Guinea was among the world’s leading producers of bauxite. The bauxite and alumina sector generated more than 60% of the country’s exports and at least 20% of its tax revenues (International Monetary Fund, 2008, p. 4). Other mineral commodities produced in the country included cement, diamond, gold, and salt. Undeveloped mineral resources included graphite, iron ore, limestone, manganese, nickel, and uranium. The Ministère des Mines, de la Géologie et de l’Environnement was the Government agency responsible for the administration of the mining sector. Guinea’s Mining Code, which was based on French civil law, was last revised and amended in 1995 and 1998, respectively. The Mining Code established the Centre de Promotion et de Développement Miniers to deal with all aspects of investment in the mining sector.

In late February and early March 2006, Guinea’s main labor union alliance had launched a historic general strike demanding wage increases and union participation in Guinea’s economic and social policy. In June 2006, a second strike was launched reportedly owing to the Government’s inability to control Guinea’s rising inflation. A third strike was called by Guinea’s main trade unions in January 2007, this time to protest about the country’s poor economic conditions and to demand the resignation of the country’s President. The 2007 strike brought business to a standstill and forced most bauxite and alumina operations to close temporarily. Revenue losses from halted bauxite exports were estimated to be more than $1 million per day. OAO Russian Aluminium, which managed the bauxite operations of Compagnie des Bauxites de Kindia (CBK), reportedly had to provide military escort for company staff buses to and from work during the strike. The strike ended on January 27, 2007; bauxite and alumina operations resumed shortly thereafter. At least 60 people reportedly died during the demonstrations (Economist, The, 2007; Mining Journal, 2007b-d; Reuters, 2007b).

A new Prime Minister was appointed in February 2007. Following his appointment, the Government announced the implementation of a new economic program designed to reinstate fiscal control, stabilize the economy, improve governance, and launch a program of structural reforms. Among the tasks the Government planned to accomplish between July 2007 and June 2010 was a review of the Mining Code and mining contracts, particularly with regard to the taxation policy for mining activities, which was to be reviewed and amended by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (International Monetary Fund, 2007, p. 4, 6, 8, 16).

Among the contracts under review were a production-sharing agreement with Hyperdynamics Corp. of Houston, Texas, and an annex of an agreement signed with United Company RUSAL (RUSAL) for its operations in Kindia. Hyperdynamics had been granted the right to explore one-third of Guinea’s entire offshore acreage, and the Government stated that this arrangement did not conform with international norms. The objection to the agreement with RUSAL was centered on the terms of the company’s mining of the Kindia bauxite deposits and its use of the railway and port infrastructure. RUSAL was a new company formed in March 2007 by the merger of OAO Russian Aluminum, 66%; OAO Sual Holdings of Russia, 22%; and Glencore International AG of Switzerland, 12%. RUSAL owned and managed the mining operations of Alumina Company of Guinea (ACG) and CBK (Reuters, 2007c).

Production

In 2007, bauxite production decreased slightly by about 1.4% to 18.5 million metric tons (Mt) from a revised 18.8 Mt in 2006; gold production also decreased to 15,465 kilograms (kg) in 2007 from a revised 16,922 kg in 2006. Diamond production, however, increased to 1,019 thousand carats in 2007 from 474 thousand carats in 2006 (Kimberley Process Rough Diamond Statistics, 2008). Data on mineral production are in table 1.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities.

Commodity Review

Metals

Bauxite and Alumina.—In 2007, RUSAL’s operations were interrupted briefly during the country’s February strike and were resumed later in the month. Exports from Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée (CBG) were also interrupted during the same period and later resumed on February 19. CBG was a joint venture between the Government (49%) and Halco Mining Inc. (51%). RUSAL also held interest in the Dian-Dian bauxite concession under which the company was to develop a bauxite and alumina mining complex, which would produce about 13.4 million metric tons per year (Mt/yr) of bauxite ore and 2.8 Mt/yr of alumina (United Company RUSAL, 2007a, b). In February 2007, Canadian-based Navasota Resources Ltd. signed an option agreement with La Société AMIG Mining International S.A.R.L. to earn up to a 100% interest in the company’s bauxite exploration license, which comprised two contiguous areas located in the prefectures of Gaoual and Lélème in northwestern Guinea. RSG Global Consulting of Australia managed the exploration program during 2007. An air-core drill testing of the bauxite plateaus was performed at the prospects, and further extension of the bauxite plateaus was confirmed (Mining Review Africa, 2007; Navasota Resources Ltd., 2007).

