

News Release

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Anglo American announces commissioning of the Benguela Gem diamond recovery vessel

Anglo American plc (“Anglo American”) announces the commissioning – ahead of schedule and below budget – of the Benguela Gem diamond recovery vessel (previously known as the AMV3). The Benguela Gem forms part of the fleet operated by the 50:50 joint venture between De Beers and the Government of Namibia.

The Benguela Gem will add an additional 500,000 carats of high value diamonds to annual marine production, an increase of around 45%, following an investment of approximately \$420 million (approximately \$210 million attributable to Anglo American).

Mark Cutifani, Chief Executive of Anglo American, said: “The commissioning of the Benguela Gem ahead of schedule and below budget marks further progress towards Anglo American’s margin-enhancing organic growth of more than 20% over the next three years. This additional vessel further enhances production of some of the highest quality and value diamonds in the world, while delivering sustained economic benefits for Namibia.”

Bruce Cleaver, CEO of De Beers Group, said: “Diamond recovery by Debmarine Namibia is the single biggest contributor to Namibia’s economy and we are proud to play our part. The Benguela Gem is the first of its kind and represents an outstanding feat of engineering design, technology innovation and sustainability performance. The investment in this vessel will support a long term, sustainable future for Namibia’s diamond sector, which is home to some of the most sought-after diamonds in the world.”

The Benguela Gem is a custom built vessel that combines latest technology and fully integrated design to achieve unrivalled efficiency, reliability and accuracy. A state-of-the-art dynamic positioning system automatically optimises the vessel’s performance in changing weather conditions to minimise energy use. The vessel also generates its own fresh water through the use of heat recovery systems and a reverse osmosis plant.

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Notes to editors:

Debmarine Namibia is a subsidiary of Namdeb Holdings, a 50:50 joint venture between De Beers Group and the Government of the Republic of Namibia. In 2021, Debmarine Namibia recovered around 1.1 million carats of rough diamonds of total Namdeb Holdings production of around 1.5 million carats. Namibian diamonds are some of the highest quality diamonds in the world and achieve some of the highest average prices per carat.

Anglo American is a leading global mining company and our products are the essential ingredients in almost every aspect of modern life. Our portfolio of world-class competitive operations, with a broad range of future development options, provides many of the future-enabling metals and minerals for a cleaner, greener, more sustainable world and that meet the fast growing every day demands of billions of consumers. With our people at the heart of our business, we use innovative practices and the latest technologies to discover new resources and to mine, process, move and market our products to our customers – safely and sustainably.

As a responsible producer of diamonds (through De Beers), copper, platinum group metals, premium quality iron ore and metallurgical coal for steelmaking, and nickel – with crop nutrients in development – we are committed to being carbon neutral across our operations by 2040. More broadly, our Sustainable Mining Plan commits us to a series of stretching goals to ensure we work towards a healthy environment, creating thriving communities and building trust as a corporate leader. We work together with our business partners and diverse stakeholders to unlock enduring value from precious natural resources for the benefit of the communities and countries in which we operate, for society as a whole, and for our shareholders. Anglo American is re-imagining mining to improve people's lives.
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