

07 January 2004

## Vedanta Resources plc

### Production report for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2003

Vedanta Resources plc is releasing this third quarter production report to update the information provided at the time of Vedanta's listing on the London Stock Exchange.

#### Production summary

		Nine months		% change	Quarter		% change
		2003-2004	2002-2003	9 mths 04 vs 9 mths 03	2003-04 Q3	2002-03 Q3	Q3 04 vs Q3 03
Copper – mined metal content	('000 t)	37	26	36%	13	11	17%
Copper – cathode	('000 t)	137	114	20%	44	42	5%
Copper – rods	('000 t)	91	69	32%	32	22	45%
Alumina	('000 t)	200	185	8%	66	61	8%
Aluminium	('000 t)	97	94	3%	32	33	(3%)
Zinc – mined metal content	('000 t)	232	190	23%	80	64	27%
Zinc - refined	('000 t)	165	149	11%	56	52	8%
Lead – mined metal content	('000 t)	34	26	32%	12	9	39%
Lead - refined	('000 t)	20	21	(5%)	7	7	-

#### Operational overview

##### Copper:

Cathode production in the nine months ended 31 December 2003 was 20% ahead of the equivalent period in the last financial year as further benefits of the group's de-bottlenecking programme have been realised. Rod production of 91,000 tonnes in the first nine months of the current financial year was up 32% on the equivalent period in the previous year due to higher market off take.

##### Aluminium:

Aluminium production in the nine months ended 31 December 2003 was at planned capacity levels, some 3% ahead of the equivalent period in the last financial year.

##### Zinc:

The zinc business continues to perform strongly. Thanks to productivity improvements, figures for mined and refined zinc are well ahead of the corresponding periods in the last financial year on both a nine month and quarterly basis. Additional production of concentrate not used within the business was sold in the market or used in increased tolling.

## **Pricing**

TC/RC levels remain weak however commodity pricing in India has benefited from recent improvements in worldwide commodity prices. Further details will be provided when Vedanta's Indian listed subsidiaries release their quarterly reports at the end of this month.

## **Update on expansions**

As outlined in the listing particulars, the company is continuing to make good progress with its expansion projects:

### **Copper:**

Mechanical completion of the 300,000 tpa smelter and 127,000 tpa refinery at the Tuticorin complex is in the final stages and commissioning is slated to commence soon there after.

### **Aluminium:**

The expansion of the Korba smelter at BALCO to 350,000 tpa and the associated power plant continues as per plan and over 30% of the project cost has now been committed.

### **Zinc:**

Work on the 170,000 tpa brownfield smelter expansion at Chanderiya is proceeding and equipment orders for approximately 80% of the project have now been placed. Work to increase the capacity of the Rampura Agucha mine to supply the Chanderiya smelter continues.

### **Orissa:**

Work on the bauxite mine and alumina refinery (ultimate capacity of 1.4 Mtpa of alumina), with an associated 90 MW captive power plant, has commenced in Lanjigarh in the state of Orissa. Key contracts (including the calciner, crusher, conveyor and precipitator) have now been placed and now over 20% of the project cost has been committed. The design and basic engineering work being undertaken by Worley continues per plan.

**-ends-**

For further information, please contact:

Peter Sydney Smith  
Finance Director  
Vedanta Resources plc  
www.vedantaresources.com

Tel: +44 207 629 6070

Andrew Lorenz  
Peter Otero  
Financial Dynamics

Tel: +44 207 831 3113

Scott Fulton  
Fallon Stewart

Tel: +44 1525 634 536