

**MINERAL AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC  
OF GUYANA**

**WITH**

**GUYANA GEOLOGY AND MINES  
COMMISSION**

**- AND -**

**REUNION MANGANESE INC.**

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THIS MINERAL AGREEMENT is made as of March 14, 2011, with effect as of the same day

BY AND BETWEEN:

THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA, a Sovereign State organized in such territory, on such principles and according to such rules as are described in the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana proclaimed into operation as of October 6, 1980,

(hereinafter referred to as "GoG" or the "Government") together with,

THE GUYANA GEOLOGY AND MINES COMMISSION, an agency of the Government and a body corporate duly established under the Geology and Mines Commission Act 1979 (Guyana), as amended, and duly authorized by its Board ("the Commission"),

represented herein by the Prime Minister Hon. S.A.A. Hinds, (hereinafter referred to as the party of the first part

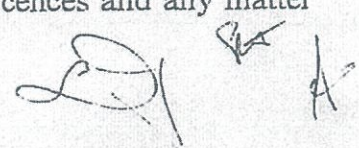
AND:

REUNION MANGANESE INC., a company incorporated in Guyana under the Companies Act 1991, having its registered office at Roraima Tower, Ogle International Airport, East Coast Demerara, Guyana represented herein by the Executive Chairman;

(hereinafter referred to as the ("Company") the party of the second part.

WHEREAS:

- A. The Company has been active in the manganese prospecting industry in Guyana;
- B. The Company holds various mineral rights and interests to explore for and exploit manganese in or around Matthews Ridge and Pipiani in Guyana (the "Prospecting Licences" as defined in this Agreement);
- C. The Company has been incorporated under the Companies Act 1991 on April 12, 2010;
- D. Upon completion of a Feasibility Study, EIA and EMP and acceptance of these by the Commission, the Company will have satisfied all the prerequisites for the issue of a Mining Licence which are set forth in Section 46 of the Mining Act, provided that a Mining Licence may contain provisions relating to such matters as the Commission may determine for the purposes of the Mining Act as provided in Section 47(1)(b) of the Mining Act;
- E. Section 19 of the Mining Act authorizes the Commission, with the approval of the Minister under the Mining Act, to enter into a mineral agreement (not inconsistent with the Mining Act) with respect to the matters enumerated in Section 19 thereof and, in particular, with respect to the granting of prospecting or mining licences and any matter incidental thereto or connected therewith; and



F. GoG deemed it appropriate to provide for the making of such lawful Orders and administrative acts by such Ministers, Government Authorities and the giving of such undertakings by GoG in respect of such matters as are hereinafter described.

NOW, THEREFORE, with a view to ensuring the efficient, effective and orderly operations and mining exploitation of manganese as more particularly detailed hereinafter, for the greater benefit of the people of Guyana, its Government and the shareholders and employees of the Company and its Affiliates, the Parties hereby formally agree as follows:

## 1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 **Definitions:** In addition to terms defined elsewhere in this Agreement (including in the above preamble) and unless otherwise required or indicated by the context, the following terms shall respectively have the following meanings:

“Act” means any written law of Guyana made in the manner prescribed by Article 170 of the Constitution and any other act as defined in the Interpretation Act.

“Affiliate” means, in relation to a Party, a body corporate:

- (i) which is directly or indirectly controlled by such Party; or
- (ii) which directly or indirectly controls such Party; or
- (iii) which is, directly or indirectly, controlled by a company or corporation that also, directly or indirectly controls such Party.

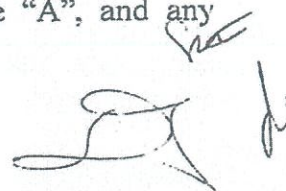
For the purpose of this definition, “control” of a body corporate means the power to direct, administer and dictate policies of such body corporate, it being understood and agreed that control of a body corporate can be exercised without direct or indirect ownership of fifty percent (50%) or more of its voting shares, provided always that direct or indirect control of fifty percent or more of such voting shares shall be deemed to be effective control.

“Agreement”, “hereby”, “herein” “hereof” “hereto” and “hereunder” and similar expressions refer to in this Agreement as the same may be amended from time to time, and not to any part or other provision hereof.

“Applicable Law”, means any and all Acts (including Subsidiary Legislation), laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances, rules, guidelines, policies, notices, Orders and directions or other requirements of any Government Authority applicable to the Parties, this Agreement and the transactions set forth herein, the Company, the Prospecting Licences, the Mining Licence, the Environmental Authorization, the Project or the Assets.

“Applied Tax Laws” shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in clause 9.7 hereof.

“Articles” means the Articles of Incorporation of the Company dated April 12, 2010, and its By-Laws dated August 10, 2010, and annexed hereto as Schedule “A”, and any amendments thereto.



“**Assets**” means, collectively, all assets, facilities, buildings, equipment and machinery to be acquired by the Company for the purposes of the Project.

“**Commencement of Commercial Production**” means the last day of the first period of 30 consecutive days (excluding days, if any, where Mining Operations are required to be suspended) during which Mining Operations have been conducted pursuant to the Mining Licence for the purpose of earning revenue, on a reasonably regular basis and at 60% or more of the rated capacity of the processing facilities forming part of the Project assets as established by the Feasibility Study provided that no period of time during which ore produced from Mining Operations is shipped from the Mining Area for testing purposes shall be taken into account in determining the date of Commencement of Commercial Production.

“**Commission**” means the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission and any successor thereto which is a body corporate or other agency of the Government; and “**Commissioner**” has the meaning ascribed to it in the GGMC Act.

“**Commissioner-General**” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in the Guyana Revenue Authority Act 1996.

“**Company**” means Reunion Manganese Inc. and any successor body corporate.

“**Constitution**” means the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana 1980, as amended.

“**Corrective Action**” shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in clause 15.5.

“**Development**” means all work that may reasonably be required in connection with the preparation of a Mine, or any portion thereof, for the conduct of Mining including, but not limited to, the construction and installation of facilities and the procurement of materials, tools, equipment and supplies.

“**Effective Date**” shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in clause 18.1 hereof.

“**EIA**” means the Environmental Impact Assessment to be prepared by a competent company on behalf of and at the request of the Company, which EIA will describe the anticipated impact of Operations on various aspects of the environment in Guyana and shall be filed with the Commission.

“**EMP**” means the Environment Management Plan to be prepared by or on behalf of the Company and to be filed with the Commission and is subject to acceptance by the Commission.

“**Environmental Authorization**” means the Environmental Authorization to be obtained by the Company from the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the 1996 Guyana Environmental Protection Act.

“**Exempted Tax Laws**” shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in clause 9.14.

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“Expatriate”, “Expatriate Employee” and “Expatriate Personnel” shall respectively have the meanings ascribed thereto in clause 10.1.

“Exploration” means any activity performed with a view to determining the existence, location, quantity or quality of manganese ore in Guyana.

“Feasibility Study” means the feasibility study to be submitted to the Commission by the Company and subject to acceptance by the Commission as the Feasibility Study and will include the EIA.

“Force Majeure” shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in clause 4.3.4.

“Foreign Currency Account” shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in clause 7.3.

“GGMC Act” means the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission Act 1979 and includes any Subsidiary Legislation made pursuant thereto.

“Government” means the Government of Guyana.

“Government Authorities” means any present government or governmental, quasi-governmental, administrative, fiscal or judicial body, department, commission, authority, tribunal, agency or entity and any other authority delegated by Government under this Agreement.

“Guyana” means the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, a Sovereign State.

“Guyana Dollar” means the dollar as the lawful unit of currency in Guyana as set forth in the Bank of Guyana Act.

“Guyana Revenue Authority Act” means the Guyana Revenue Authority Act 1996 and any subsidiary legislation made thereunder.

“Interpretation Act” means the Interpretation and General Clauses Act, CAP 2:01 of the laws of Guyana.

“LIBOR”, in respect of any day, means the annual rate of interest commonly referred to as the London Interbank Offered Rate and published from time to time in the Financial Times of London (or, failing such publication, in any other publication of general circulation) as the reference rate of interest for U.S. Dollar loans between or among banks which are due in 60 days and, in respect of any month or part thereof, means the LIBOR on the first business day of such month.

“Liens” means any mortgage, pledge, security interest, encumbrance, lien, charge of any kind or any other preferential arrangement in the nature of an encumbrance or security interest, including, without limitation, any agreement to give any of the foregoing, any conditional sale or title retention agreement and any lease in the nature thereof.

“Manganese” for the purpose of this agreement “Manganese” shall mean the element Manganese and any commercial manganese product derived from the operation.

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**“Material Adverse Event”** means any change, event, or effect that is materially adverse to the general affairs, business, operations, assets, liabilities, condition (financial or otherwise) or results of operations or prospects of any corporate entity or group of assets taken as a whole. The following shall not be taken into account in determining a Material Adverse Event that shall have occurred after the execution hereof: any adverse change, event, or effect that is directly attributable to (i) conditions affecting the Guyana economy generally, or (ii) conditions affecting the manganese industry generally.

**“Mine”** means any deposit of manganese located within the Mining Area, including those deposits described in the Feasibility Study, and all facilities constructed or established with a view to exploiting manganese from such deposit and includes without limitation, all moveable and immovable property, tangible and intangible, owned, possessed, used or controlled by the Company in or in respect of the Mining Area, including the Mining Licence and the Environmental Authorization

**“Mining”** includes the mining, extracting, processing, milling, smelting, beneficiation, storing, handling, delivering and disposition of manganese including any other activity incidental thereto that may reasonably be required in connection therewith including, without limitation, the procurement of machinery, equipment, materials and supplies.

**“Mining Act”** means the Mining Act 1989 and includes any Subsidiary Legislation made pursuant thereto.

**“Mining Area”** means, collectively, the parcels of land to be covered by the Mining Licence and, when such term is used in any context subsequent to the Effective Date, also means any further parcels of land granted to or acquired by the Company to be covered by the aforementioned Mining Licence or any additional Mining Licences.

**“Mining Licence”** means any Mining Licence granted to the Company pursuant to this Agreement and the Mining Act, as referred to in clause 4.1.

**“Mining Licence Grant Date”** means the date on which the Mining Licence is granted to the Company in accordance with the provisions of the Mining Act and any other Applicable Laws.

**“Mining Operations”** means all Operations that are undertaken and occur after the Mining Licence Grant Date.

**“Minister”**, when used in conjunction with the short title of any Act or Subsidiary Legislation or in conjunction with any other subject matter, means the Minister under the Constitution and to whom responsibility for the subject matter of such Act or Subsidiary Legislation or for such subject matter generally has been assigned by the President or otherwise under the Laws of Guyana the whole as certified by the Prime Minister in writing.

**“National Assembly”** shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in the Constitution.

**“Negative Effect”** shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in clause 15.5.

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“**Official Books**” shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in clause 9.10.

“**Operations**” means all or any of Exploration, Development and Mining and any other act, including acts of administration and management, performed by or on behalf of the Company pursuant to this Agreement and for the Project’s purposes.

“**Order**” means any Subsidiary Legislation made under or by virtue of any Act and described therein as an order.