In May, Toronto-based Global Alumina Corporation Ltd. (GAC) completed a joint-venture agreement with BHP Billiton plc (a dual-listed company with head offices in Australia and the United Kingdom), Dubai Aluminium Company Ltd. (DUBAL), and Mubadala Development Company PJSC (Mubadala) for
owing to interruptions in the delivery of diesel caused by
the company announced that mine operations were curtailed
1.15 g/t gold at an estimated recovery rate of 95%. In October,
about 172,000 t of lower grade stockpiled ore containing
first gold pour at its Lefa gold mine since the commissioning of

types of gold deposits mined at the Siguiri Mine were laterite
was mined by a mining contractor and the ore was processed
reported as 330,000 troy ounces) compared with 9,362 kg
in production was attributable to lower grade ore (Semafo Inc.,
gold (reported as 27,100 troy ounces) compared with 1,468 kg
survey of all its Kouroussa concessions (Cassidy Gold Corp.,
its exploration activities in 2008 and, for this purpose, hired
Spectrem Air Ltd. to complete an airborne electromagnetic
survey of all its Kouroussa concessions (Cassidy Gold Corp.,
—Canadian company Mega Uranium Ltd.'s proposed 9-hole 5,000-meter drilling program for the
Kakoulima copper-nickel polymetallic deposit was suspended in
late February 2007 owing to political instability and civil
unrest in the country as a result of the strike. The company had
planned to resume operations later in the year after the rainy
season; however, Mega Uranium had made no announcements
concerning the resumption of drilling or the progress of the
project as of yearend 2007 (Mega Uranium Ltd., 2008).

Gold.—On November 8, 2007, Cassidy Gold Corp.
announced a new resource estimate for its 100% owned
Kouroussa gold project. Indicated resource estimates increased
to about 6.7 Mt at a grade of 2.2 grams per metric ton (g/t)
gold from the 4.38 Mt at a grade of 2.4 g/t that was reported in
2005; inferred resource estimates increased to about 8.8 Mt
at a grade of 1.7 g/t gold from the 5.8 Mt at a grade of 1.97 g/t
that was reported in 2005. Cassidy planned to continue with
its exploration activities in 2008 and, for this purpose, hired
Spectrem Air Ltd. to complete an airborne electromagnetic
survey of all its Kouroussa concessions (Cassidy Gold Corp.,
—West African Diamonds plc (WAD) (formerly
African Diamonds plc; WAD was demerged and listed
separately from African Diamonds plc in January 2007) continued to conduct exploration work at the Bomboko alluvial
diamond deposit. In November, the company announced the
recovery of four large diamonds ranging from 3.8 carats to
9.2 carats at the property as a result of bulk sampling. The
Bomboko alluvials lie within the headwaters of the Bomboko
River north of the watershed that divides the northeasterly
flowing Niger tributaries and the southwesterly flowing rivers
that drain into the Atlantic Ocean. Resources at Bomboko were
estimated to be 750,000 carats. WAD also held a prospecting
license for the Droujba property, which includes the diamond-
bearing kimberlites and associated secondary diamond deposits
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license for the Droujba property, which includes the diamond-
bearing kimberlites and associated secondary diamond deposits
around the Bounoudou area in southeast Guinea. The company
planned to continue with its exploration activities in the area in
2008, which would include a ground geophysical survey (West
African Diamonds, 2007a; 2007b, p. 4, 6-7, 9-10).

Iron Ore.—London-based Rio Tinto plc continued to work
on its prefeasibility study for the Simandou iron ore project in
southeastern Guinea, which was scheduled to be completed by
2010. The prefeasibility study included the construction of an iron ore mine, a 7-kilometer (km)-long rail system, and a
deepe water port south of Conakry. The company envisioned
to begin in 2013 at a production rate of about 70 Mt/yr of iron ore. Once the project is up and running, the
Government would have the right to earn a 20% interest in
the project (Metal Bulletin, 2007; Mining Journal, 2007e). The
International Finance Corporation (IFC) approved an additional
$30 million investment to maintain the 5% interest it acquired
in the project in 2006. The IFC planned to continue to fund
exploration and feasibility studies for the project (International
Finance Corporation, 2007).

Industrial Minerals

Diamond.—West African Diamonds plc (WAD) (formerly
African Diamonds plc; WAD was demerged and listed
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2008, which would include a ground geophysical survey (West
African Diamonds, 2007a; 2007b, p. 4, 6-7, 9-10).

In June, Canada-based Mano River Resources Inc. and
SearchGold Resources Inc. announced the creation of Stellar
Diamonds Ltd. to take over 100% of Mano River’s Guinea,
Liberia, and Sierra Leone interests, and 50% of SearchGold’s
interest in Guinean Diamond Corporation Ltd., which held the Bouro/Mandala alluvial project. Stellar also signed an agreement with South Africa-based De Beers Group to access their regional Guinea database (SearchGold Resources Inc., 2007).

**Mineral Fuels and Related Materials**

**Petroleum.**—Guinea did not produce or refine petroleum and was dependent upon imports for its petroleum requirements. Hyperdynamics continued to explore for petroleum offshore Guinea. On August 22, 2007, the company announced the details of its 2007 work program, which included the acquisition and analysis of aeromagnetic and gravity survey data; the study of additional two-dimensional (2-D) seismic survey data; and the acquisition and analysis of onshore oil seeps. The company also acquired about 5,000 km of proprietary 2-D seismic data from previous exploration programs that took place in 2002 and 2003. The 2007 program was aimed at identifying and confirming hydrocarbon plays and leads with the ultimate goal of defining drillable prospects (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 2007). Hyperdynamics’ offshore exploration contract was under review by the Government.

