



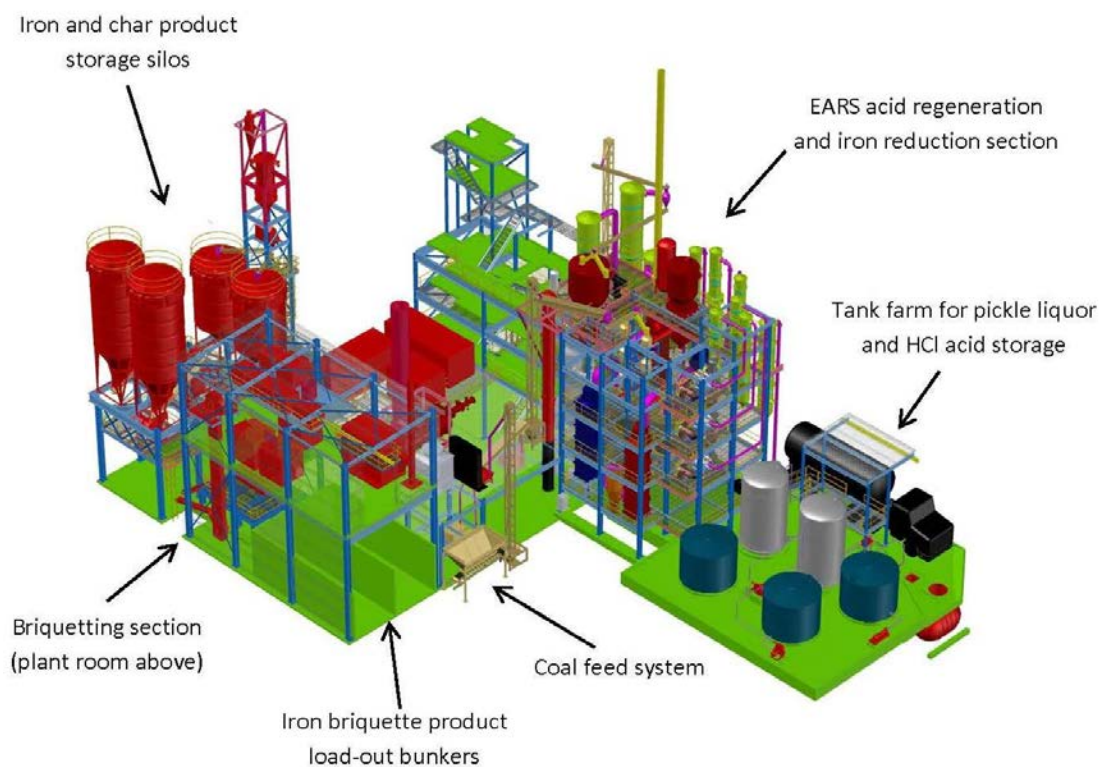
March 11, 2013

## NEWCASTLE IRON RECOVERY PLANT – CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES

Construction of the Newcastle Iron Recovery Plant recommenced in mid-January, 2013. During February the following was achieved, as illustrated with photographs in this report:

- Construction schedules were finalised, the design and certification of the steel structure for the north tower extension to the process tower was advanced, and off-site fabrication of the steel for the mezzanine floor in the plant room commenced.
- The cooling tower and the plate filter were positioned in the Plant.
- Temporary access to the plant room and the control room was established
- The concrete bunded tank area of the tank farm was coated with acid-proof epoxy paint
- Construction of the new laboratory to house the pilot scale test equipment which will be relocated from the process tower commenced

Construction is proceeding well and will continue through the first half of the year. Commissioning of the Iron Recovery Plant will commence during the third quarter and production will commence in the fourth quarter of 2013.



**3D rendition of the Newcastle Iron Recovery Plant**



**Preparing to lift equipment into the process tower**



**Installation of the frame for the plate filter**



**Installation of scaffolding for access from the control room**



**Cooling tower installed beside temporary access stairs to the plant room**





**Assembling the bucket elevator chain used to transfer the briquetted iron product**



**Preparing steel columns for epoxy coating**



**Diamond drilling through foundations to establish cable access to the switch room**



**Preparing foundations to support the CO<sub>2</sub> stripping columns**



**Tank farm bunded area with acid-proof epoxy sealant**



**Erection of walls for the new laboratory.  
Pilot scale test equipment will be relocated from the  
NIRP process tower and installed here**

For further information please contact:  
Mike Turbott  
Managing Director - Tel (+61-2) 9252-2599

**About Austpac Resources N.L. (ASX code: APG)**

Austpac Resources N.L. [[www.austpacresources.com](http://www.austpacresources.com)] is a minerals technology company focused on the titanium, steel and iron ore industries. It has been listed on the Australian Stock Exchange since 1986. Austpac's key technology transforms ilmenite into high-grade synthetic rutile, a preferred feedstock for titanium metal and titanium dioxide pigment production. The technology is also being used to process waste chloride solutions and iron oxides produced by steelmaking to recover hydrochloric acid and iron metal pellets