“**Party**” means a party to this Agreement and “**Parties**” means the parties to this Agreement collectively.

“**Person**” shall be interpreted broadly and shall include any individual, body corporate, sovereign state, government agency, body or commission, partnership, trust and unincorporated association.

“**President**” means the President of Guyana as such office is described in the Constitution and “**Prime Minister**” means the Prime Minister of Guyana as such office is described in the Constitution.

“**Project**” means Operations to be undertaken and carried out pursuant to the Prospecting Licences, the Feasibility Study, the Mining Licence, the Environmental Authorization and this Agreement and any Schedule thereof.

“**Prospecting Area**” means, collectively, the parcels of land covered by the Prospecting Licences and, when such term is used in any context subsequent to the Effective Date, also means any further parcels of land granted to or acquired by the Company to be covered by the aforementioned Prospecting Licences or any additional Prospecting Licences.

“**Prospecting Licences**” means those four Prospecting Licences more particularly described in Schedule “B” to this Agreement and includes any additional Prospecting Licence that may be granted to the Company during the term hereof.

“**Schedule**” means a schedule annexed to this Agreement.

“**Subsidiary Legislation**” shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 5(1) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act.

“**Unilateral Action**” shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in clause 15.5.

“**U.S. Dollar**” means the dollar which is the lawful unit of currency under the laws of the United States of America.

“**U.S. Dollar Books**” shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in clause 9.10.

“**WMP**” means the Waste Management Plan to be prepared and included in the EIA to be prepared by or on behalf of the Company and filed with the Commission.

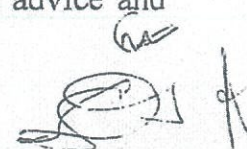




- 1.2 Terms not defined in clause 1.1 hereof but which are defined elsewhere in this Agreement shall, unless otherwise specified or required by the context, have such defined meaning wherever used in the Agreement.
- 1.3 Capitalized letters are used in defined terms in this Agreement for convenience of reference only, and the inadvertent or other failure to use capital letters in a defined term shall not affect the interpretation thereof.
- 1.4 Unless otherwise specified or required by the context, the use of the singular form in this Agreement shall include a corresponding reference to the plural form and use of the masculine gender shall include a corresponding reference to the feminine and neuter genders. Other grammatical variations and cognate expressions of any defined terms shall likewise be deemed to have a corresponding meaning.
- 1.5 A reference to a specified article and clause shall, unless otherwise specified or required by the context, be construed as a reference to the relevant article and clause of this Agreement.
- 1.6 A reference or apparent reference by name to any legislation in the Agreement shall, unless otherwise specified, be interpreted as a reference to the written law of Guyana having the corresponding short title or name.
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- 1.7 A reference to an Act in this Agreement includes, unless otherwise specified or required by the context, a reference to any Subsidiary Legislation made thereunder.
- 1.8 In this Agreement, a covenant or an undertaking to perform a specified act or to perform an act for the attainment of a specified objective shall be deemed to include a covenant or an undertaking, as applicable, not to perform or to omit to perform such act as would be inconsistent with the performance of such first mentioned act or the attainment of such first mentioned objective.
- 1.9 The Parties hereby agree that the recital of events leading up to the execution of this Agreement as set forth in the above preamble is true, correct and accurate in all material respects.
- 1.10 Unless defined herein or unless otherwise indicated by the context, definitions of terms set forth in such laws of Guyana as are relevant to the subject matter hereof shall apply in the interpretation of corresponding terms used in this Agreement.

## **2. NATURE OF AGREEMENT**

- 2.1 This Agreement was negotiated and is entered into by and between GoG together with the Commission and the Company to determine and specify the provisions, terms and conditions pursuant to which GoG and the Company agree that the Project shall be carried out, mineral rights be granted and Operations conducted. The Parties hereby acknowledge that this Agreement has been negotiated and executed on the advice and with the consent of the most senior representatives of each of the Parties.

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- 2.2 This Agreement shall be construed, to the fullest extent required, so as to ensure the validity of each provision hereof and the due and punctual exercise of rights and performance of obligations in accordance with its terms.
- 2.3 To the extent that this Agreement relates to such matters as are described in Section 19 of the Mining Act, this Agreement is a “Mineral Agreement” within the meaning of such term in the Mining Act. To the extent necessary or desirable to give full force and effect hereto in accordance with its terms, this Agreement is an agreement between GoG as a sovereign State together with the Commission as a Government entity and the Company.
- 2.4 The Parties hereby affirm their intention that substantive effect be given to this Agreement to the fullest extent possible in accordance with its terms and in accordance with the foregoing rules and that defects in form, procedure or process shall be waived to the fullest extent required in favour of giving substantive effect to the terms hereof.

### 3. THE COMPANY, REPORTING OBLIGATIONS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- 3.1 The Parties hereby acknowledge that the Company has been duly incorporated under the Companies Act 1991 of Guyana as amended, a true copy of its Articles being annexed hereto as Schedule “A”. The financial year end of the Company is currently March 31.

3.2 The Company shall be entitled to declare and pay dividends pursuant to its Articles during the term of this Agreement. The Parties hereby acknowledge that the Company may, if it deems appropriate, amend its Articles to allow for the issuance of preference shares of the Company denominated in U.S. Dollars, subject to the Company obtaining the necessary authorization from the Minister responsible for finance, if required. The Company may also amend its Articles to denominate its ordinary shares in U.S. dollars.

3.3 The Company shall give access to the GoG and the Commission to all data, maps and other information and submit to the GoG and the Commission such data, maps and other information as shall be requested by the Commission with respect to the Project in a timely manner. In particular, the Company shall comply with the following undertakings of this clause 3.3.

3.3.1 During the term of this Agreement, and subject to a Mining Licence having been granted to the Company pursuant to this Agreement, the Company shall, within 90 days after the end of each financial year, file an annual report on a confidential basis with the Commission with a copy to the Government (c/o the Minister under the Mining Act) which shall contain such information as is generally required to be set forth in annual reports relating to projects similar in nature to the Project in the North America mining industry. In particular the report shall contain information on the following matters:

- (a) complete and accurate production statistics, including information on the grade and quality of manganese mined, and copies of maps, profiles, diagrams and geological reports;

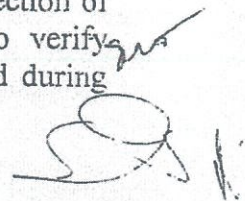
- (b) marketing information, including copies of short and long term contracts, and information on customers, marketing conditions, developments in world market prices and refining conditions;
- (c) complete and systematic records showing fully and fairly all costs and revenues including income statements, tax payments, duty payments, foreign exchange transactions and budget plans;
- (d) importing information, including the quantity, source and price paid for items imported with reference to used and new items;
- (e) information regarding the disposal of equipment including re-exports;
- (f) employment information, including a breakdown of the Guyanization of the Project labor force according to the various categories of employees;
- (g) information on construction activities if any;
- (h) information on the purchase of supplies and services from local and foreign sources, including historical information from the Mining Licence Grant Date together with the information described in clause 6.2;
- (i) information regarding environmental management;
- (j) information and statistics regarding occupational health and safety and work-related accidents and injuries; and
- (k) such other information with respect to the Project as the Government or the Commission may reasonably require.

3.3.2 Subject to a Mining Licence having been granted to the Company pursuant to this Agreement, the Company shall thereafter submit an annual report on transactions with its Affiliates relating directly or indirectly to the Project. This report shall include information on sales, purchasing, subcontracting, transfer of technology and marketing and all other relevant transactions. The report shall also set forth all remuneration paid by the Company to employees, directors and their families or shareholders of the Company and to the Company and its Affiliates. The report shall cover all remuneration of a direct or indirect nature including loans or payments in cash or in kind and any other like transaction.

3.3.3 The Company shall maintain its books of accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles enunciated from time to time by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

3.3.4 The Company shall maintain reasonably detailed records relating to the Project, including production reports, field data, drilling reports, assay reports and other related reports.

3.3.5 The Commission may, at any time upon 48 hours written notice, at its own expense and with or without the assistance of experts, carry out an inspection of the books of account, records and reports of the Company and to verify information received, provided that such inspections shall be conducted during



normal business hours and shall not unduly interfere with the performance of Operations.

3.3.6 Within 180 days of the end of its financial year, the Company shall file with the Commission audited statements of account relating to its Mining Operations during the previous financial year. The audit shall be performed by a firm of independent chartered accountants selected by the Company. If, at any time, the Commission has reasonable grounds to question the information supplied by the Company, it shall be entitled to organize a special audit by an accounting firm of international standing at its own expense. Should this special audit indicate that the information submitted by the Company is substantially incorrect in one or more material particulars, then the Company shall bear the expenses of such audit.

3.3.7 The Company shall, within 60 days of the end of each calendar quarter, file with the Commission reports of all reasonably available information relating to Mining including raw and processed analytical data, assay data, drill data and other field data and statistical data as well as quarterly returns of production, sales and shipments of minerals from the Mining Area and a statement of minerals in stockpiles held by the Company.

3.3.8 Should, at any time, the Company, as a result of its own gross negligence, submit information in any report mentioned in the various provisions of this clause 3.3 which is substantially incorrect in respect of one or more material items and if, as a result of the submitting of such false information, GoG has foregone revenue which can be quantified in monetary terms, the Company shall be liable to pay the Government an amount not exceeding twice the amount of such foregone revenue. Any sum paid hereunder is a reasonable estimate of the loss suffered by the Government or Commission as a result of the aforementioned acts or omissions of the Company. Where GoG has foregone revenues for reasons attributable to incorrect information supplied by the Company other than as a result of gross negligence on the part of the Company, the GoG, shall be entitled to recover the amount foregone plus interest of two percent (2%) above LIBOR on such amount from the date due until payment thereof. Under other circumstances, the Company may be liable to pay damages to GoG resulting directly from a breach by the Company of its obligations under the various provisions of this clause 3.3, as determined by the decision of an arbitral tribunal in accordance with article 17 or as agreed among the Company and GoG. Subject to compliance by the Company with the foregoing liability, the failure by the Company to comply with its obligations under the various provisions of this clause 3.3 shall not constitute grounds for terminating the Mining Licence, the Environmental Authorization, any other permit or authorization granted by a Government Authority, if applicable, or this Agreement.

3.4 The Parties shall be deemed to be joint owners of all information described in clause 3.3 hereof. The Parties shall treat all such information as confidential and shall not disclose any such information to third parties during the term of this Agreement and for a period of two years thereafter without the prior written consent of the other Parties, such consent



not to be unreasonably withheld. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the provisions of this clause 3.4 shall not apply in the following circumstances:

- (a) in the case of a disclosure (i) by the Company or its Affiliates to banks or other financial institutions in connection with the financing of the Project or Operations, or (ii) by the Government to multilateral financial and aid organizations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Canadian International Development Agency; or
- (b) in the case of a disclosure by any Party to Affiliates, consultants, professional advisors and sub-contractors to the extent required for the purpose of executing the Project or in connection therewith; or
- (c) to the extent required by any applicable law or the regulations of any securities commission or other like regulatory body having jurisdiction or of any stock exchange upon which the securities of the Company or its Affiliates are listed; or
- (d) as part of statistical and annual reports of a general nature published by the Government or the Commission, provided that no information so disclosed shall relate to the Project specifically or directly; or
- (e) in the case of information relating to any portion of the Mining Area which may ~~be relinquished by the Company during the term of this Agreement; or~~
- (f) in the case of information which enters the public domain otherwise than by the breach of an obligation of confidentiality hereunder.

