



Vedanta Resources plc

16 Berkeley Street

London W1J 8DZ

Tel: +44 (0)20 7499 5900

Fax: +44 (0)20 7491 8440

www.vedantaresources.com

31 May 2005

**Vedanta Resources plc
Completion of Major Zinc Expansion Project
& Extension of Mine Life**

Vedanta Resources plc, the London listed metals and mining company, announces that the major expansion project at its zinc facilities in India has been completed on schedule and trial production has commenced. The cost of the project is around 15% less than the original budget of \$425m and the smelter was completed at a cost significantly below international benchmarks.

The expansion increases Vedanta's refined zinc capacity by 170,000 tpa to around 400,000 tpa. The new hydro metallurgical smelter, designed by Lurgi, has the latest energy and environmental efficiencies and will further improve Vedanta's already globally competitive cost position. The project included the construction of a 154 MW captive power plant and the expansion of mine output from 2.3 mtpa to 3.75 mtpa.

Separately, the reserves at the Rampura Agucha mine, which feeds the smelter, have been increased by 25%, compared to the reserves at 31 March 2004, to 50.1 million tonnes. This follows a drilling programme by Vedanta's Exploration Division, which started in September 2004. The reserves contain 12.8 % zinc and 1.9% lead. The life of Rampura Agucha has therefore been extended by another 3 years, at the increased level of output, with potential to expand the reserves through further exploration.

The programme to upgrade reserves and resources will continue at Rampura Agucha throughout 2005-06 including further brownfield exploration for zinc around the existing mines in Rajasthan.

Anil Agarwal, Chairman of Vedanta said "We are delighted at the success of this second major project which, through the dedication and expertise of my colleagues, demonstrates our ability to deliver projects at low cost and on schedule. The increase in reserves adds significant long term value to Vedanta and is part of a focused exploration effort. Zinc demand in India is growing rapidly and the new production will be well placed to serve this demand and assist in the future economic growth of India."

For further information, please contact:

Peter Sydney-Smith, Finance Director

John Smelt, Head of Investor Relations

Vedanta Resources plc

Tel: +44 20 7499 5900

+44 787 964 2675

James Murgatroyd

Faeth Birch

Robin Walker

Tel: +44 20 7251 3801

Finsbury

Notes to Editors:

Vedanta is a London listed diversified metals and mining group. Our principal operations are located throughout India, with further operations in Zambia and Australia. The major metals produced are aluminium, copper, zinc and lead. The zinc facilities are principally based in Rajasthan, in North West India, and are operated by Hindustan Zinc Limited, which is 65% owned by the Vedanta group. The expansion project involved constructing a 170,000 tpa hydro-metallurgical smelter with a 154 MW coal based thermal captive power plant and expanding the capacity of the Rampura Agucha operation from 2.3 Mtpa to 3.75 Mtpa.

A drilling programme aimed at upgrading resources to reserve status and further adding to resources was commenced by the Exploration Division in the last quarter of 2004. This programme focused on drilling down dip and along strike of the already outlined reserves. An independent audit of the reserves and resources at 31st March, 2005 has been carried out by SRK Consulting.

The reserves and resources for Rampura Agucha at 31st March, 2005 are:

Ore Reserve	JORC Classification	Tonnes (millions)	Zn%	Pb%
	Proved	22.4	13.2	2.0
	Probable	27.8	12.4	1.9
	Total	50.1	12.8	1.9
Mineral Resource	Measured	-	-	-
	Indicated	11.1	12.7	1.7
	Inferred	13.8	12.2	1.7
	Total	24.9	12.4	1.7

Note: Resources are in addition to reserves.

There are no measured resources in addition to the reserves as these have all been upgraded to reserve status.

The information on Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves in this press release is based on information compiled internally by the mining division of Rampura Agucha Zinc Mine and independently audited by Mr Steffen Schmidt and Mr David Pearce of SRK(UK) Ltd. Mr Schmidt is a Senior Mining Geologist whilst Mr Pearce is a Principal Mining Engineer, both with SRK Consulting. Mr Schmidt has sufficient experience in this style of mineralization and resource estimation techniques whilst Mr Pearce has sufficient experience with the mining methods and reserve estimation techniques to be regarded as 'competent persons' as defined in the 2004 edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results and Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves' (The JORC Code). SRK Consulting consents to the inclusion of the material in the form and content in which it appears.