



MMC Norilsk Nickel Press service  
tel: +7 (495) 797 82 94  
fax: +7 (495) 786 83 94  
e-mail: uosmail@nornik.ru  
www.norilsknickel.ru

## MMC NORILSK NICKEL ANNOUNCES PRELIMINARY CONSOLIDATED PRODUCTION RESULTS FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER AND 9 MONTHS 2011

**Moscow, October 24, 2011** – OJSC MMC Norilsk Nickel (hereinafter – “Norilsk Nickel”, “the Company” or “the Group”), the world’s largest nickel and palladium producer, announces preliminary consolidated production results for the third quarter and 9 months 2011 at the Polar and Kola Divisions in Russia, as well as at its international operations in Australia, Finland, Botswana and South Africa.

- Overall nickel production in the third quarter of 2011 surpassed 79 thousand metric tonnes, which is by 23% higher as compared to the second quarter of 2011. Substantial growth of nickel output was driven by reopening of sea navigation and related recovery in volumes of semi-products shipped between Russian production units, as well as by increased loading rates at the nickel refinery – Norilsk Nickel Hajavalta. For 9 months of 2011, Group’s nickel production totaled 215 thousand metric tonnes.
- Overall copper production in the third quarter of 2011 totaled 95 thousand metric tonnes as compared to 90 thousand metric tonnes in the second quarter of 2011. The bulk of the growth of copper output is due to strong performance of Russian divisions of the Group. For 9 months of 2011, the overall copper output amounted to 279 thousand metric tonnes.
- In the reporting quarter, the Company produced 677 thousand troy ounces of palladium. The production results of this quarter were impacted by the substantial overproduction by Russian divisions in the second quarter of 2011, as well as by certain decline of palladium output at international operations of the Group. For 9 months of 2011, the palladium output exceeded 2.1 million troy ounces.
- The Group produced 171 thousand troy ounces of platinum in the third quarter of 2011, generally in line with the approved production plan. The key reason for minor platinum output decline in the third quarter of 2011 is the same as for palladium. For 9 months of 2011, the platinum production reached 531 thousand troy ounces, matching the results of the same period of 2010.

In the third quarter of 2011, the Polar and Kola Divisions in Russia produced over 62 thousand metric tonnes of nickel, which is 17% higher as compared to the second quarter of 2011. In the reporting quarter, the Russian production units operated at full capacity and managed to eliminate certain underperformance of the second quarter of 2011, which was due to earlier seasonal break in sea navigation. For 9 months of 2011, the saleable nickel production totaled 173 thousand metric tonnes, largely in line with the approved production plan.

In the third quarter of 2011, copper production by the Russian divisions of the Company increased by 6% as compared to the second quarter of 2011 up to 92 thousand metric tonnes. For 9 months of 2011, copper output of the Polar and Kola Divisions totaled 268 thousand metric tonnes, generally in line with the approved production plan of the Company.

In the reporting quarter, the Polar and Kola Divisions produced 659 thousand troy ounces of palladium. The production results of the current quarter were affected by substantial overproduction in

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the second quarter of 2011. Generally, for 9 months of 2011, palladium output by the Russian divisions surpassed the approved production plan and amounted to 2,022 thousand troy ounces.

The Russian divisions of the Company produced 166 thousand troy ounces of platinum in the third quarter of 2011. For 9 months of 2011, the total volume of platinum production by the Russian divisions also exceeded the approved production plan and totaled 513 thousand troy ounces.

The Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta refinery in Finland produced 14.9 thousand metric tonnes of own refined nickel in the reporting quarter, which is by 6.4 thousand metric tonnes higher as compared to the second quarter of 2011. For 9 months of 2011, the Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta produced 35.2 thousand metric tonnes of own saleable nickel, which is slightly better than the approved production plan and the results of the same period of 2010.

In the reporting quarter, Lake Johnston, an Australian operation of the Group, has resumed its work. The output of nickel in concentrate totaled 435 metric tonnes. In course of the third quarter the staff of Lake Johnston was ramping up the mine and the enrichment plant to designed capacity.

In the third quarter of 2011, the production of nickel in concentrate by Tati Nickel totaled 2.2 thousand metric tonnes. For 9 months of 2011, Tati Nickel produced 7.3 thousand metric tonnes of nickel in concentrate. The results of the reporting period were significantly affected by changes in mineralogical structure of ore (deviation of nickel grades in ore mined from the data of geological model), which led to the decline of output of nickel in concentrate and key by-products: copper and palladium, as compared to the previous period. Moreover, in the third quarter of 2011, Tati Nickel suspended ore extraction works at one part of Phoenix open-pit in order to recalculate the mineral resource base.

In the third quarter of 2011, the production of nickel in concentrate by Nkomati (reported on 50% basis) totaled 1.4 thousand metric tonnes. All produced concentrate is envisaged for shipment to the Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta refinery for further processing. For 9 months of 2011, Nkomati produced 4.3 thousand metric tonnes of nickel in concentrate on attributable basis, largely in line with the production results of the same period of 2010.