Information disclosed to third parties as permitted in clauses 3.4(a) and (b) above shall be disclosed on such terms as shall require the recipient to undertake to be bound by the obligations of confidentiality described herein. Each Party shall promptly give notice to the other Party of any disclosure made as permitted hereunder.

3.5 Notwithstanding clauses 3.3 and 3.4, the Parties shall not be required to disclose the details of any patented or other proprietary method or process by which any results, information or conclusions have been obtained by the Company.

#### 4. MINING LICENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND FORCE MAJEURE

4.1 GoG hereby agrees and undertakes to grant and issue the Mining Licence to the Company and to make the Mining Area available to the Company for the conduct of Operations, the whole in accordance with the Mining Act and Subsidiary Legislation thereunder, upon satisfaction by the Company of the applicable conditions, including the filing of a Feasibility Study, EIA and EMP with GoG and the Commission and their acceptance of same.

4.2 Upon GoG and the Commission having reviewed the Feasibility Study (and the EIA) and having approved and accepted same as the basis for the due carrying out of the Project by the Company, GoG and the Commission hereby undertake to perform all such acts as may be within the purview of their respective powers and authorities to authorize the due

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implementation of all Operations and other activities as contemplated in the Feasibility Study (and the EIA) and in this Agreement. Subject to the foregoing, and subject to the provisions of this Agreement and any Schedule, neither the Commission nor the Government shall incur any liability to the Company by reason only of the approval of the Feasibility Study, including the EIA. Likewise, nothing in this clause 4.2 shall be interpreted as requiring the Government or the Commission to invest any Government or Commission funds in the Project or to give indirect financial support to the Project by way of tax reductions, exemptions from laws or otherwise except for the fiscal and other concessions and exemptions herein agreed to be granted.

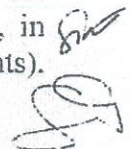
4.3 The Commission and GoG hereby undertake, in the exercise of powers conferred by Sections 19 and 134 of the Mining Act, to exercise discretionary powers under the Mining Act and Subsidiary Legislation thereunder in accordance with the following provisions.

4.3.1 Subject to Section 50(2) of the Mining Act, GoG shall approve and the Commission shall grant a renewal of any Mining Licence granted to the Company under Section 50 of the Mining Act upon receipt of application therefor by the Company pursuant to Section 49 of said Act on such terms and subject to such conditions as shall be set forth in the Mining Licence, or with such revised terms and conditions as may be necessary due to changes in circumstances.

4.3.2 The Commission shall grant good faith application by the Company under Section 48(3) of the Mining Act for the extension of the scope of any Mining Licence to cover such additional minerals on the terms specified in the application, provided, however, that the Commission may impose additional terms and conditions as applicable under the Mining Act for such additional minerals. GoG hereby agrees and undertakes to see that, during the currency of the Mining Licence, the Commission shall not grant any rights to explore for develop or exploit minerals that are covered by the Mining Licence to any Person other than the Company or an Affiliate thereof, in respect of any lands located within the Mining Area.

4.3.3 The obligations of the Company to carry on operations under the Mining Licence and this Agreement or to perform any other obligations hereunder (except any obligations set forth hereunder relating to the disposal of assets by the Company) or pursuant to any Schedule shall be suspended to the extent that such performance is prevented or constrained by the occurrence of an event of Force Majeure (as described below in clause 4.3.4) and shall remain suspended so long as the effects of such event of Force Majeure shall continue, provided that such occurrence shall not be deemed to suspend any obligations to pay a sum of money that is otherwise due and payable, and provided further that the Company shall, during any such period, take all reasonable measures within a reasonable time with a view to overcoming or terminating such Force Majeure event and performing its obligations hereunder.

4.3.4 For the purpose of this Agreement and as permitted by Section 53(1) of the Mining Act, the Parties hereby agree that "Force Majeure" shall include, in addition to any event described in such Section, acts of God (fortuitous events).



strikes, lockouts or other industrial and social disturbances (including sabotage) beyond the reasonable control of the Party affected and resulting in work stoppage or interruption, acts of the public enemy, international disputes affecting the Mining Area, wars (declared or undeclared), invasions, blockades, insurrections, riots, epidemics, malaria outbreaks of epidemic proportions, landslides, lightning, earthquakes, fires, storms, floods, washouts, arrests and restraints of Government and people, civil disturbances and explosions, quotas and other controls affecting the Parties and their suppliers and any other cause beyond reasonable control of the Party affected, but shall not include any event caused by a failure to observe good mining industry practice or by the negligence of the Company or any of its agents, employees or contractors.

4.3.5 In addition to the Company's right to suspend operations hereunder and under the Mining Licence by reason of Force Majeure, the Company may, at its own election, acting reasonably and, subject to its obligations under clause 4.3.6, suspend all or part of the Operations at any time during the currency of the Mining Licence, under circumstances which materially adversely affect the world manganese markets such that pursuing Operations is demonstrated to be uneconomic for the Company.

4.3.6 If the Company decides to suspend its operations under clauses 4.3.3 or 4.3.5, it shall promptly notify the Government (c/o Prime Minister) and the Commission to that effect, giving the particulars thereof and of its effect on the Company's ability to perform its obligations hereunder and the Company shall take all reasonable steps, if any, in the case of Force Majeure to remove or remedy the cause and effect of the Force Majeure described in the relevant notice insofar as it is reasonably able so to do and as soon as possible; provided that the terms of settlement of any labour disturbance or dispute, strike or lockout shall be wholly in the discretion of the Company, and the Company shall not be required to accede to the demands of its opponents in any such labour disturbance or dispute, strike, or lockout solely to remedy or remove the Force Majeure thereby constituted. Where the Company has given notice of suspension of Operations under clauses 4.3.3 or 4.3.5, it shall promptly notify the Government (c/o Prime Minister) and the Commission when the circumstances giving rise to suspension under clauses 4.3.3 or 4.3.5 have ceased to be in effect. The Parties shall meet as appropriate to discuss in good faith the consequences of any Force Majeure event and the course of action to be adopted in the circumstances.

4.3.7 The suspension of operations by the Company under clauses 4.3.3 or 4.3.5 hereof shall not have the effect of suspending the Company's obligation to pay such fees and land rentals as shall be specified in the Mining Licence.

4.3.8 The term of this Agreement and of the Mining Licence when granted shall, provided that the Company shall have complied with the provisions of clauses 4.3.3 and 18.2, be extended by such period as is equal to the period during which Operations shall have been suspended for any of the reasons set forth in clauses 4.3.4 or 4.3.5, and the consent of the Commission as well as the approval of the Minister are hereby granted in respect of such extension. However, in the

event of a suspension of Operations by the Company other than for any of the foregoing reasons, the Commission may, but shall not be required to, extend the term of the Mining Licence accordingly.

4.3.9 GoG shall not cause the Commission to cancel the Mining Licence pursuant to the Mining Act or in connection with the existence of any ground for such cancellation as is described therein. The Commission and the Government hereby agree that issues regarding the cancellation of the Mining Licence and this Agreement shall be governed exclusively by this Agreement and, in particular, by the provisions of article 16.

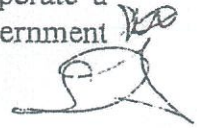
4.3.10 GoG hereby agrees to cause the Minister under the Mining Act to issue an Order under Section 134 of such Act exempting the Company from the application of such Act to the extent required to give effect to the provisions of this Agreement, and the Mining Licence.

## 5. USE AND ACQUISITION OF LANDS WITHIN THE MINING AREA

5.1 As of the Effective Date, the Company shall have the right (subject to affected parties' right to a fair and reasonable compensation under the Mining Act) to make use of, ~~construct, improve, maintain and acquire, as applicable, the following public and private~~ parcels of land and properties in Guyana for Project purposes: (i) public roads and waterways between Matthews Ridge, Port Kaituma and the Atlantic Ocean; (ii) rail, port, pipelines and other infrastructures in and around Matthews Ridge and Port Kaituma, including but not limited to rail, former mine, road and related facilities between Matthews Ridge and Port Kaituma; and (iii) roads on state lands (within the Prospecting Area and the Mining Area) to be used primarily for Project purposes, subject to Company-controlled access for other public users.

5.2 In connection with the Company's rights under clause 5.1, GoG hereby agrees and undertakes to cause the relevant Government Authorities with jurisdiction to do the following:

- (a) grant, on an expedited basis, to the Company all relevant legal rights to improve and develop rail, port, pipelines and other infrastructures referred to in clause 5.1;
- (b) grant, on an expedited basis, to the Company and its contractors all relevant legal rights to use any and all of the country's routes, either by land, water or air, and related facilities (including any harbour, dock, airstrip, airport, etc.) to access the areas covered by the Prospecting Licences and Mining Licence;
- (c) authorize the Company to conduct such surveys on the hydropower potential as the Company deems appropriate to exercise its rights under the Prospecting Licences and Mining Licence, as applicable, provided that this shall not be construed as a licence to operate a hydropower facility; the Company shall cooperate with GoG to ensure that any application for a licence to operate a hydropower facility will not contravene any existing agreements the Government has entered into with respect to the environment; and





- (d) issue a letter or other instrument under the Public Lands (Private Roads) Act (Laws of Guyana, CAP 62:03) or any other relevant Applicable Law granting such authorizations and permissions as may be necessary for such purposes, including the authorization to collect such toll as may be fixed under such permission for the purposes described in clause 5.1.

Nothing set forth in this clause 5.2(d) shall be interpreted as diminishing the scope of the undertakings given by GoG and the Commission elsewhere in this Agreement.

