



AUSTPAC RESOURCES N.L.  
ACN 002 264 057

Level 12, Currency House

23 Hunter Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

GPO Box 5297

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Telephone: (+61 2) 9221 3211

Facsimile: (+61 2) 9223 1975

Email: apgtio2@ozemail.com.au

www.austpacresources.com

29 August 2001

## AUSTRALIAN STOCK EXCHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT

### AUSTPAC AND TICOR COMMENCE MURRAY BASIN SYNTHETIC RUTILE STUDY

Austpac Resources N.L. and Ticor Limited have commenced a study into the establishment of a synthetic rutile facility to upgrade ilmenite from the Murray Basin, Australia. The study is being conducted under the 50-50 Austpac-Ticor Joint Venture, executed in July 2000, for the worldwide application of Austpac's ERMS and EARS technologies.

Wemen is the first deposit to produce heavy minerals in the Murray Basin and there are several companies undertaking feasibility studies on other defined resources. It is therefore probable that the level of ilmenite production from the Murray Basin will soon justify investment in a value-adding synthetic rutile complex. Such a facility would use the ERMS and EARS processes to upgrade the ilmenite to a preferred feedstock for the chloride-route TiO<sub>2</sub> pigment producers. Austpac has already confirmed through pilot plant work at Newcastle that its processes are ideally suited to the upgrading of Murray Basin ilmenites. These ilmenites are generally not amenable to traditional Becher synthetic rutile technology.

Murray Basin ilmenite concentrates also contain elevated levels of chromite, an impurity that is an impediment to marketing of the ilmenite. An ERMS/EARS facility could have the flexibility to remove chromite and so produce saleable ilmenite, as well as high grade synthetic rutile for export.

This initial study will examine potential plant locations within the broader Murray Basin region, raw material supply options (including ilmenite, coal or other energy sources, and water), infrastructure and Government incentives.

For further information please contact:

M.J. Turbott  
Managing Director  
Austpac Resources N.L.

Tel: (61-2) 9221-3211