

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Dynatec joins Philippines – South Africa Nickel Project study**

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Impala Platinum Holdings Limited (Implats) and Dynatec Corporation, Metallurgical Technologies Division (Dynatec), today announced that Dynatec will join the project-owners team currently engaged in the preparation of a technical feasibility study for the development of a high pressure acid leach (PAL) – sulphide precipitation plant for the proposed Philnico laterite nickel project.

The project, announced in February this year, will exploit an estimated resource of 144 million tons of 1,1% nickel and 0,11 % cobalt, at a nickel cut-off grade of 0,9 %. Full-scale production will result in 41 000 tons per year of Class I nickel and 4 000 tons per year of high purity cobalt. The planned life of the project of some 20 years, is based on a potential resource that could last in excess of 40 years. Laterite ores from several sources in the area will be blended to provide additional high grade feed to the process plant to be located on Nonoc Island, Republic of Philippines.

The nickel-cobalt mixed sulphides will be produced at Nonoc in the Philippines and will then be shipped to Springs, South Africa for refining to pure metals in an expanded plant to be located within Impala Platinum existing Base Metals Refinery. Production costs are expected to be within the lowest quartile of international nickel production.

Aimed at providing an improved capital cost estimate for the Philippine portion of the project, Implats is funding a US\$6 million technical feasibility study, which should be completed by the third quarter of 2000. As the project proceeds, financing is expected to be in place by the first quarter of 2001.

Implats could invest a further US\$75 million in cash and contribute its Base Metals Refinery to the project for a 25% equity stake. Dynatec will initially participate as project manager on the owner's team during the study, a precursor to a potential larger role in the future development of the project.

Says Gerry Bolton, Vice President, Dynatec's Metallurgical Technologies Division, To achieve bankable status with a very aggressive schedule senior Dynatec staff will capitalise on extensive long term and very relevant recent experience in PAL projects.

Existing infrastructure and experienced operations personnel at both sites, all well known to Dynatec, will speed the establishment of fully trained and staffed operations, maintenance services and management groups to assure a rapid commercial plant start up and ramp up to design capacity.

Dr Bolton added, Based on prior experience and project work done to date, we are confident that the test work currently being conducted in Fort Saskatchewan, Canada, will demonstrate the technical feasibility of nickel and cobalt recovery in PAL processing of the Philippine-sourced laterite ores.

The project team will assure optimum use of the current knowledge in the design of this next generation nickel laterite project, including managing the integration of the facilities required at Nonoc and Springs. All prior project work will be updated and integrated within a comprehensive confirmation batch and continuous test programme to establish design criteria for processing ores.

Says Stuart Murray, Consulting Engineer-New Business at Implats, "We are delighted that Dynatec has joined the team working towards getting this exciting project off the ground. Impala Platinum has worked with the company for more than 30 years and, in fact, Impala has been producing cobalt powder and Class 1 nickel briquettes at its Springs Refinery, under licenses from Dynatec. We remain confident that the project is feasible and will prove to be very profitable. The project will contribute to lowering Implats' overall platinum group metal production costs by up to three per cent.

**Implats:**

Impala Platinum Holdings Limited (Implats) is a leading global producer of platinum group metals (PGMs) and base metals, including nickel. In addition to its own one million ounces per annum of platinum production from its South African operations, Implats, through its Impala Refining Services subsidiary, is a large refiner of third party metals and the largest recycler of autocatalysts in the world. The company also has strategic stakes in companies such as PGM producer Lonplats (the platinum division of London-listed Lonmin) and Australian and London-listed Aquarius Platinum. Implats has a market cap (as at date) of some US\$2,25 billion and is listed on the Johannesburg and London stock exchanges. The company may also be traded through ADRs on Nasdaq. Further information may be found at [www.implats.co.za](http://www.implats.co.za).

Dynatec is a widely held Canadian public company that provides a broad range of professional services and contract operating expertise to mineral exploration, mining and refining companies globally. The company builds upon its technical and professional expertise and will take equity interest in attractive operations. The company holds a 35% equity interest in Highwood Resources Ltd, a high-value industrial mineral operation in Canada. Dynatec is traded on the Toronto stock exchange with the symbol DY. Additional information may be found on the company's website: <http://www.dynatec.ca/>.