

Ereen gold ore deposit in Mongolia in search of a mine developer

The Ereen gold ore deposit located at Mandal Soum of Selenge Province, in North Khentei, Mongolia shows the potential at a depth of mineralization using the elevation of Gatsuurt as a guide to possible depth extent of mineralization. The North Khentei gold belt has a long history of placer mining and includes gold reserves in both placer and bedrock deposits. Gold placer deposits form a series of geographically distinct placer districts primarily located in the vicinity of the bounding faults of North Khentei trend.

The preliminary exploration has just been carried out at the deposit where resource estimation achieved indicates a possible medium scale mine. However, exploration region only covered a small area of the licensed area indicating that there are potentials on the escalation of the resource estimation. The project feasibility study has not been submitted to the concerned authority; cut-off grade has not been finalized as it requires thorough economic and technical studies. The study reveals that the project is favourable for opencast mining as the current engineering geology and hydrogeology studies are still very basic and cannot satisfy the mine design requirements. Therefore, the project is on hold due to economic and logistic reasons.

The *Journal of Mines, Metals & Fuels* seeks to highlight through this special issue covering geological features and prospecting of this gold ore deposit; mining assessment; study on the heavy metals in soil in different functional zones; characteristics of mineral alteration and weathering in the areas; digitizing and 3D model establishment; design strategies of soil and water conservation measures and drilling analysis and prospecting prediction. The salient features given in the special issue hopefully may help in attracting potential developer of this high grade gold ore deposit.

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