirements in Appendix 5A (JORC Code).

JORC Compliant Mineral Resource Estimate and Ore Reserve ⁵			
Ore Reserves	Tonnes (Mt)	Grade (% TGC)	Contained Graphite (Mt)
- Proven	0	0.0	0.0
- Probable	70.5	8.5	6.0
Total Ore Reserves	70.5	8.5	6.0
Mineral Resources			
- Measured	31.8	8.6	2.7
- Indicated	84.6	7.8	6.6
Total M&I	116.4	8.0	9.3
- Inferred	96.7	7.4	7.2
Total M, I&I	213.1	7.8	16.6

For further information on Black Rock Mining Ltd, please visit www.blackrockmining.com.au

1 Refer market announcement dated 10 October 2022: Black Rock Completes Front End Engineering Design, Reconfirming Mahenge as Tier 1 scale project with compelling projected returns. The Company confirms that all the material assumptions underpinning the production target, or forecast financial information derived from the production target, in the original market announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed.

2 Includes US\$182m for Module 1 capex + US\$33m for power line + US\$16m for early works and other costs (not included in the **eDFS Update**). Power line capex plus interest to be recouped over the first 4 years of the project and power costs expected to be ~US8c/kWh. Forecast Capex is classified as a Class 2 estimate with accuracy of ±10% as defined by AACE.

3 Adjusted for higher ratio of higher-value large flake compared to global peers. Access to competitively priced, hydro-dominated grid power is one of BKT's key competitive advantages.

4 Based on Expert Consensus graphite price forecasts, based on the average graphite price forecasts from Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, Fastmarkets and Wood Mackenzie

5 Resource Estimate as released to ASX on 3 February 2022: BKT Confirms 25% increase in Measured Resources and Ore Reserve Estimates as released to ASX on 8 August 2017: BKT delivers Exceptional Optimised PFS. The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcements, and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates of Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves in the original market announcements continue to apply and have not materially changed.