



Timminco Limited Provides Update on Solar Grade Silicon Production

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TORONTO, ONTARIO, Apr 22, 2008 (MARKET WIRE via COMTEX) -- Timminco Limited ("Timminco") ([CA:TIM: news](#), [chart](#), [profile](#)) today provided an update with respect to the production and shipment of solar grade silicon through its wholly-owned subsidiary Becancour Silicon Inc. ("BSI"). BSI has been a leader in the production of silicon metal for more than 30 years.

During 2007, BSI shipped 89 metric tons ("mt") of solar grade silicon metal to customers and concluded four long-term contracts for the production and shipment of up to 6,000 mt annually, commencing in 2009.

During the first quarter of 2008, BSI completed the commissioning of its 3,600 mt solar grade plant with the second and third of three 1,200 mt lines starting on February 2 and 28 respectively. During this ramp-up period in the first quarter, BSI produced and shipped 100 mt of solar grade silicon an average selling price in excess of \$60 per kilogram. Each shipment was tested by an independent laboratory and met specifications set by customers.

Based on its own analysis and the acceptance of its product by leading companies in the solar industry, Timminco announced the expansion of BSI's solar grade silicon capacity to 14,400 mt per year, with the incremental capacity on stream by the end of the second quarter of 2009. Since this announcement on February 22, Timminco has placed orders for the critical production equipment and will begin construction of the new facility in the second quarter of 2008 as originally planned. At the same time, the ramp-up of operations at the existing facility is proceeding in line with expectations to achieve the targeted production rate by the beginning of the third quarter 2008. Timminco's cumulative capital expenditures for the existing and new facilities are expected to be in excess of \$90 million.

On March 26, 2008, BSI announced the signing of an agreement to supply solar grade silicon to Q-Cells AG ("Q-Cells"), the world's largest manufacturer of solar cells. Q-Cells has recognized Timminco as "one of the world's leading specialists in specialty and light metals," and has stated that "in extensive tests, Q-Cells has achieved very good results in manufacturing cells." Shipments to Q-Cells were included in the 100 mt of solar grade silicon shipped in the first quarter.

BSI's process is the subject of two patents pending for manufacturing processes. During 2007, the company filed a formal patent application with the U.S. and international patent authorities in respect of one of its processes for purifying low-grade silicon metal. The company has a 2006 priority date in respect of this patent application. The international patent examiner has provided a positive report on such application. The company filed a second patent application in 2008 in respect of another process for purifying low-grade silicon metal.