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## Lily mine, South Africa

21ST JULY 2011 BY: CELEST SMITH

**N**ame: Lily mine.

**Location:** The Lily mine is situated near the small town of Low's Creek, midway between Barberton and Kaapmuiden, in the Mpumalanga province.

**Brief history:** The Lily mine was acquired by Eastern Goldfields, through its subsidiary Mimco, from Eastern Transvaal Consolidated Mines in 1997. The Lily mine was acquired and developed by Vantage in 1997. Mimco shifted opencast operations to the Lily mine in July 2000.

**Brief description:** The opencast mine has been successful since it started operations, and has produced 2 270 kg of gold. Extensive diamond drilling of the orebody over the last three years has identified substantial underground resources over a total strike length of 2 000 m and to a depth of 400 m below surface.

**Products:** Gold, and a small percentage of silver.

**Reserves:** Total proven and probable reserves as at December 31, 2009, were 4.7-million tons, with a gold grade of 3.8 g/t.

**Resources:** Total measured, indicated and inferred resources as at December 31, 2009, were 22.2-million tons, with a gold grade of 2.82 g/t.

**Geology:** The Lily mine is a lode gold deposit along the faulted interface between the Figtree and Onverwacht groups of the Archaean Barberton greenstone belt. The Onverwacht metavolcanics are composed of talc and talc-carbonate schists derived from ultramafic precursors, while the Figtree metasediments comprise interbedded greywacke, shale and chert. The general trend is an east-west strike with a steep southerly dip. The shearing and mineralisation are parallel to the regional fabric. The gold mineralisation is structurally controlled and associated with fine-grained pyrrhotite, minor arsenopyrite and chalcopyrite, and with quartz-carbonate veins.

**Major infrastructure and equipment:** There is a complete metallurgical plant at Makonjwaan with associated infrastructure, such as a slimes dam, an assay laboratory, and offices. In addition, there is an engineering workshop for repairs and maintenance. At the Lily mine there are workshops and offices.

**Prospects:** The first phase of work in preparation for the expansion of the Lily mine and Makonjwaan metallurgical plant has been initiated in the form of public participation programmes and technical

scoping and planning.

**Controlling company:** Vantage Goldfields (74%).

**Contact persons:** Mike Baynes, group geologist.

**Unique features:** Lily mine has been a consistently profitable gold operation from a low-grade orebody with a long-haul distance. The soon-to-be developed trackless underground operation, with new plant situated on site, will be the first new operation after a long dormant period in the Barberton greenstone belt.

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