

Acquisition of an Interest in the Maules Creek Coal Mine, Australia

Electric Power Development Co., Ltd. (headquartered in Chuo-ku, Tokyo; Masayoshi Kitamura, President; hereinafter “J-POWER”) has entered an agreement with Aston Resources Limited (hereinafter, “Aston¹”) to acquire a 10% interest in the Maules Creek Coal Mine in Australia, currently being developed by Aston.

The transaction includes the agreement with Aston of long-term thermal coal purchase from the Mine. The closing of the transaction is subject to the satisfaction of conditions precedent including the waiver of pre-emptive right² of an existing interest holder of the Mine and approvals by relevant administrative authorities.

Located in New South Wales, Australia, Maules Creek Coal Mine is currently being developed by Aston, which plans to commence production of semi soft coking coal and high quality thermal coal in 2013. J-POWER views ensuring the stable, long-term procurement of thermal coal as an important management issue and has been attempting to increase its stake in coal mines. Maules Creek Coal Mine is a promising mine in terms of both economics and coal quality. J-POWER therefore decided to acquire an interest in the Mine and at the same time to enter into a long-term thermal coal purchase agreement.

J-POWER, the operator of seven coal-fired thermal power plants throughout Japan, is Japan’s largest user of thermal coal and intends to continue to pursue initiatives that will ensure the stable supply of coal in the future.

1. Aston Resources is a developer of Maules Creek Coal Mine listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in 2010.
2. Pre-emptive right: If Aston decides to sell a part of its interest in the Maules Creek Coal Mine to a third party, an interest holder of the Mine other than Aston have a priority right to buy the said interest under the same conditions.

(Attachment)

- Overview of Maules Creek Project in Australia
- Location of Maules Creek Coal Project

Overview of Maules Creek Project in Australia

Location		Gunnedah, New South Wales, Australia
Resource/Reserves		Resource: 679 million tons Coal reserves: 362 million tons Saleable reserves: 329 million tons
Mining Plan	Production Breakdown	Semi soft coking coal : 84% Thermal coal: 16%
	Estimated Production Life	30 years
	Estimated Saleable Production	2013: 2.6 million tons/per year 2014: 5.6million tons/per year 2015 onwards: about 10.7million tons/per year
	Type of Mining	Open cut: truck & shovel operations
Railway Line		ARTC (Australian Rail Traffic Corporation)
Shipping		Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS), Newcastle
Development Process		2012 (Second Half): Commencement of surface excavation works 2013 (Second Half): Commencement of output

Location of Maules Creek Project

