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CVRD starts to invest in mineral exploration in Australia

Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD), the largest metals and mining company in the Americas, and the Australian mining companies Aquila Resources Limited (Aquila) and AMCI Holdings Australia Pty (AMCI) signed an agreement for an exploration study of the Belvedere Coal Underground Project (Belvedere). Belvedere is an estimated 2.7 billion ton hard coking coal resource located in the state of Queensland, Australia.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Company will pay US\$ 2.5 million to each of Aquila and AMCI and is committed to develop the project to the pre-feasibility stage.

At the conclusion of the pre-feasibility study, which is estimated to take 18 months, CVRD has the option to acquire a 51% interest in Belvedere at a price of US\$ 90 million. CVRD has further options to increase its stake in the project up to 100% by acquiring Aquila's and AMCI's interests at a fair market value determined at the time of the exercising of each option.

This initiative is part of CVRD's multicommodity and global mineral exploration program.

More information



Mônica Ferreira

monica.ferreira@vale.com

Rio de Janeiro

+55 (21) 3845-3636

Fatima Cristina

fatima.cristina@vale.com

Rio de Janeiro

+55 (21) 3485-3621