



News release...

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Approval for expansion of QIT's UGS plant

Rio Tinto has approved the expansion of QIT Fer et Titane Inc.'s (Rio Tinto 100%) upgraded slag (UGS) plant in Quebec, Canada.

Total investment will be US\$76 million and capacity will be increased from 250,000 tonnes per year to 325,000 tonnes per year by early 2005.

The proprietary UGS process produces a very high grade, low impurity titanium dioxide feedstock for use in the manufacture of white pigments for paint, paper, plastics and titanium metal. Since its introduction, UGS has established itself as a premium product and received broad market acceptance. The expansion is in response to increased pigment customer demand for very high-grade TiO₂ feedstocks. This trend is expected to continue as customers face increasing environmental constraints on waste disposal.

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