



News release...

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Rio Tinto sells Sepon interest to Oxiana

Rio Tinto has reached agreement to sell its 20 per cent interest in the Sepon project (comprising the current gold project and the proposed Khanong copper project) in Laos to Oxiana Limited for cash consideration of US\$85 million. Transaction completion is expected no later than 10 March 2004, and will be effective 1 January 2004.

If requested by Oxiana, Rio Tinto has agreed to provide technical consulting services for the Sepon project on commercial arms-length terms until the end of 2006.

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