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MMC NORILSK NICKEL METALS PRODUCTION	3Q2011	2Q2011	1Q2011	9M 2011	9M 2010
<b>Norilsk Nickel Polar and Kola Divisions (Russia)</b>					
Nickel, metric tonnes	62 670	53 517	56 806	172 993	174 096
Copper, metric tonnes	91 751	86 528	89 927	268 206	276 556
Palladium, thousand troy ounces	659	711	652	2 022	2 103
Platinum, thousand troy ounces	166	183	164	513	507
<b>Norilsk Nickel Finland<sup>1</sup></b>					
Nickel, metric tonnes	14 915	8 551	11 727	35 193	34 375
Copper, metric tonnes	1 356	1 324	1 587	4 267	7 599
Palladium, thousand troy ounces	5	9	10	25	29
Platinum, thousand troy ounces	2	4	3	8	10
<b>Norilsk Nickel Australia</b>					
<b>Nickel in concentrate, total, metric tonnes</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>0</b>
Lake Johnston nickel, to third parties, metric tonnes	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Johnston nickel, shipped to NN Harjavalta, metric tonnes	435	0	0	435	0
<b>Norilsk Nickel Africa<sup>2</sup></b>					
<b>Nickel in concentrate, total, metric tonnes</b>	<b>3 649</b>	<b>3 972</b>	<b>3 938</b>	<b>11 560</b>	<b>16 067</b>
Tati Nickel nickel, total, metric tonnes	2 223	2 626	2 445	7 295	11 768
Tati Nickel nickel, to third parties, metric tonnes	2 223	2 626	2 445	7 295	10 396
Tati Nickel nickel, shipped to NN Harjavalta, metric tonnes	0	0	0	0	1 372
Nkomati (50%) nickel, total, metric tonnes	1 426	1 346	1 493	4 265	4 299
Nkomati (50%) nickel, to third parties, metric tonnes	0	0	0	0	1 489
Nkomati (50%) nickel, shipped to NN Harjavalta, metric tonnes	1 426	1 346	1 493	4 265	2 810
<b>Copper in concentrate, total, metric tonnes</b>	<b>2 703</b>	<b>3 253</b>	<b>3 153</b>	<b>9 109</b>	<b>13 783</b>
Tati Nickel copper, total, metric tonnes	1 968	2 599	2 465	7 032	11 390
Tati Nickel copper, to third parties, metric tonnes	1 968	2 599	2 465	7 032	10 049
Tati Nickel copper, shipped to NN Harjavalta, metric tonnes	0	0	0	0	1 341
Nkomati (50%) copper, total, metric tonnes	735	654	688	2 077	2 393
Nkomati (50%) copper, to third parties, metric tonnes	0	0	0	0	845
Nkomati (50%) copper, shipped to NN Harjavalta, metric tonnes	735	654	688	2 077	1 548
<b>Palladium in concentrate, total, thousand troy ounces</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>104</b>
Tati Nickel palladium, thousand troy ounces	13	24	19	55	87
Tati Nickel palladium, to third parties, thousand troy ounces	13	24	19	55	76
Tati Nickel palladium, shipped to NN Harjavalta, thousand troy ounces	0	0	0	0	10
Nkomati (50%) palladium, thousand troy ounces	7	6	5	17	18
Nkomati (50%) palladium, to third parties, thousand troy ounces	0	0	0	0	7
Nkomati (50%) palladium, shipped to NN Harjavalta, thousand troy ounces	7	6	5	17	11
<b>Platinum in concentrate, total, thousand troy ounces</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>
Tati Nickel platinum, thousand troy ounces	3	4	3	10	14
Tati Nickel platinum, to third parties, thousand troy ounces	3	4	3	10	13
Tati Nickel platinum, shipped to NN Harjavalta, thousand troy ounces	0	0	0	0	2
Nkomati (50%) platinum, thousand troy ounces	3	2	1	6	5
Nkomati (50%) platinum, to third parties, thousand troy ounces	0	0	0	0	2
Nkomati (50%) platinum, shipped to NN Harjavalta, thousand troy ounces	3	2	1	6	3
<b>TOTAL METALS PRODUCTION<sup>3</sup></b>					
<b>Nickel, metric tonnes</b>	<b>79 808</b>	<b>64 694</b>	<b>70 978</b>	<b>215 481</b>	<b>220 356</b>
<b>Copper, metric tonnes</b>	<b>95 075</b>	<b>90 451</b>	<b>93 979</b>	<b>279 505</b>	<b>295 049</b>
<b>Palladium, thousand troy ounces</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>2 102</b>	<b>2 215</b>
<b>Platinum, thousand troy ounces</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>531</b>

**Notes:**

1 Production results include processing of nickel concentrate from Nkomati and purchased materials.

2 Since 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010 all concentrate produced by Nkomati is being shipped to the Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta refinery for further processing.

3 Totals may vary from sum of numbers as a result of rounding.

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## **ABOUT MMC NORILSK NICKEL:**

MMC Norilsk Nickel, a company incorporated under the laws of the Russian Federation, is the largest diversified mining and metals company in Russia, the world's largest producer of nickel and palladium and one of the world's largest producers of platinum, rhodium, copper and cobalt. In addition to this, MMC Norilsk Nickel produces a large number of other by-products, including gold, silver, tellurium, selenium, iridium and ruthenium.

The key production units of the Company's group in Russia are at the Polar and Kola Peninsulas. MMC Norilsk Nickel international assets include operations in Finland, Australia, Botswana and South Africa.

MMC Norilsk Nickel's shares are traded at MICEX and RTS. ADR's on the Company's shares are traded on the other the counter market in the US and at the London and Berlin stock exchanges.

Please visit [www.norilsknickel.ru](http://www.norilsknickel.ru) for more information about the Company.