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Nippon completes Intec pilot plant

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NIPPON Mining and Metals Co has constructed and commissioned an Intec copper pilot plant at its research and development facilities at Hitachi, Japan.

Construction of the plant was completed in October, and ongoing test work forms the basis of a feasibility study for a semi-commercial scale facility.

Intec managing director Philip Wood told *MiningNews.net* the study would be completed before the end of 2003.

The plant is based on the Intec Process, which involves chloride-based hydrometallurgical production of base and associated precious metals from sulphide concentrates.



Nippon's Intec pilot plant

The pilot plant was completed at no cost to Intec, and if the semi-commercial plant goes ahead Intec will receive a 1.5% royalty of gross value of metals produced.

The pilot plant program was joint funded by the Japanese government agency New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation, and Mitsui Mining and Smelting Co.

Intec said it has provided substantial technical input into the plant and continues to work closely with Nippon on the commercial development of the Intec copper process in Japan.

Intec shares remained unchanged at 12c.

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