



MINING INTERNATIONAL

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Kupang Smelter project takes off

CONSTRUCTION of Gulf Minerals' Kupang Smelter project in West Timor will start in July following the appointment of Western Australia-based Como Engineers as project manager.

The engineering firm will oversee the project from its Indonesian office and has appointed South Africa's XRAM Technologies as the pyrometallurgical engineer and contractor responsible for the smelters, from design through to commissioning.

Construction of the alloying smelter facility

will take four years to complete and will include eight furnaces for a total capital cost of \$A68 million. Each furnace is estimated to cost \$5.6 million and will have the capacity to produce 20,000 tonne of alloy per year. The first two furnaces are expected to come online in January next year, at which time first production of high carbon ferromanganese will begin, with Gulf Minerals expecting the metal to be 78% pure. After this, XRAM Technologies will build a further two furnaces each year through to 2019.

Gulf Minerals expects the project will

benefit from low operating costs on the ore, labour and power side of things, with the latter to be supplied by a third party on a user-pay basis.

The company's chairman Graham Anderson welcomed Como Engineers aboard the project.

"We are pleased to be working with the long established and respected Como Engineers which have a proven reputation of successfully operating within the mining industry in Indonesia on large projects with successful outcomes for many years," he said.