## 6. CONDUCT OF PROJECT OPERATIONS

- 6.1 The Company shall conduct Operations in a good workmanlike and responsible manner in accordance with good mining practices using standards applicable in the international manganese mining industry.
- 6.2 In Guyana, the Company shall give preference, to the maximum extent compatible with efficient Operations, to products and services produced and offered in Guyana, provided these are offered at competitive terms and conditions. Without prejudice to the rights granted to the Company under articles 8, 9 and 10, the Company shall give preference to Guyanese construction enterprises and to the use of buildings which can be constructed by using materials and skills available in Guyana, to the employment of Guyanese subcontractors for road construction and transportation and to the purchase of household products and furniture in Guyana. The Company shall also require its contractors and their subcontractors to follow these policies. Within 90 days after the end of each financial year of Operations, the Company shall, in accordance with clause 3.3.1(h), submit a report to the Government setting forth the relative percentages of foreign-sourced and Guyanese-sourced goods and services used by the Company, on measures taken to enhance the role of Guyanese-sourced goods and services in the Project and on measures to be implemented so as to improve such performance. The report will show the performance of the Company in connection with the contribution to the economic development of Guyana over the years. The Company shall constantly use all reasonable efforts to improve such performance.
- 6.3 The Company shall, to the extent feasible and acceptable in view of the rates and conditions available, maximize the use of vessels chartered in Guyana and other means of transportation available in Guyana. If necessary, the Company shall make joint arrangements with Guyanese firms for the transportation of its material needs.
- 6.4 The Company shall be allowed to use existing roads, but shall only be obligated to repair (or pay the cost of repair for) damages to roads, bridges and other transportation facilities caused by the abnormal use of such roads, bridges and other facilities by the Company.
- 6.5 The Company shall, subject to clauses 6.8 and 6.9, conduct all Mining Operations in compliance with the Environmental Authorization and Applicable Law relating to the protection of the natural environmental conditions of the Mining Area.
- 6.6 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Government reserves the right without liability to grant to qualified applicants rights-of-way for pipelines, power, telephone, telegraph and waterlines within the Prospecting Area and the Mining Area;

provided, however, that the Company be duly and timely notified of such intentions and that each such qualified applicant be required to make appropriate arrangements, including the payment of satisfactory compensation to the Company, to ensure that its installations shall not unduly interfere with, or result in any additional cost to Operations and other activities of the Company.

- 6.7 During Mining Operations and after the permanent shutdown of Mining Operations, the Company shall undertake the reclamation of the Mining Area to prevent soil erosion in accordance with the terms of the EIA, the EMP and the Environmental Authorization, once granted. The Company shall also ensure the safety of the area in accordance with standard international mining practice and the terms of the EIA, EMP and the Environmental Authorization.
- 6.8 Upon the Company having submitted and GoG having reviewed and having accepted and approved via the Commission the EIA, EMP and WMP, together with all provisions set forth in the Feasibility Study relating to environmental matters, the Company shall conduct Mining Operations substantially in accordance with the terms of the EIA, EMP and WMP and shall comply with Applicable Law and agreements, where so made, of the Government relating to environmental matters. GoG hereby confirms that substantial compliance with the ~~above-mentioned EIA, EMP, WMP and Feasibility Study~~ shall constitute compliance with Applicable Law relating to environmental matters which are in force at the time. GoG hereby agrees to take such Corrective Action (as defined in clause 15.5) as may be necessary to ensure that the Company shall not incur any cost, liability or obligation to the other Party and to any Person as a result of any failure to comply with this clause 6.8.
- 6.9 The Company shall be entitled to install, maintain and operate, for its own account and without third party intervention, telecommunications facilities and equipment in Guyana that cannot be provided by existing communication entities, for Project purposes, and, if required, GoG shall issue a licence to the Company under the Telecommunications Act 1990 for such purposes and shall cause the relevant Government Authorities to grant such permissions as may be necessary for such purposes.
- 6.10 The Company shall be entitled to employ, train and maintain armed security personnel in order to ensure the security of Persons and property within the Prospecting Area and the Mining Area. GoG shall assist the Company in:
- (a) the implementation of its security program and, in particular, shall facilitate the obtaining of all necessary permits for such purposes under the Firearms Act; and
  - (b) ensuring that the Prospecting Area, the Mining Area and the Assets shall not be accessible to the public (e.g. measures should be in place to see that no more garbage be allowed to be disposed of in the tailings area).

## 7. INITIAL FUNDING AND INVESTMENT INTO GUYANA


- 7.1 The Company and its Affiliates shall enjoy maximum flexibility in securing and structuring competitively priced financing, from whatever lawful source and subject to security interest in the shares in or assets of the Company, for

the purposes of investing in, or causing an investment to be made in, the Project. An outline of the projected financing terms for the Project shall be disclosed to the Government and the Commission in the Feasibility Study, and GoG and the Commission hereby agree to comply with any reasonable request to indicate specific acceptance of, and consent to, any financing structure elaborated in accordance with the Feasibility Study.

- 7.2 The Company hereby agree that the debt to equity ratio of the Company as and from the date of grant of the Mining Licence shall be negotiated in good faith and agreed upon between the Commission and the Private Parties from time to time, having regard for the Project's financing needs and the availability of such financing. For purposes of calculating such debt to equity ratio, (i) debt shall be defined as interest-bearing debt, and (ii) all shares of the Company shall be taken into account in calculating equity.
- 7.3 The Company shall be entitled to open and operate, with any financial institution outside Guyana, bank accounts and other like credit, deposit or banking arrangements in any unit of currency (including the U.S. Dollar and the Canadian Dollar) ("**Foreign Currency Accounts**") and to make deposits to and payments from these accounts, in accordance with the provisions hereinafter set forth.
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- 7.4 The following may be deposited into Foreign Currency Accounts.
- (a) funds invested or to be invested in the Company in connection with the conduct of Operations within and outside Guyana;
  - (b) proceeds from the sale of manganese and manganese products by the Company;
  - (c) any other gains or revenue; and
  - (d) any transfer of funds held in Guyana from time to time and not immediately required by the Company in Guyana for the conduct of Operations.
- 7.5 Withdrawals and payments which may be made from Foreign Currency Accounts shall include:
- (a) transfers of funds to meet expenses incurred by or on behalf of the Company in the conduct of its Operations, including any funds required to be converted into Guyana Dollars to meet expenses incurred in Guyana;
  - (b) the payment of fees and taxes payable under the Applicable Law of Guyana;
  - (c) the payment of interest on any funds borrowed by or on behalf of the Company;
  - (d) the distribution of dividends and after-tax profits to investors; and
  - (e) the repatriation of capital, asset replacement costs, loan payments and prepayments, and any other obligation reasonably incurred by or on behalf of the Company outside Guyana.
- 7.6 The Company shall be entitled to purchase Guyana Dollars from any authorized dealer (or, if no such dealer is authorized, able and willing to sell Guyana Dollars at the market rate of exchange, then from the Bank of Guyana) at any time and from time to time in

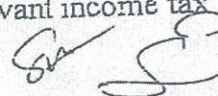
amounts sufficient to meet all expenses incurred by or on behalf of the Company in Guyana, including local operating expenses and fees payable to the Government (including corporate income taxes and withholding taxes on dividends, if any, which taxes shall be paid as and when owing in Guyana Dollars) or to the Commission and local working capital requirements. Guyana Dollars shall be purchased using U.S. Dollars, and the conversion rate applicable for such transactions shall be the market rate then available for the conversion of U.S. Dollars into Guyana Dollars. GoG hereby agrees to take such Corrective Action (as defined in clause 15.5) as may be necessary to ensure that any Unilateral Action (as defined in clause 15.5) shall not have the effect of preventing the Company from converting U.S. Dollars into Guyana Dollars at a rate of exchange that accurately reflects the relative international market values of such currencies.

## 8. IMPORTING PROPERTY INTO GUYANA

- 8.1 In conducting Operations, the Company, acting for its own account or for the account of any local or foreign contractor retained for Project purposes, shall be entitled to import free of customs duties, Value Added Tax and any other direct or indirect tax, all equipment, supplies and materials required for the Project. For greater certainty, the Company, whether acting for its own account or for the account of any local or foreign contractor retained for Project purposes, shall not be required to pay any licence, fees, duties or other charges relating to the importing of any vehicle to be used for the Project's purposes within Region 1 of Guyana. For greater clarity, if any vehicle, equipment or material brought in for the Company or its foreign contractors, is removed from Region 1 or is not used for the purposes of the Project, the owner of such vehicle, equipment, or material shall be liable to pay applicable duties and taxes.
- 8.2 The Company shall be entitled to import, free of customs duties, Value Added Tax and any other direct or indirect tax, all usual and necessary personal items and electronic and household effects that are not available in GoG and will be used solely for the Project's purposes. However, no goods brought into Guyana duty free shall be transferred or sold for use in Guyana without the written approval of the Commissioner General, who shall only authorize a transfer or sale to the Government or, with the Government's approval, to another Person.
- 8.3 GoG shall cause the proper public officers having jurisdiction to provide customs clearance facilities and personnel for the exclusive benefit of the Company in connection with the Project at a location designated by the Company within the Prospecting Area or the Mining Area, as applicable ("Customs Personnel"). The Company shall defray all reasonable expenses incurred by the Government in connection with the providing of such Customs Personnel.
- 8.4 GoG acknowledges that for the Company to effectively conduct its business, it is required to import on an expedited basis a significant amount of goods. GoG undertakes to ensure that the Company's goods will be treated on an expedited basis by Customs Personnel in accordance with customs clearance procedures including but not limited to the following:
- (e) inspecting the imported items and verifying same against an inventory listing thereof;
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- (b) verifying that the imported items are to be used exclusively for Project purposes;
  - (c) satisfying compliance with the import provisions of this Agreement and, subject to clause 8.2, with any applicable provisions of the Customs Act; and
  - (d) verifying and inspecting, subject to clause 12.2, exports of manganese and re-exports of imported items.
- 8.5 In the event of a sale of any imported goods within Guyana by the Company to a Person other than the Government hereunder, the Company shall be liable to pay customs and import duties and taxes on any equipment and supplies brought into Guyana under an exemption provided by this Agreement. The customs and import duties payable shall be calculated on the appraised value of such equipment and supplies at the time of sale.
- 8.6 The Company shall be entitled to re-export any property imported into Guyana pursuant to this article 8 on the same terms and with the same privileges and exemptions as are set forth in clause 12.1 but subject, in the case of a sale upon termination of this Agreement, to the provisions of article 18.

#### DUTIES, TAXATION, FEES, RENTS:

- 9.1 During the exploration and development phases, the Company shall not be liable to pay any taxes on supplies imported directly by the Company and acquired for the Project's purposes.
- 9.2 After commencement of commercial production, the Company shall pay an Excise Tax of 10% on diesel, gasoline, oil lubricants and other oils used in the operations.
- 9.3 The Company shall pay a royalty at the rate of 1.5% of gross revenue from the sale of Manganese product of any type. In the calculation of taxable income, the company shall be entitled to deduct the royalty paid in that year as an expense.
- 9.4 Should the Government enact any Act (including any Subsidiary Legislation) of general application prescribing a lower rate of royalty than that set forth in clause 9.3 and in the Mining Licence, the obligation to pay royalty herein and under the Mining Licence shall be reduced to such lower rate as is so prescribed.
- 9.5 Upon granting of the Mining Licence, the Company shall, in the manner and on the terms set forth in the Mining Licence, pay rent annually and in advance to the Commission in an amount in Guyana Dollars equal to U.S. \$5.00 per acre for each acre of land included in such portion of the Mining Area covered by the Mining Licence. Should GoG enact a written law (including Subsidiary Legislation) of general application prescribing a lower rent than that set forth herein and in the Mining Licence, the obligation to pay rent shall be reduced to such lower rent as is so prescribed.
- 9.6 Expatriate Employees, including employees of the Company and its foreign contractors, shall be entitled to repatriate their earnings subject to having paid all relevant income tax in Guyana.
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Where an Expatriate Employee is liable to pay income tax in Guyana on income earned in Guyana, he shall pay such income tax at the rate of tax prevailing for individuals under the Income Tax Act.

