

Algeria PPC Ltd plans to enter the Algerian market via Hodna Cement Company

PPC Ltd has announced that it is preparing to expand into the Algerian cement market, with its entry plans now in the advanced stages of development. The South Africa-based cement manufacturer will form a partnership with local private sector investors in Hodna Cement Company. Hodna will invest US\$350 million in the establishment of a new cement plant in the Hodna area, around 300 km east of Algiers and close to raw material resources.

Construction work is due to commence once the feasibility study has been concluded and will take up to 30 months to complete. Commissioning of the 2 million tpa capacity plant is expected to be carried out by 4Q16. PPC plans to appoint Sinoma International Engineering, China, as the main contractor for plant supply and construction. Holtec Consulting, India, will provide project management support.

PPC will have a 49% stake in Hodna and will take on management control. As a consequence, PPC will be able to consolidate the financial results of the project into its group accounts. The transaction will be funded on a project finance basis, with 80% debt funding from banks in Algeria.



USA Argos increases its cement capacity in Florida

Argos has entered into a definitive agreement with Vulcan Materials Company involving the purchase of cement, concrete, blocks and port assets in Florida worth

US\$720 million. The transaction will comprise a 1.6 million tpa cement plant in Newberry, cement grinding facilities in Tampa and Port Manatee with a total installed capacity of 1.9 million tpa, 69 ready-mixed concrete plants, 13 concrete block production sites and two port facilities.

The acquisition will double Argos' cement production capacity in the US, allowing the company to increase its presence in the southeast of the country and become the second biggest manufacturer of cement in Florida. It will bring Argos' total installed capacity to 20 million tpa of cement and 17 million m³ of concrete across all of the regions in which it operates.

As part of the agreement, Vulcan will supply aggregates at market prices to the concrete facilities acquired by Argos for the next 20 years.

Vulcan is retaining all of its aggregates operations in Florida, in addition to its cement segment's ground calcium operations.

The transaction, which is expected to close in 1Q14, is subject to the relevant regulatory approvals.

Tanzania Loesche receives its first order from Tanga Cement

Tanga Cement Company Ltd has awarded Loesche with a contract to supply two VRMs for installation at its 3000 tpd plant. An LM 41.4 will grind cement raw material at a rate of 200 tph at a fineness of 15% R 90 µm. The second vertical roller mill, type LM 19.2 D, will be used for coal grinding. It will have a 20 tph capacity with a fineness of 12% R 90 µm.

Loesche's scope of supply includes engineering and supply of the two mills, as well as a rotary star feeder for the raw mill and a coal screw feeder for the coal mill.

The mill and key parts will be delivered in July 2014. This is Loesche's first order from the Tanzanian cement producer.



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