

Process the main aim for company



Intec's Burnie Demonstration Plant.

While the Hellyer Zinc Concentrate Project represents an important opportunity (based on high metals prices) to fund Intec's primary activities, the overriding focus of Intec and the source of the major future value to its shareholders is the commercial implementation of the novel Intec Process.

The Intec Process operates in the chloride medium to recover base and precious metals from ores, concentrates and residues in a cost-effective and environmentally safe manner.

'Intec constructed and operated a demonstration plant at Burnie in Tasmania last year'

The process has a range of applications. Each application is related, in that all variations of the technology are based on the unique core concept of a mixed halide electrolyte that provides a number of advantages over competing processes, both hydrometallurgical and pyrometallurgical.

The Intec Hellyer Residues Project is the first commercial application of the patented hydrometallurgical processing technology and is on track to being constructed next year at the Hellyer site in Tasmania.

The IHRP marks a major milestone in the transition for Intec from a company boasting an excellent technology to one with world-class producing operations using this technology.

The IHRP will initially extract zinc, lead and silver from two feedstocks: 25,000 tonnes per annum of Electric Arc Furnace Dust and 56,000tpa of lead

sulphide recovered as an additional product from the HZCP.

The first stage of the IHRP will produce two high-grade products: a zinc sulphide and a lead sulphide – both of which will be considered desirable products over the long term. This provides a number of useful synergies with the existing HZCP.

The low-grade lead sulphide product to be taken from the HZCP is a prime example of the ability of Intec Process to unlock value that would be unavailable to conventional technologies.

As part of the development of the IHRP, Intec constructed and operated a demonstration plant at Burnie in Tasmania last year.

The plant will be operated this quarter, using the Intec Process as it will be applied at the IHRP, enabling optimisation of process conditions, training of operational staff, and testing of varying parameters.

The IHRP also scores points on the eco-friendly scale.

Initially, the IHRP will remove and recover significant additional lead from the tailings, but in time, the potential for the Intec Process to be used to retreat the tailings will represent a major cleanup of a former mine site.

As the next stage in the commercial application of the Intec Process, Intec is also examining additional projects and feedstocks. Intec considers that there are many opportunities readily available for application of its technology throughout the world.

Intec recently announced that the company has formed a collaboration agreement with the respected Finnish metallurgical company, Outotec. This represents a significant recognition of the value of the Intec Process, particularly for the recovery of gold without the use of cyanide. ■

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