9.7 The Company shall pay income and corporate tax pursuant to the Income Tax Act and the Corporation Tax Act (collectively referred to herein as “Applied Tax Laws”) in accordance with the rules set forth in such Applied Tax Laws generally, but subject to the specific qualifications set forth hereinafter in the following clauses of this article 9 and provided that the corporate tax rate payable shall be the lesser of (i) 30% and (ii) the prevailing rate from time to time during this Agreement’s term.

9.8 The amount of income tax payable under the Applied Tax Laws as qualified by clause 9.7 hereof shall be calculated in accordance with the rules set forth in the Applied Tax Laws as they apply as of the Effective Date, to the exclusion of such rules less favorable to the taxpayer as may be enacted in the future. However, should any subsequent amendment to the Applied Tax Laws result in the enactment of any rule or rules regarding the calculation of taxes payable which are more favorable to the taxpayer than that which is or those which are in effect as of the Effective Date, the taxpayer shall be entitled to invoke such amended rule or rules for the purposes of calculating its tax liability hereunder.

9.9 Notwithstanding clause 9.6 hereof, the Company shall be entitled to apply the following rules in calculating its taxable income to the extent, if any, that such rules are inconsistent with the rules set forth in the Applied Tax Laws.

9.9.1 In respect of capital expenditures, the Company shall have the right to depreciate annually as of the Effective Date, twenty percent (20%) of the amount of such expenditures until they are completely written off. It is understood that the Company shall prove the cost of each item imported.

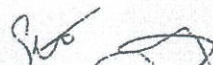
9.9.2 In respect of Mine Development expenditures, the Company shall have the right to deduct the full amount of expenditures incurred on stripping and other pre-production work, other than expenditures on shafts, main tunnels or underground haulage ways, in the year in which such expenditures are incurred.

9.9.3 For the purposes of this Agreement, “losses” in any year means the excess of all deductions permitted under this Agreement and the Applied Tax Laws over revenues in any year of assessment. Losses for any period may be carried forward and set off against chargeable income in the year or years following the year in which such losses were incurred until they are completely recovered.

9.9.4 Financial costs and interest on loans or advances contracted by the Company for its business needs from credit institutions shall be deductible for income tax purposes without limitations. Interest on shareholder loans shall be deductible provided the loans reflect international financial market rates.

9.9.5 Foreign head office expenses, within the meaning of Section 2 and of the last paragraph of Section 18 of the Income Tax Act, shall be deductible for income tax

purposes in an amount equal to 1% of the total sales or gross income generated in any year from Mining.

- 9.10 The Company shall maintain its books of account for tax reporting purposes in Guyana Dollars and shall, subject to the provisions of this clause 9.10, file its income tax returns in accordance with such books of account (the "Official Books"). The Company may also maintain books of account in U.S. Dollars (the "U.S. Dollar Books") and shall be entitled to revalue each Financial Statement Line Item (as defined below) as presented in its Official Books on a continual basis so that the value of such Financial Statement Line Items in the Official Books remains equal to the value of such Financial Statement Line Items in the U.S. Dollar Books. "Financial Statement Line Item" shall, for these purposes, include any line item which may be presented in a balance sheet, an income statement or a statement of changes in cash resources prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Canada.
- 9.11 The Company shall not be required to pay a greater amount of tax under the Applied Tax Laws as a result of calculating its taxes payable in accordance with the Official Books than it would have been required to pay had its taxes payable been calculated in accordance with the U.S. Dollar Books.
- 9.12 ~~Notwithstanding Section 49(8) of the Income Tax Act or any other provision of such Act~~ or of any other law of Guyana, GoG hereby confirms that the Commissioner General shall declare, pursuant to Section 49(10) of such Act, that gains or profits of any Person other than the Company, including (i) income, gains or profits of the Company's foreign shareholders, (ii) income, gains or profits of any Affiliate of the Company (other than a subsidiary of the Company), and (iii) income, gains or profits of any Person other than the Company earned or derived outside Guyana, shall not be taken into account in calculating the tax liability of the Company under Applicable Law of Guyana.
- 9.13 Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in the Applied Tax Laws or any other Applicable Law of Guyana, no withholding or other like taxes shall be payable by the Company on any interest on any loans made to the Company from any Person, and on dividends payments whatsoever. Likewise, no withholding tax shall be payable on payments made by or on behalf of the Company to business concerns outside Guyana for work performed in connection with the Project outside Guyana, without prejudice to the tax liability of such business concerns in Guyana for work performed in Guyana.
- 9.14 The Company shall, subject to clause 9.15, be liable to pay capital gains tax in accordance with the provisions of the Capital Gains Tax Act.
- 9.15 GoG hereby exempts the Company from the application of the following Acts (including Subsidiary Legislation) relating to taxation (collectively, the "Exempted Tax Laws"):
- (a) the provisions relating to Stamp Duty in the Tax Act;
  - (b) the Income Tax (In Aid of Industry) Act;
  - (c) the Property Tax Act; and
  - (d) the Industries Aid and Encouragement Act.
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GoG hereby represents and warrants that no Applicable Law of Guyana presently in force would, by its terms, have the effect of imposing a direct tax on the Company's foreign shareholders or any of its non-Guyanese Affiliates (i) by reason of its being a shareholder of the Company, or (ii) the beneficiary of an exemption under any Schedule, or (iii) in connection with any matter contemplated in the Agreement. For greater certainty, neither no foreign entity nor any Affiliate thereof shall be deemed or considered to be conducting business in Guyana by reason only of serving and carrying out its functions as manager of the Company.

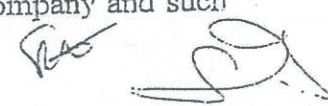
To the extent that any such Applicable Law would, by its terms, apply to the Foreign Party or any of its non-Guyanese Affiliates, GoG agrees to take such Corrective Action (as defined in clause 15.3) as may be necessary to offset any Negative Effect (as defined in clause 15.3) resulting from such application.

GoG hereby covenants and undertakes that, in the event of the imposition of any new or additional tax or other like charge, through the enactment of any new Applicable Law or the enactment of any amendment to an Applied Tax Law or to the Capital Gains Tax Act or otherwise, which imposition or change in rules for calculating same would result in an increase in the amount of taxes payable by the Company, the Government shall relieve the Company from the obligation to make such increased payment, and such relief shall be in an amount equal to the amount of the increased payment that would otherwise be required to be paid pursuant to such new or additional tax or other like charge.

9.16 Should a dispute arise in connection with any matter referred to in this article 9 or in connection with the application of any provision of any Applied Tax Law to the Company or any taxpayer referred to in this article 9, GoG shall ensure that no compulsory measures are taken against such taxpayer. The Government Tax Authority in Guyana normally having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute shall issue a written ruling setting forth detailed reasons in support thereof, and the taxpayer or taxpayers affected thereby shall be entitled to appeal such ruling in the manner provided in article 17, which appeal shall suspend execution of such ruling for all purposes until a final determination of the matter has been made in accordance with article 17. The taxpayer shall be entitled, but not required, to exhaust any statutory or administrative rights of appeal from such ruling under Applicable Law of Guyana. Prior to going to arbitration, the Company shall pay any taxes not in dispute.

## 10. IMMIGRATION AND EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL

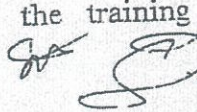
10.1 On the terms and subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth in this article 10 and in the next following article 11, the Company and its foreign contractors shall be entitled to employ such Persons who are not citizens of Guyana, to work in Guyana for the Project and related purposes ("Expatriate Personnel" or "Expatriate Employees") and permit such Expatriate Personnel and their dependents, as defined in the Immigration Act (collectively "Expatriates") to enter Guyana for such periods as the Company and such contractors shall determine.





- 10.2 The Company shall comply with the terms of the Immigration Act with respect to the employment of Expatriate Employees and the entry into Guyana of Expatriates. GoG shall perform all such acts within its powers and shall cause all such other acts to be performed which may be necessary or desirable to facilitate the employment and entry of Expatriates as contemplated in this article 10 and the processing of applications for visas and work permits.
- 10.3 The Company will as far as practicable ensure that Expatriates comply with all Applicable Law of Guyana, that they respect the national heritage and customs and that they not engage in any activities contravening Applicable Law of Guyana. It is also understood that contractual provisions allowing for the dismissal of contractors or employees for violation of Applicable Law of Guyana will be deemed sufficient to meet the Company's obligations pursuant to this clause 10.3, without prejudice to the criminal and civil liability of such employees or consultants and without prejudice to the provisions of clauses 15.3(a) and 15.3(b). The Company undertakes to provide a copy of its standard employment contract to the GOG.
- 10.4 Expatriate Employees shall be subject to such rules regarding personal income taxation as are set forth in article 9. Expatriates shall be subject to such rules regarding the importing of property into Guyana as are set forth in article 8.

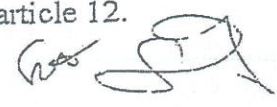
## 11. LABOUR MATTERS

- 11.1 The Company shall, in accordance with the provisions of this article 11, give preference to the employment of citizens of Guyana, at all levels of Operations to the extent and provided only that such Persons are available, qualified and equally suitable for such employment
- 11.2 The selection and hiring of personnel for Project purposes shall be within the absolute and exclusive purview of the Company. Where established, the Company shall consult with the local employment agency or such other organizations with a view to determining the availability of qualified and suitable citizens of Guyana for employment in the Project but shall not be bound by any recommendations of any such agency or organization.
- 11.3 As soon as practicable following the Mining Licence Grant Date, the Company shall prepare a detailed training programme for the Project's purposes with a view to ensuring the development of suitable and qualified Guyanese personnel at all levels of its operations. The training programme may include training in such skills as production, maintenance, finance, personnel management and international marketing, and may be effected through training courses, on-the-job training, scholarships and, if necessary, training at premises and operations maintained by the Company outside Guyana, provided that the Company shall collaborate with the Commission and the Government as far as practicable to see that all citizens of Guyana trained overseas pursuant to the training programme return to work in Guyana. The Company shall enlist the participation and cooperation of the Commission, the University of Guyana, and the Government and the Government Technical Institute in preparing and implementing the training programme.
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- 11.4 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Company shall be entitled to employ a minimum of five (5) Expatriate Employees at all times for the Project's Purposes and shall generally be entitled to have recourse to such mix of Expatriate Personnel and Guyanese personnel as contemplated in the Feasibility Study.
- 11.5 The Company shall, within 90 days after the end of each financial year, file with the Commission a report, in the manner described in clause 3.4.1(f), indicating progress achieved in the employment of citizens of Guyana for the Project's purposes, including, if the objectives referred to in clause 11.3 are not met, a description of positions not filled by citizens of Guyana, a description of the procedures employed for seeking out available, suitable and qualified citizens of Guyana to fill such positions and an assessment of the success or progress achieved by the training programme with a view to filling such positions shall be subject to review on an annual basis.
- 11.6 Personnel relations between the Company and its employees in Guyana shall be subject to existing written Applicable Law of Guyana relating to labour relations.

