

COMMUNITY BRIEF



Orion Minerals



Mining right granted for Flat Mines area at Okiep Copper Project

The Mining Right over the Flat Mines Project area has now been granted to Southern African Tantalum Mining (SAFTA) by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. The Mining Right is valid for an initial 15 years, after which it can be renewed for a further period of up to 30 years.

As a reminder, Orion Minerals (Orion) is in the process of acquiring all of SAFTA's mineral rights since the parties entered an agreement in February 2021. The granting of the mining right follows the recent endorsement by the Nama Khoi Local Municipality of the Social and Labour Plan for the project, which was the last formality needed before the application could be granted. Orion is very grateful for the support the host community continues to show in the project.

The Mining Right grant is a major step towards starting copper production from Orion's Okiep Copper Project (OCP) area in the Northern Cape province. Orion can now complete the feasibility studies needed to raise the money and make the decision to start mining. The study works to be completed by early in 2023 include engineering studies, as well as drilling and bulk sample

collection to help better estimate the sizes of the deposits to be mined and improve the ore processing methods to be used.

Orion will continue working with the host community to find ways to prepare local residents for potential job and business opportunities related to the planned mining operations. Recruitment and tenders for services will only be considered once the evaluations are completed during the course of next year.

The OCP presents a significant growth opportunity for Orion and an important economic development for the whole Namakwa District. Along with Orion's other planned near-production project, the Prieska Copper-Zinc Mine, the mining operations could contribute to the Northern Cape becoming a significant national base metals production hub.