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8 July 2003

Company Announcements Office
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Comalco Aluminium Limited

Attached is a statement released today by Comalco (Rio Tinto 100%) announcing the signing of a conditional agreement for PNG gas.

Yours faithfully,



Ian Head
General Manager – Corporate Relations

Attach. 1



COMALCO

A member of the Rio Tinto Group

8 July 2003

Media Release

Comalco Signs Conditional Agreement for PNG Gas

Comalco (Rio Tinto 100%) today announced that it had reached conditional agreement with ExxonMobil (acting on behalf of the Highlands Gas Project) for the supply of gas to the US\$750 million Comalco Alumina Refinery project in Gladstone, Queensland.

The parties will now proceed to negotiate a detailed agreement for Comalco to purchase PNG gas through Energex, the Queensland Government owned energy retailer.

The Comalco Alumina Refinery is under construction and on schedule to begin production at the end of 2004, using coal and coal seam methane gas inputs. The refinery's design allows for the coal-fired generation plant to be converted to gas.

For further information, please contact:

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