12. EXPORTING MANGANESE AND OTHER PROPERTY FROM GUYANA

- ~~12.1~~ The Company shall be entitled to export from Guyana and deposit, lease, sell, assign or otherwise transfer outside Guyana, manganese produced from the Mining Area without restriction of any kind and shall be exempted from the obligation to pay any fees, imposts, duties, taxes, administrative and other charges and any other like assessments of any nature whatsoever in connection therewith.
- 12.2 Customs Personnel shall be entitled to inspect any exports made pursuant to clause 12.1 and any re-exports made pursuant to clause 8.6 and the terms of any such sale, assignment or other transfer outside Guyana, provided that such inspection shall be conducted with the utmost dispatch and shall, in no event, delay the shipment of such property to destinations outside Guyana when such property is otherwise ready for shipment. The Company shall give reasonable notice of any such impending shipment to Customs Personnel having responsibility for the conduct of such inspection. Customs Personnel assigned to the Mining Area shall be vested with all requisite power and authority to conduct such inspection in the case of a shipment originating from such locations.
- 12.3 If a final refining facility for manganese comes into operation in Guyana, is cost-competitive and produces refined metal constituting good delivery on world metal markets, the Company shall give all due consideration to making use of such facility for Project purposes.
- 12.4 GoG hereby undertakes to cause the Company to receive all such specific authorizations and exemptions from authorities having jurisdiction over the matters described in this article 12 as are necessary to give effect to the matters described in this article 12.



13. REPATRIATION OF CAPITAL AND PROFITS FROM GUYANA

13.1 The Company shall be entitled to remit all capital invested and profits earned in Guyana to Persons outside Guyana without restriction of any kind (subject to GoG's entitlement to receive payments due to GoG provided by this agreement) and shall be exempted from the effects of any such restriction as may be in effect from time to time under the Applicable Law of Guyana and from the obligation to pay any fees, imposts, duties, taxes, administrative and other charges and any other like assessments of any nature whatsoever in connection therewith. For greater certainty, the Company shall be entitled to remit such capital and profits from Foreign Currency Accounts.

14. INSURANCE MATTERS

14.1 The Company intends to subscribe for and maintain at all times during Operations, insurance coverage of the Operations, provided such coverage is available at competitive and reasonable rates from insurers of recognized standing.

14.2 Payments from insurance policies, if applicable, for loss or damage to the Assets shall be applied entirely to repair or rebuild the damaged Assets for which such insurance payments will have been made.

14.3 All insurance policies shall be kept at the Company's registered office in Guyana.

15. REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES, COVENANTS AND UNDERTAKINGS

15.1 The Company hereby represents and warrants to the GoG that:

- (a) it is duly organized, validly existing, and in good standing pursuant to the laws of its jurisdiction of incorporation and is qualified to do business in those jurisdictions where necessary in order to carry out its purposes;
- (b) it has the requisite corporate power and authority to own, lease, and operate its assets and to carry on its business as now conducted; and it has the capacity to enter into this Agreement;
- (c) it shall not breach any other agreement or arrangement to which it is a party or be in violation of any Applicable Law to which it is subject, by entering into or performing this Agreement;
- (d) this Agreement, when executed, shall be duly executed and delivered by it and be valid and binding upon it in accordance with the terms thereof;
- (e) there is no judgment, decree, injunction, ruling or order of any court, governmental department, commission, agency, instrumentality or arbitrator and no claim, suit, action, litigation, arbitration or governmental proceeding in progress, pending or threatened, which prevents or which seeks to prevent it from entering into this Agreement; and
- (f) that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, and that of its directors and officers, after due enquiry, there exists no material fact or circumstance applicable to this

Agreement or the Project which has not been previously disclosed to the Government or the Commission, as applicable, and which should be disclosed to prevent the representations made in this Agreement from being materially misleading.

15.2 GoG and the Commission hereby represent and warrant to the Company that:

- (a) the Commission is duly organized and validly existing as a body corporate under the GGMC Act and is qualified to do business in Guyana where necessary in order to carry out its purposes;
- (b) the Commission has the requisite corporate power and authority to own, lease, and operate its assets and to carry on its business as now conducted;
- (c) GoG has the capacity to enter into this Agreement;
- (d) GoG and the Commission shall not breach any other agreement or arrangement to which either of them is a party or be in violation of any Applicable Law to which either of them is subject, by entering into or performing this Agreement;
- (e) this Agreement, when executed, shall be duly executed and delivered by GoG and the Commission and be valid and binding upon GoG and the Commission in accordance with the terms thereof; and
- (f) there is no judgment, decree, injunction, ruling or order of any court, governmental department, commission, agency, instrumentality or arbitrator and no claim, suit, action, litigation, arbitration or governmental proceeding in progress, pending or threatened, which prevents or which seeks to prevent GoG and the Commission from entering into this Agreement.

15.3 The Company hereby covenants and undertakes to:

- (a) assume liability for any damages caused by its servants and agents in violating its obligations under this Agreement; and
- (b) hold GoG harmless from all suits for injury or claims for damages to Persons or property resulting from or in connection with the conduct of its Operations hereunder.

15.4 GoG hereby undertakes to take all such steps which are necessary for the implementation of this Agreement, including approving the Feasibility Study and the EIA and granting the Mining Licence in a timely manner, passing the necessary or appropriate Acts (including Subsidiary Legislation) and issuing the necessary or appropriate authorizations to provide for the adaptation and modification of the Applicable Law of Guyana which may affect the implementation of this Agreement, and to allow the Company to continue to carry out their obligations and to receive the benefits accorded to them under this Agreement.

15.5 Without limiting the application of clauses 15.6 and 15.7 and without prejudice to any other undertaking of GoG set forth in this Agreement, if, at any time during the term of this Agreement, GoG enacts or adopts any new Applicable Law or amends or repeals any

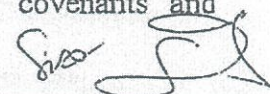
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existing Applicable Law (collectively, “Unilateral Action”), and if such Unilateral Action has the effect (the proof whereof shall lie with the Party asserting such effect) of preventing or constraining the exercise of any right or of materially increasing the burden of performance of any obligation (including any increase in an obligation to pay a sum of money) of the Company hereunder (a “Negative Effect”), GoG agrees to take such measures as may be required to restore the Company to the position they would have retained had such Unilateral Action not been taken (“Corrective Action”). Such Corrective Action may take any or all of the following forms: (i) an exemption from the application of the Applicable Law that is the direct or indirect subject of the Unilateral Action or the direct or indirect cause of the Negative Effect, (ii) an undertaking to remit additional sums of money to the Company as a result of such Unilateral Action, (iii) the enactment of specific legislation (including Subsidiary Legislation) eliminating the Negative Effect or, (iv) any other form acceptable to the Company and GoG. For greater certainty, GoG agrees to take Corrective Action:

- (a) to eliminate the Negative Effect of any Unilateral Action on or in respect of the Articles, the Mining and Prospecting Licence, the Environmental Authorization, the Mining Area or the Assets; and
- (b) to eliminate the Negative Effect of any Unilateral Action taken on or in respect of ~~any of the matters described in articles 6 to 13 inclusively.~~

Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing set forth in this Agreement shall be interpreted as preventing GoG from taking Unilateral Action regarding matters of employee health and safety and of reasonably applying such Unilateral Action to the Company hereunder.

- 15.6 Notwithstanding any provision hereof, GoG shall not, whether by Unilateral Action or otherwise, unilaterally amend or terminate this Agreement or any Schedule, the Mining Licence when granted, or the Environmental Authorization otherwise than in accordance with the express terms hereof or thereof.
- 15.7 With respect to the property, rights and interests of the Company arising out of this Agreement or any Schedule or in any way connected with the Project, GoG agrees (i) to ensure within Guyana the fair and equitable treatment of such property, rights and interests, (ii) in no way to impair or interfere with the management, maintenance, use, enjoyment or disposal (except as expressly provided herein) of such property, rights and interests, and (iii) to take no action to expropriate or nationalize any property, rights or interests, whether characterized as expropriation or nationalization or otherwise, or to directly or indirectly deprive the Company of such property, rights or interests.
- 15.8 The representations, warranties, covenants and undertakings set forth in this article 15 shall remain in effect throughout the term of this Agreement and shall be in addition to, and not in substitution for, any other representations, warranties, covenants and undertaking set forth in this Agreement.



16. DEFAULTS AND REMEDIES

- 16.1 Should GoG or the Commission default in the performance of any of its obligations or undertakings hereunder, the Company or Parties aggrieved by such default shall give reasonable notice to the defaulting Party specifying the nature of the default and indicating any remedial measure to take to cure such default. If such remedial measure is not substantially completed within the notice period (where, unless otherwise specified in the notice, shall be a period of 30 days), the aggrieved Party or Parties shall be entitled, without any further delay, to institute proceedings in accordance with article 17.
- 16.2 The Company shall be deemed to be in default hereunder if:
- 16.2.1 it takes advantage of any bankruptcy or other Applicable Law for the protection of debtors from their creditors or voluntarily goes into liquidation; or
- 16.2.2 proceedings in bankruptcy or under any Applicable Law having similar effect are taken against it in good faith and such proceedings are not dismissed or contested in good faith within 60 days thereof; or
- 16.2.3 the Company fails to complete a payment due to the Commission or the ~~Government hereunder and (i) such payment is not completed within 60 days~~ from the date of receipt by the Company of a notice of such failure to pay from the Commission or the Government, as applicable or (ii) the Company having failed to pay has not contested in good faith the allegations set forth in connection with proceedings under article 17 within the aforesaid delay; or
- 16.2.4 the Company fails to perform any other material obligation assumed by such Party hereunder and (i) fails to complete such performance within 90 days of the date of receipt by the Company of a notice of such failure to perform from the Commission or the Government, as applicable (provided that performance hereunder with the aforesaid 90-day period of an obligation required to be performed within a specific delay in this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a valid completion of performance relieving the Company of its default hereunder), or (ii) the Company having failed to perform has not contested in good faith the allegations set forth in such notice in the manner set forth in article 17 within the aforesaid delay; or
- 16.2.5 the Company is convicted of an offence under the Mining Act which constitutes a willful departure from one or more of the substantive undertakings set forth in the Feasibility Study and the EIA after having been convicted of two previous like offenses under the Mining Act; “convictions” for the purposes of this clause 16.2.5 shall include any out-of-court settlement pursuant to Section 131 of the Mining Act; or
- 16.2.6 the Company fails to commence Development Operations within the time limits set out in the Feasibility Study, subject to the occurrence of a Force Majeure event or agreement with the Commission on behalf of the GoG.



