



# ***Circular Economy in Mining***

*Recycling mining waste - a new business*

*Conference 27th April 2021*

**metals are our passion**



# AGENDA

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*Field Examples*

2

*Climate friendly Technologies*

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*Challenges & Outlook*

# Field Example– Iron & Steel slag USA

- Dump Size: 65'000'000 metric tons
- Environmental risk of dump: ground water contamination, dust emission, erosion
- Commodity: Iron scrap (HMS1) & Aggregates
- Economical viable for high volumes, CO<sub>2</sub> reduced replacement of raw materials, reduction of environmental hazardous emission
- Trade finance, off-take finance, hedging



# Field Example – Copper slag Zimbabwe

- Dump Size: 2'700'000 metric tons
- Environmental risk of dump: ground water contamination, dust emission
- Commodity: Blister Copper
- Economical viable with right choice of technology, reduction of environmental hazardous emission, involvement & training
- Trade finance, small scale finance



# Field Example – Tungsten SW Europe

- Dump size: 30'000'000 metric tons
- Environmental risk of dump: erosion
- Commodity: Tungsten ore
- Economical not viable, content too low for long term feasible production & investment
- Environmental necessary remediation, small-scale finance support, resource description / reserve establishment



# Field Example – Copper & Molybdenum

- Run of mine beneficiation by pre-sorting
- Dump size: >10'000'000 metric tons
- Environmental aspect: surface erosion; high consumables- and energy usage
- Commodity: Polymetallic Cu & Mo ore
- Economical viable, reduction of CO2 emission and water consumption by volume reduction in downstream production process
- Stability of legal / environmental framework



# Field Example – Tungsten Rwanda

- Dump size: 1'000'000 metric tons & ROM
- Environmental risk: land erosion, surface water pollution, dust emission
- Commodity: Tungsten ore
- Economical viable with right technology for long term feasible production & investment; high impact on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by de-bulking
- Political stability, compliance, community involvement, training, education, HSE





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# Sorter Technology

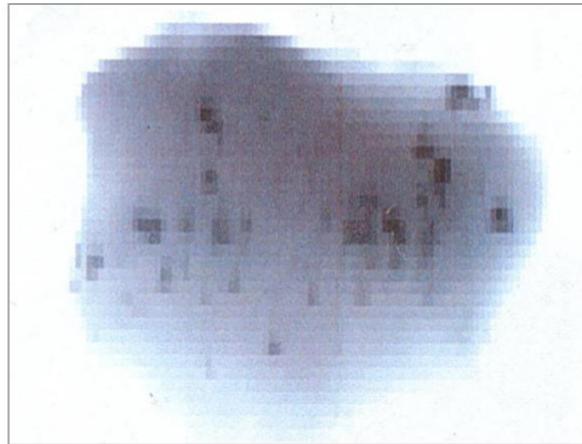


- Sensor detects physical parameter, air bar «shoots» material
- Here «100 stone test»; runs with up to 200 mt per hour

# *Sorter Technology Performance*



Tantalite Ore: Optical Image



Tantalite Ore: XRT Image

Positive Experience with: Tungsten, Tin, Lead, Molybdenum, Copper, Nickel etc



# *CO<sub>2</sub> Saving by Sorting*

- Eliminating 1t of barren host rock from plant feed by sorting:  
(50-100mm particle size & <20% mass reject): **2-3kWh**
- Comminution to flotation or leaching size <100µm: **12-20kWh**
- Energy saving per ton for comminution:\* **>10kWh**
- Further positive impact: less emission, wear and consumables for downstream
- CO<sub>2</sub> saving of sorter machines of only one OEM in 2020: >155'000mt\*\*
- Necessary to focus on recovery loss and solve target conflict for profit/loss

\* Source: RWTH Aachen, Institut für Aufbereitung Mineralischer Rohstoffe (AMR), Prof. H. Wotrubá

\*\* Source: <https://www.tomra.com/en/sorting/mining>, 14.04.2021



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# *Challenges for Circular Economy in Mining*

- Resource Statements (JORC, NI43101...) for secondary resources
- Challenge: Geological Modelling, drilling campaigns for slag dumps
- Financing solutions for small scale CO<sub>2</sub> impact projects (<20mUSD)
- Legal Framework necessary for rehabilitation with long-term liabilities
- By-product regulations for aggregates, fertilizer, loose chippings
- Customs tariffs for international trade (waste vs. product)



# *Summary for Circular Economy in Mining*

- Recycling of mining waste can turn liabilities into assets
- Several technologies are available and specifically fit for purpose
- A high impact on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction per ton of raw material produced
- Wide range of positive side effects for the environment: reduction of land usage, risk of erosion, reduction of water pollution, less use of natural resources per ton of raw material produced
- Socio-demographic impact by involvement of local communities and enforcement of international working standards in remote regions



**Vielen Dank**  
für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!

**Thank you**  
very much for paying attention!

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