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Country Info

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You are here: Home // News // Randgold Resources: Gounkoto Gold Mine Officially Opened -PRESS RELEASE

Randgold Resources: Gounkoto Gold Mine Officially Opened -PRESŠ RELEASE

Gounkoto, Mali, 6 August 2012 - Randgold Resources' Gounkoto gold mine in Mali was today officially opened by the country's minister of the economy, finance and budget, Tiena Coulibaly, accompanied by the ministers of mines, environment and public works.

Gounkoto is Randgold's fourth gold mine in Mali and while it is a separate corporate entity with its own mining licence, it is operationally linked to the company's nearby Loulo complex, itself in the process of expansion.

Speaking at the opening, which was attended by Randgold's board of directors, members of the Mali government, ambassadors, local and traditional authorities and business partners, chief executive Mark Bristow said the Loulo-Gounkoto combination was shaping up as one the largest gold mining operations in Africa. The mine complex would not only support the company's continued growth but would entrench and expand gold mining as a major contributor to the Malian economy. He noted that Randgold's long-established and productive partnership with the State and people of Mali had provided the firm foundation for the decision to build another new mine there.

Chairman Philippe Liétard described Randgold's continuing investment in the development of the Loulo-Gounkoto mine complex as a vote of confidence in Mali's future. While the country was still in the process of re-establishing its democratic institutions after its political crisis earlier this year, Randgold believed that it had the will and ability to achieve a full recovery.

"Mali has shown in the past that it can work through its internal problems and come out stronger on the other side, and we believe it will do so again now, setting an example for other countries not only in Africa but across the world," he said.

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