- 16.3 The GoG may, subject to clause 16.4, terminate this Agreement or any Schedule hereof, the Mining Licence and the Environmental Authorization in the event of a default under any provision of clause 16.2 by written notice to the Company.
- 16.4 If the Company has instituted proceedings in accordance with article 17, the GoG shall not terminate or purport to terminate this Agreement or any Schedule hereof, the Mining Licence or the Environmental Authorization, and the Company shall be entitled to continue Operations hereunder until the proceedings described in article 17 shall have been completed.
- 16.5 For the purposes of this article 16, a Party shall be deemed as to have “**instituted proceedings**” or “**contested**” hereunder if it serves notice to the other Party or Parties to the dispute under clause 17.3 and continues to avail itself of the dispute resolution mechanisms set forth in article 17 with reasonable diligence thereafter. If the Company has instituted proceedings under clause 17.3 in connection with an allegation by the GoG or the Commission of a default by the Company hereunder and continues to deny such alleged default after proceedings under article 17 have been completed, the GoG may, if it wishes to sustain its allegations, institute arbitration proceedings under clause 17.4 hereof.

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If the GoG succeeds in proving a default by the Company hereunder to the satisfaction of an arbitration tribunal constituted under clause 17.4, it shall be entitled to such compensation in the form of damages as such tribunal shall think fit to award in accordance with the evidence presented and the provisions of Applicable Law and the Rules (as defined in clause 17.2). However, neither the Commission nor the Government shall be entitled to seek a termination of the Mining Licence, the Environmental Authorization or of this Agreement or any Schedule hereof, unless the Company expressly consents to such termination or is adjudged by the arbitration tribunal (formed as per clause 17.4) to have committed a fundamental breach of this Agreement, of the Mining Licence, or of the Environmental Authorization.

## 17. GOVERNING LAW, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND JURISDICTION

- 17.1 This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of Guyana.
- 17.2 If any dispute or conflict, contractual or not in nature, arises in connection with Operations or any other activities governed by this Agreement or any Schedule, the Mining Licence or the Environmental Authorization or the breach, termination, validity, performance or interpretation thereof (any of such occurrence being hereinafter referred to as a “**Dispute**”) the Parties shall resolve the Dispute in the manner hereinafter set forth in this article 17.
- 17.3 A Party may commence proceedings under this article 17 by convening a meeting between high-ranking representatives of the Parties (or such other representatives specifically designated for such purpose). Such representatives shall meet within 30 days from the date of the notice convening the meeting and shall use their best efforts to settle

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the Dispute in good faith for a period not exceeding 60 days from the date of the aforesaid notice.

17.4 Any Dispute which is not resolved pursuant to clause 17.3 or otherwise, shall be referred for determination to final and binding arbitration, to the exclusion of all courts of any State and other like forums, under the International Arbitration Rules (the “Rules”) of the American Arbitration Association (the “Court”), valid on the date of the Dispute; provided that the Rules may be supplemented, if required and applicable, by international law, including general principles of law recognized by civilized nations and principles applicable to contracts between States and foreign private parties, to the extent necessary to give full effect to the true intentions of the Parties as set forth in this Agreement and its Schedules. In particular, the arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) any arbitral tribunal constituted pursuant to this clause 17.4 (the “Tribunal”) shall consist of three arbitrators, one appointed by each Party and one appointed to be chairman of the Tribunal by agreement of the Parties, or failing such agreement, in accordance with the Rules; in the event the Dispute involves more than two Parties, each Party shall appoint one arbitrator, and jointly appoint an additional arbitrator who shall be chairman of the Tribunal; failing such joint appointment, the chairman shall be appointed in accordance with the Rules;

(b) a decision of a majority of the members of the Tribunal is required to settle or resolve any Dispute; in the event the Tribunal is composed of an even number of arbitrators and is deadlocked, the chairman of the Tribunal shall appoint an additional arbitrator who, after a consideration of the Dispute and the evidence and submissions of the Parties, shall cast the deciding vote to settle or resolve the Dispute;

(c) arbitration proceedings shall be in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, or at any other location mutually agreed by the Parties; and

(d) each Party shall participate in any arbitration proceedings at its own expense, and expenses of arbitration shall be borne equally by the Parties. In the case of an award of monetary damages, the Court or, as applicable, the Tribunal shall be entitled to award interest thereon from the earlier of (i) the date on which proceedings are instituted and (ii) the date on which the relevant obligations became eligible, at LIBOR.

17.5 Without prejudice to the authority and power of the Court or, as applicable, the Tribunal to recommend provisional measures, any Party may request any judicial authority of competent jurisdiction to order any provisional or conservatory measure, including attachment, prior to the institution of arbitration proceedings, or during the proceedings, for the preservation of its rights or interests.

17.6 The Parties agree that any Dispute may be consolidated by the Tribunal, under the Rules, and heard together with any arbitration that may arise under any other agreement between the Parties, if the Tribunal is of the opinion that such consolidation would be appropriate and in the best interests of the Parties.

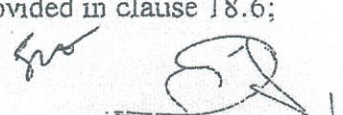




- 17.7 The Government hereby expressly represents and warrants that it has signed and ratified all treaties, conventions and other documents necessary to give full effect to the provisions of this article 17 and that such provisions are binding and enforceable against it.
- 17.8 The Government hereby expressly and irrevocably waives the right to any claim for sovereign immunity against jurisdiction, enforcement and execution of any arbitral award rendered as provided for in this article 17 or any judgment thereon in any court of competent jurisdiction.
- 17.9 The failure by a Party to nominate an arbitrator or participate in arbitral proceedings shall not constitute valid grounds for rejecting the jurisdiction of the Court and of the Tribunal appointed under clause 17.4(a), or the validity and enforceability of any of its awards. Each Party undertakes to execute any arbitral award rendered against it in accordance with its terms, in full, voluntarily and without delay. Judgment on the award may be entered and enforced in any court of competent jurisdiction.
- 17.10 For greater certainty, but not so as to restrict the generality of the foregoing, it is hereby expressly agreed that the Arbitration Act, Cap. 7:03 of the laws of Guyana shall not apply to a submission to arbitration under this article 17.

## 18. TERM AND TERMINATION

- 18.1 This Agreement shall be deemed to have come into force as of the date on which it shall have been executed by all Parties (the "Effective Date") which shall occur prior to the date of the Mining Licence Grant Date. The Parties agree that all acts performed and all expenses incurred by the Company as of and from the date grant of Prospecting Licences in anticipation of the finalization of this Agreement and the granting of the Mining Licence, and on the assumption that this Agreement would be executed and the Mining Licence granted in due course, shall be deemed for all purposes to have been validly performed and incurred pursuant to this Agreement and the Mining Licence, once granted. This Agreement shall remain in effect until the Mining Licence as well as the Environmental Authorization and renewal thereof (or any like licence or similar evidence of rights granted in replacement thereof) definitively expire, unless earlier terminated pursuant to this article 18.
- 18.2 The Company may terminate this Agreement by giving six (6) months written notice to the Government, provided that the Company shall have the right to retract in writing its notice at any time prior to the expiry of such notice period.
- 18.3 GoG shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement only under the circumstances described and in the manner set forth in article 16.
- 18.4 In the case of a termination of this Agreement pursuant to clauses 18.1, 18.2 or 18.3, the Company shall:
- (a) subject to clause 18.5, deal with its property in Guyana as provided in clause 18.6;



- (b) restore the areas used and damaged as provided in clause 6.4, the EIA and the Environmental Authorization, once it is granted ;
- (c) pay any fees due hereunder up to the time the termination becomes effective; and
- (d) submit complete reports and evaluations, maps, assays, samples, drilling tests and related articles to the GoG.

18.5 Before the Company is entitled to remove its assets and property from Guyana upon termination of this Agreement and before any payments due to it are returned, the Company shall obtain from the GoG a Certificate of Compliance with its obligations under clause 18.4.

18.6 In the event of the termination of this Agreement in accordance with clauses 18.1, 18.2 or 18.3, the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) all fixed plant, equipment and other immovable assets of the Company and all materials, supplies, vehicles and other moveable assets of the Company shall be offered for sale at their fair market value to the Government within 30 days from the effective date of termination; if the Government does not accept such offer within 30 days from the date thereof, the Company shall sell, remove or otherwise dispose of all such property prior to the expiry of 120 days after the effective date of such termination; all such property not so sold, removed or otherwise disposed of shall become the property of Guyana without charge;
- (b) notwithstanding the foregoing, upon termination of this Agreement, the Government may by notice to the Company require the removal or destruction of any assets of the Company located in the Mining Area, and if the Company does not remove or destroy such assets within a period of 120 days from the date of the Government's notice to that effect, the Government may effect such removal or destruction and the Company shall assume the reasonable costs, which must have been incurred by the Government at competitive rates, of such removal or destruction;
- (c) upon the termination of this Agreement, the Company shall leave the Mining Area and everything thereon in safe condition in accordance with the closure plan as set out in the Feasibility Study. In this connection, unless the Government otherwise directs, the Company shall, in accordance with good mining industry practice, make safe all holes and excavations to the reasonable satisfaction of the Government. In the event that the Company fails to do so, the Government may perform such acts as may be necessary to make the Mining Area safe and the Company shall assume the reasonable costs, which must have been incurred by the Government at competitive rates, of said acts. To the extent that the Company complies with the terms of the Feasibility Study and the EIA in the form accepted by the Commission in respect of the matters described in this clause 18.6(c), the Company shall be deemed to have fulfilled their obligations hereunder; and
- (d) the Company shall have the right to enter upon the Mining Area for the aforesaid purposes, subject to the rights of surface owners or others, for a period of one (1)

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year from the effective date of termination or such longer period as the Company may reasonably request.

18.7 In the event that the Company decides to suspend Operations under the relevant provisions of clause 4.3, the Company shall not be entitled to dispose, by sale or otherwise, of its Assets referred to in clause 18.6(c).

## 19. INDEMNIFICATION

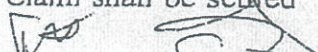
19.1 GoG hereby agrees and covenants to indemnify and save the Company harmless from and against any and all loss, cost, expense, damage, or liability (including, without limitation, reasonable and documented attorneys' fees, and other expenses incurred in defending against litigation, either threatened or pending) arising out of or based upon:

- (a) any breach by GoG and the Commission of any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement made by either of them in this Agreement; and
- (b) any failure by GoG or the Commission to satisfy any commitment or obligation made under this Agreement or under any document executed or delivered in connection with the transactions set forth in this Agreement.

