



**ICSG PRESS RELEASE**  
**New Edition of 'Directory of Copper Mines and Plants'**

The International Copper Study Group released its 1st Quarter 2007 Directory of Copper Mines and Plants that covers the period from 2006 to 2011 on a plant by plant basis and which incorporates capacity changes revealed through March 2007. The Directory also presents the long-term (20-years) development of capacities on a world total basis (tabulated by production process) and 10-year summary data by country.

Based on new information and announced project developments, annual mine capacity over the 2006 to 2011 period is projected to grow at an average rate of 4.6% per year (%/yr) to reach 21.2 million tonnes (Mt) in 2011, an increase of about 4.2 Mt (25%) from that in 2006. Of the total increase, copper in concentrate capacity is expected to increase by 2.6 Mt (average of 3.5%/yr) and solvent extraction–electrowinning (SX-EW) production by 1.6 Mt (8.4%/yr). South America and Africa will account for more than 2.5 Mt of the mine capacity increase.

Annual smelter capacity is projected to grow by an average of 2.6%/yr (about 1%/yr lower than the projected growth in concentrate capacity) to reach 18.8 Mt in 2011, an increase of 2.3 Mt (14%) from that in 2006. Primarily due to several project expansions and start-ups in China, the smelter growth rate will average 3.4%/y during the first 3 years and is projected to exceed the corresponding annual concentrate growth rate of 3.2%/yr. The situation will be reversed beginning in 2010 when concentrate capacity growth will exceed smelter capacity growth. Assuming that smelter capacity utilization rates rise from the current low level to their historical average, smelter capacity over the entire forecast period should be sufficient to treat additional concentrate production. Short-term shifts in the concentrate supply-demand balance could occur, however, from the unequal distribution of growth.

In 2011, the ICSG projects that world refinery capacity will reach 24.4 Mt, an increase of 3.8 Mt (18%) from that in 2006. About 2.3 Mt of the expansion is expected to come from electrolytic refineries and 1.5 Mt from electrowinning capacity. The average growth rate over the period 2006-2011 for electrolytic refineries is projected to be 2.7%/yr, slightly more than the projected growth in smelter capacity, and the growth rate for electrowinning capacity (at the refinery level) is expected to be 7.4%/yr. China and Chile will be the main contributors to the total refinery capacity rise.

ICSG projections include unused capacity at mines and plants that are currently on care and maintenance or are temporarily operating at reduced production levels (swing capacity). According to ICSG research, the current swing capacity for mines is minimal. With the definitive closure of two U.S. plants at the end of 2005 that had been on care and maintenance since 2001, total idled capacity for smelters declined to 180,000 metric tons (t) and idled refinery capacity fell to 370,000 t.

**Projected World Capacities until 2011**

**WORLD COPPER PRODUCTION CAPACITY EVOLUTION**

<i>000's metric tonnes Cu</i>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% change 2006-2011</b>
SX-EW	3,320	3,673	4,131	4,587	4,734	4,954	49.2%
Concentrates	13,639	13,986	14,467	14,970	15,629	16,234	19.0%
Mines Total	16,958	17,659	18,598	19,557	20,363	21,188	24.9%
Smelters	16,514	17,161	17,595	18,250	18,662	18,798	13.8%
Electrolytic Refineries	16,579	17,502	18,128	18,523	18,882	18,921	14.1%
Refineries Total	20,641	21,859	22,949	23,794	24,242	24,425	18.3%
<b>Year on Year Changes (tonnage)</b>		<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>Accumulated 2006-2011</b>
SX-EW		354	458	456	147	220	1,635
Concentrates		348	481	503	659	605	2,595
Mines Total		701	939	959	806	825	4,230
Smelters		647	434	655	412	136	2,284
Electrolytic Refineries		923	626	395	359	39	2,342
Refineries Total		1,218	1,090	845	448	183	3,784

**Background notes:**

Economic conditions, as well as technological and business factors, will result in production levels that vary from the indicated capacity. Similarly, production levels may be affected by newly-announced capacity additions, expansions, and closures or by the delay, advancement, or cancellation of projects.

Every quarter, the International Copper Study Group releases its Directory of Mines and Plants. The Directory provides basic data for all copper mining, smelting and refining operations on a world-wide basis and projects the development of future capacities for these operations. Each issue is complemented by a list of the web addresses of companies, enabling a quick and easy access to more company details. The database is continuously updated to reflect recent announcements and operational changes.

The Directory highlights capacities for over 700 existing and planned copper mines, plants, and refineries on a country by country basis, including separate tables for SX-EW plants. Salient details for each operation are included and the Directory separates operations between Operating and Developing and Planned (Exploration and Feasibility) stages.

Each issue charts long-term development of capacities (20 years) for World totals, broken down by production process, and summary data for each country for a 10-year period. The detailed tables of operations show the capacities for a base year and the projection of capacities for 5 years. These projections can serve as a basis for forecasts of the supply side development for copper.

The Directory is available for sale at the following rates for companies located in ICSG member countries/non-member countries: single issue €400/€600, annual subscription €700/€1050. Contact ICSG for purchasing details (mail@icsg.org).