



MEDIA RELEASE

7 December 2009

Simulus is pleased to announce that it has been awarded funding under the Commonwealth Climate Ready grants scheme to develop a low carbon emitting nickel laterite production process.

Project work to develop the production flowsheet commenced in November, and will enable laterite nickel miners to reduce capital and operating costs by replacing the traditional limestone neutralisation stage of nickel laterite processing, with a carbon friendly flowsheet.

Brett Muller, Simulus' managing director, said "This grant is a step in the right direction and I believe that it will deliver a process improvement and help Australia maintain its position as a leader in developing best mining practices."

On completion, the 18 month project will help nickel laterite producers to realise:

- up to 300,000 tonnes per year reduction in carbon emissions;
- reduced dependency on imported sulphur, and;
- the production of less solid wastes on site leading to 15-30% smaller tailing storage facilities.

"Approximately 70% of the world's nickel resources are laterite ores and a more sustainable means of nickel processing is required if we are going to reduce carbon emissions globally whilst continuing with nickel production," Mr Muller said.

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