

# SGS PROVIDES COMPLEX COMMISSIONING SERVICES FOR BARRO ALTO NICKEL PROJECT IN BRAZIL

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SGS has been awarded a contract to provide specialist third-party services for the Barro Alto Nickel Project in Brazil by Anglo American Corporation, one of the world's largest mining companies. For the duration of the contract, awarded in September 2010 and scheduled to run from September 2010 to September 2011, SGS performs complex Commissioning Services and Management as well as executing various tests in order to ensure a successful start for the facility operation within its planned schedule.

The Barro Alto Nickel Project, located in Goias state, Brazil, is approximately 170 km from another Anglo American Codemin nickel facility, and consists of extending

the existing open pit mine operation and constructing a new ferronickel smelter and refinery. The project was approved in December 2006 and is forecast to come into operation in 2011. Average production will total 36,000 mt/y of nickel over the 26-year lifetime of the mine, including 41,000 mt/y over the first five years of full production. The operation is expected to more than double Anglo American's nickel production.

One of the most challenging and critical aspects of the project is the commissioning stage of the facility as it is responsible for the successful start of the operation within the planned schedule.

In order to proceed with such an extensive project in compliance with all relevant regulations and requirements within schedule, Anglo American, one of the world's largest mining companies, looked for a reliable inspection, verification, testing and certification company.

In September 2010, SGS in Brazil was assigned the contract to provide specialist third-party services during the commissioning of the Barro Alto Nickel Project due to its extensive experience and competence in projects of this kind.



### **SGS COMMISSIONING SERVICES AND MANAGEMENT FOR THE BARRO ALTO NICKEL PROJECT IN BRAZIL**

From September 2010 to September 2011, SGS is performing comprehensive third-party inspection, testing and verification services for the Barro Alto nickel refinery and smelter project, including Commissioning Services and Management as well as executing various tests in order to ensure a successful start for the facility operation within the planned schedule.

With Commissioning Services and Management, a team of 92 highly skilled SGS experts at its peak provides a valuable support system that will help to take the facility from construction into operation. Drawing on its first-rate experience

and know-how with regard to trained personnel, functional equipment and fully tested systems, SGS will manage the commissioning of the plant in order to ensure the Barro Alto Nickel Project starts operation on schedule and in accordance with all national and international standards and requirements.

Furthermore, SGS executes a wide variety of tests to aid transfer of the plant from construction to operation in the areas of instrumentation and power as well as through effective use of the dedicated Commissioning Management Software developed by SGS.

The SGS Commissioning Management Software, known as the C.R.I. system, includes a database capable of generating management reports on

mechanical, piping, instrumentation and electrical services. The software presents the actual commissioning situation and generates information about pending work to be executed, including identification of the critical path for start-up, precise and up-to-date information for use in daily meetings, document control as well as information for calibration and testing situations.

Due to SGS' competence and expertise, the commissioning stage of the Barro Alto Nickel Project, located in a remote region far from major cities, will proceed in accordance with all required and agreed standards and norms within the planned schedule, to the full satisfaction of the client.

### **CONTACT**

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