**Uranium.**—Australia-based Murchison United NL continued to develop its portfolio of uranium exploration projects in Guinea. The company announced the completion of a 2,050-meter reverse-circulation drilling program for the Firawa prospect in June 2007 and subsequently announced assay results for the prospect in September 2007. These results confirmed uranium mineralization across a prospective 2-km section of a previously identified 5-km uranium anomaly. The company planned to conduct an additional 20,000-meter diamond-drilling program for the Firawa prospect in early 2008, to begin a drilling program for the Bohodou prospect, and to establish an office in Kissidougou from which its exploration programs would be managed (Murchison United NL, 2007a-c). Following Murchison’s announcements, the Government announced that it would start talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding a nuclear program in an attempt to seek a nuclear solution to the country’s electricity shortages (Reuters, 2007a).

Perth-based Nova Energy Ltd., which in 2006 held two exploration licenses in northern Guinea, was acquired by Australian-based Toro Energy Ltd. in August 2007. The merger of these two companies was underway during the fourth quarter of 2007 and no announcements concerning the progress of its Guinea uranium interests were made as of yearend (Toro Energy Ltd., 2007).

**Outlook**

Guinea’s economy is likely to benefit from expansions in the bauxite sector and from new mining developments scheduled to take place between 2009 and 2012, in addition to investments in infrastructure over the next 5 to 8 years. The Government estimated that such development projects could bring in about $27 billion in investments to the country beginning in 2008.

References Cited

Cassidy Gold Corp., 2007b, Indicated resources increase 38% at Cassidy Gold’s Kouroussa project: Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada, Cassidy Gold Corp. press release, November 8, 3 p.
Mining Journal, 2007c, Guinea strike escalates: London, United Kingdom, Mining Journal, January 19, p. 3.
TABLE 1
GUINEA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES1

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumina:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrate</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcined</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipments, calcined</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bauxite:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine production:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet basis</td>
<td>17,044</td>
<td>17,200</td>
<td>16,817</td>
<td>18,784</td>
<td>18,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry basis</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,254</td>
<td>14,600</td>
<td>16,300</td>
<td>16,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipments (dry basis):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metallurgical</td>
<td>13,939</td>
<td>14,100</td>
<td>14,100</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cement</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>1,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>16,622</td>
<td>11,100</td>
<td>25,097</td>
<td>16,922</td>
<td>15,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. 2Preliminary. 3Revised. NA not available. -- Zero.

1Table includes data available through September 2008.

1In addition to the commodities listed, Guinea produced modest quantities of crude construction materials (clays, sand and gravel, and stone), but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

1Reported figure.

1Metallurgical ore plus calcinable ore estimated to be 13% water.

1Data are for wet-basis ore estimated to be 13% water reduced to dry basis estimated to be 3% water.

1Production is approximately 70% to 80% gem quality.

1Figures include artisanal production.
## TABLE 2

**GUINEA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2007**

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alumina</strong></td>
<td>Alumina Company of Guinea (United Company RUSAL, 100%)</td>
<td>Friguia plan, Fria</td>
<td>640,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bauxite</strong></td>
<td>Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée (CBG) [Government, 49%, and Halco Mining Inc., 51% (Halco Mining was a consortium formed by Alcoa Inc., 45%; Alcan Inc., 45%; and Dadco Group, 10%)]</td>
<td>Kamsar and Sangaredi</td>
<td>14,000,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Compagnie des Bauxites de Kindia (CBK) (United Company RUSAL, 100%)</td>
<td>Debele Mine, Kindia</td>
<td>3,000,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Alumina Company of Guinea (United Company RUSAL, 100%)</td>
<td>Friguia Mine, Fria</td>
<td>2,800,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cement</strong></td>
<td>Ciments de Guinée (Holcim Ltd., 51%, and Government, 44%)</td>
<td>Conakry plant</td>
<td>360,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diamond</strong></td>
<td>Aredor-First City Mining Company (Government, 15%, and Trivalence Mining Corp., 85%)</td>
<td>Aredor Mine</td>
<td>38,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>do. Artisanal miners</td>
<td>Mainly in Banankoro</td>
<td>700,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold</strong></td>
<td>Crew Gold Corp.</td>
<td>Lefa Mine</td>
<td>172,000 ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Société Ashanti de Guinée (Anglogold Ashanti Ltd., 85%, and Government, 15%)</td>
<td>Siguiri Mine</td>
<td>9,000,000 ore; 10,300 kilograms of gold.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Société Minière de Dinguiraye (Guinor, 85%, and Government, 15%)</td>
<td>Lero-Karta Mine</td>
<td>1,100,000 ore; 3,500 kilograms of gold.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Société d'Exploitation Minière d'Afrique de l'Ouest Guinée (Semafo Inc., 85%, and Government, 15%)</td>
<td>Kiniero Mine</td>
<td>400,000 ore; 1,700 kilograms of gold.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do., do.</td>
<td>Ditto.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>