~~19.2 The Company hereby agrees and covenants to indemnify and save GoG and the Commission harmless from and against any loss, cost, expense, damage, or liability (including, without limitation, reasonable and documented attorneys' fees and other expenses reasonably incurred in defending against litigation, either threatened or pending) arising out of or based upon:~~

- ~~(a) any breach of any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement made by them in this Agreement;~~
- ~~(b) any failure by them to satisfy any commitment or obligation made under this Agreement or under any document executed or delivered in connection with the transactions set forth in this Agreement; and~~
- ~~(c) any environmental liability or adverse environmental condition of any nature whatsoever which may arise from or exist in connection with the Mining Area.~~

19.3 For the purposes of determining the Indemnifying Party and the Indemnified Party, GoG and the Commission shall be deemed to be one and the same Party. If any claim or demand (a "Claim") is asserted by any Person against a Party in respect of which such Party may be entitled to indemnification under the provisions of this article 19 (the "Indemnified Party"), written notice of such Claim, specifying the basis for the Claim and the amount thereof (to the extent feasible) shall promptly be given to the other Party (the "Indemnifying Party") from whom indemnification may be sought. The Indemnifying Party shall have the right (and if the Claim is based on a claim made by a third Person, shall notify the Indemnified Party whether it exercises such right), within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the notice of the Claim, to assume (subject to the right of the Indemnified Party to participate, at its own expense and with counsel of its choice) the entire control of the defense, compromise or settlement of the Claim, including, at the Indemnifying Party's expense, retaining counsel of its choice. No Claim shall be settled

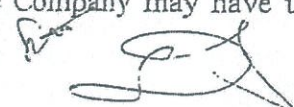


or otherwise compromised without the consent of the Indemnifying Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any damages to the assets, business or operations of the Indemnified Party caused by a failure of the Indemnifying Party to defend, compromise or settle a Claim in a reasonable and expeditious manner, after the Indemnifying Party has given notice that it will assume control of the defense, compromise or settlement of the matter, shall be included in the damages for which the Indemnifying Party shall be obliged to indemnify the Indemnified Party.

- 19.4 In no event will consequential, exemplary or punitive damages be recoverable with respect to this Agreement by any Party, except to the extent sought and recovered by a third Person from the Indemnified Party.
- 19.5 The Indemnifying Party shall not be liable to the Indemnified Party for compensation hereunder unless the cumulative amount of compensation owing under all or any such Claims exceeds US \$50,000 in the aggregate. In such event, however, the full amount of any compensation owing shall be payable without deduction.

## 20. ASSIGNMENT

- 20.1 The Company may, at any time, assign all or part of its rights and obligations under this Agreement to a third party with the prior written approval of the Government. The Government shall not withhold its approval without good reasons. It is agreed that such reasons shall include but not be limited to the technical and financial capability of the proposed third party.
- 20.2 In all cases of assignment and transfer, the assignee or transferee shall be subject to this Agreement and shall be bound to comply with the provisions of the Agreement. In the event of a partial assignment, the assignor and assignee shall each be severally (and not jointly and severally) liable for their own respective defaults hereunder.
- 20.3 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company shall have the right to pledge or otherwise create security interests over its assets, both moveable and immovable, to secure financing.
- 20.4 The GoG and/or the Commission shall provide each mortgagee or chargee under a mortgage or charge given as authorized hereunder, and each lender pursuant to a loan of which the GoG has been given notice, whether made to the Company or indirectly (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Lenders" and, individually, a "Lender"), with a copy of any notice given to the Company under article 16. Any notice or copy of any notice to be given at the same time to any Lender shall be given in the manner described in clause 22.8 to the address for service of notice given by that Lender to the GoG.
- 20.5 Should GoG give a notice to the Company pursuant to article 16, the GoG shall give reasonable consideration to any proposal that any Lender may subsequently make to the Government or, as applicable, the Commission taking into consideration the positions of those Lenders in regard to any outstanding obligations that the Company may have to them, directly or indirectly, at that time.



21. FURTHER ACTIONS

21.1 GoG hereby agrees and undertakes to sign all such documents, do all such things and make all such arrangements such that the Company will receive, from the relevant Government Authorities, all such specific authorizations, permissions and/or exemptions in respect of the subject matters described in the relevant provisions of articles 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13, as are necessary or desirable to give full force and effect to such matters described in articles 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 hereof, including a regulation by the Minister under the Property Tax Act pursuant to Sections 10(a)(iv) and 16 of such Act excluding any investment in the Company made by any non-Guyanese Affiliate thereof or other foreign Person from the application of such Act in the manner contemplated in such sections.

22. MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

22.1 The Parties shall treat all information relating to the Project including, without limitation, any report required to be filed by the Company hereunder, as confidential and shall only disclose such information to other Persons in accordance with the provisions of clauses 3.4 and 3.5.

~~22.2 The Company shall notify the Government and the Commission promptly of the occurrence of any event which results in the death or injury of any person in the Mining Area or any event which may endanger natural resources within the Mining Area.~~

22.3 The failure of a Party to insist on the strict performance of any provision of this Agreement or to exercise any right, power or remedy upon a breach hereof shall not constitute a waiver of any provisions of this Agreement or limit such Party's right thereafter to enforce any provision or exercise any right unless such waiver is unambiguous, in writing and signed by the Person waiving such right, power or remedy. Any waiver of such right, power or remedy shall not be construed as a waiver of any succeeding or other right, power or remedy unless the contrary is expressly stated in writing and signed by the Party making such waiver. The failure by a Party to perform an obligation hereunder shall not excuse the performance by any other Party of its obligations hereunder unless the first mentioned obligation is a material obligation.

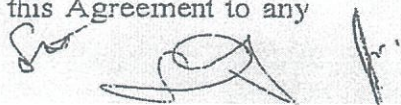
22.4 No amendment to this Agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and duly executed by each of the Parties.

22.5 Except as otherwise provided herein, this Agreement, together with the Schedules, contains the entire understanding of the Parties.

22.6 There are no implied covenants in this Agreement other than those of good faith and fair dealing.

22.7 This Agreement shall be binding upon and enure to the benefit of the respective successors and permitted assigns of each of the Parties.

22.8 All notices and other required communications made pursuant to this Agreement to any Party shall be in writing and shall be addressed as follows:



**TO THE COMPANY:**

**Reunion Manganese Inc.**  
Roraima Tower  
Ogle International Airport  
East Coast Demerara, Guyana  
Telephone: 592- 222-5003  
Fax: 1 (450) 6772601

Attention: Joachim Bayah, COO

**TO THE COMMISSION:**

**The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission**  
Upper Brickdam  
Georgetown, Guyana  
Telephone: 592-225-3047  
Fax: 592-02-70084

Attention: The Commissioner

**TO GOG:**

(including notices  
required or permitted

to be given to the  
Government):

**Office of the Prime Minister**  
Oranapai Towers  
Wight's Lane  
Kingston  
Georgetown, Guyana  
Telephone: 592-226-6955  
Fax: 592-226-7573

All notices shall be given (i) by personal delivery to the Party or (ii) by electronic communication (including telexes, telecopies or telefaxes ands canned PDF documents), or (iii) by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. All notices shall be effective and shall be deemed to have been delivered (i) if by personal delivery, on the date of delivery if delivered during normal business hours and, if not, then on the next business day following delivery; (ii) if by electronic communication, on the next business day following receipt of the electronic communication; and (ii) if solely by mail, on the next business day after actual receipt. A Party may change its address for notice by providing notice of such new address to the other Parties.

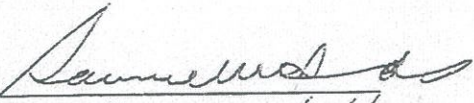
- 22.9 The Parties hereby agree to cooperate at all times and to contribute to the extent of their respective capacities in order to ensure efficiency in the performance of Operations hereunder and to ensure the success of the Project. To this end, the Parties agree to meet on a regular basis to discuss matters of mutual concern.

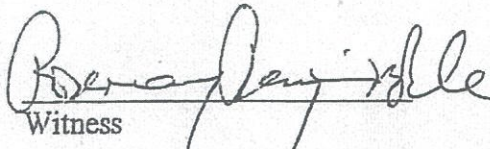
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereunto caused their authorized representatives to set their respective hands hereto at the City of Georgetown, Guyana, in the presence of one another the day and year first above written.



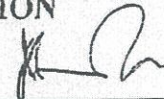
[Signature page to follow]

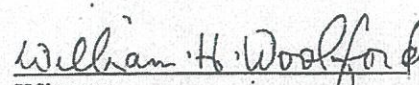
THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF  
GUYANA

By:   
Name: SAMUEL A HANDS  
Title: PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTER FOR MINES & MINERALS

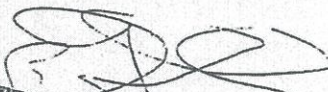
)  
)  
)  
)  
)   
) Witness


GUYANA GEOLOGY AND MINES  
COMMISSION

By:   
Name: JOSEPH K SMITH  
Title: CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
2011-03-24

)  
)  
)  
)  
)   
) Witness 2011-03-24

REUNION MANGANESE INC.

By:   
Name: DAVID F. SMITH  
Title: REUNION MANGANESE INC

)  
)  
)   
) Witness

**SCHEDULE "A"**  
**Company Articles of Incorporation and By-laws**

*[Handwritten signature]*





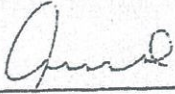
COMPANY NO. 6479

COMPANIES ACT OF GUYANA  
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

REUNION MANGANESE Inc.

I hereby certify that the above-mentioned Company, Articles of Incorporation of which are attached, was incorporated under the Companies Act of Guyana on the 12th day of April, 2010.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar of Companies

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010.



GUYANA

COUNTY OF DEMERARA

700 543-229  
fee \$50,000.00  
costs of 1050.00  
NOTES of 3200.00  
464,250.00

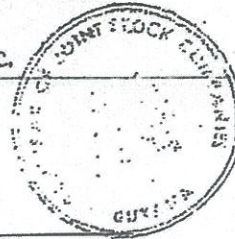
THE COMPANIES ACT 1991

PRIVATE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY  
WITH SHARE CAPITAL

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
REUNION MANGANESE Inc.

NAME OF COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY NO: 6479

REUNION MANGANESE Inc.



CLASSES AND MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SHARES:

ONE HUNDRED (100) ORDINARY SHARES DIVIDED INTO THE VALUE OF \$1,000  
(ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS) PER SHARE.

RESTRICTION OF SHARE TRANSFERS:

THE ANNEXED SCHEDULE "A" AND THE RESTRICTIONS SET OUT THEREIN ARE  
INCORPORATED IN THIS FORM.

NUMBER OF DIRECTORS:

NO LESS THAN ONE AND NO MORE THAN SIX DIRECTORS.

RESTRICTIONS ON BUSINESS THE COMPANY MAY CARRY ON:

NONE.

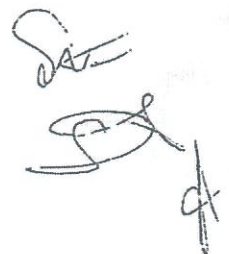
OTHER PROVISIONS:

THE PROVISIONS SET OUT IN SCHEDULE "A" AFORESAID.

INCORPORATORS:

**SCHEDULE "B"**  
**The Prospecting Licences**

1. Prospecting Licence 14/2010, granted to Reunion Manganese Inc. by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission under Section 30 of the Mining Act 1989 and the Mining Regulations on September 6, 2010.
2. Prospecting Licence 15/2010, granted to Reunion Manganese Inc. by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission under Section 30 of the Mining Act 1989 and the Mining Regulations on September 6, 2010.
3. Prospecting Licence 16/2010, granted to Reunion Manganese Inc. by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission under Section 30 of the Mining Act 1989 and the Mining Regulations on September 6, 2010.
4. Prospecting Licence 17/2010, granted to Reunion Manganese Inc. by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission under Section 30 of the Mining Act 1989 and the Mining Regulations on September 6, 2010.

Handwritten signature and initials in the bottom right corner of the page.

