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## **MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Environmental clearance for Rössing Uranium's Phase 1 projects**

Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism issued an environmental clearance for three of Rössing Uranium's expansion projects to go ahead. These are the building of a sulphur burning sulphuric acid plant at the Rössing mine site, the building of a radiometric ore sorting plant and the mining of a small satellite ore body known as SK4 about one kilometre to the east of the current open pit.

A Social and Environmental Impact Assessment and management plan for these projects was submitted to the Ministry's Department of Environmental Affairs in early March.

A number of other projects are being evaluated in a second phase Social and Environmental Impact Assessment which covers the aspects of sulphur handling in the Port of Walvis Bay, an acid heap leach facility at the mine and the expansion of the open pit to beyond 2026 with the associated establishment of potentially new waste and tailings disposal facilities. If all the projects go ahead, production could be expanded from the current 3 000 tonnes of uranium oxide per year to more than 4 000 tonnes.

The letter received from the Ministry stressed the importance of keeping the stakeholders informed about the implementation of the expansion programme and that regular environmental monitoring of the projects in the environmentally sensitive area should be conducted. Rössing is committed to these measures.

The project of major importance for the mine is the replacement of the old acid plant, which was closed down in 2000. Since 2000, the mine has been importing its sulphuric acid through the Port of Walvis Bay and railing it to the mine site. Sulphuric acid is used in the mine's leaching process. Over the past year a small team at Rössing have undertaken a feasibility study for a new sulphur burning sulphuric acid plant. Coinciding with the environmental review, the feasibility study was reviewed by a technical and financial team from Rio Tinto. This represents the first such review since the approval of the Life-of-Mine

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Extension in December 2005 and is the first of the Rössing Expansion projects to be presented.

The proposed capacity of the new acid plant is 1 200 tonnes of acid per day as well as the generation of about 10 megawatts of electricity that could be used on the mine. A key part of this project is the importation and handling of sulphur in bulk through the Port of Walvis Bay and by rail trucks to the mine site.

It is anticipated that the project will result in substantial cost savings to the mine. This comes from lower costs for sulphuric acid and electricity, the reduced risk of shortages of these commodities and the health, safety and environmental benefits of reduced acid transport and handling. Aspects of sulphur handling will be addressed by the rigorous application of Rio Tinto and global best practice designs and procedures.

Information on the Phase 2 assessment of the expansion programme – of which the comment period closes on the 30 April 2008 - as well as the record of decision for the current assessment can be found on Rössing's web site [www.rossing.com](http://www.rossing.com)

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