Mining and Metals 2020 wrap

fieldfisher

US\$2.7 billion-worth of deals and disputes in a turbulent year

For the mining and metals industry, 2020 was dominated by two main themes: COVID-19 and ESG.

Having started the year with a burst of activity, the rapid spread of COVID-19 forced a lull in mining sector deals and disputes during the second quarter. Activity picked up markedly towards the end of 2020 however, with a number of significant funding agreements, acquisitions and disposals and rescue deals.

The pandemic also sparked a surge in demand for 'green' and sustainability-linked loans and intensified investors' interest in the environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance of mining companies. ESG due diligence became a defining aspect of many mining deals over the course of the year.

Fieldfisher advised on mining deals and disputes with a value in excess of US\$2.7 billion in 2020, and continued to expand the size and geographical footprint of its client base – although sadly networking was significantly curtailed for much of the year. The team also published the third edition of its enduringly popular Alternative financing for mining: New horizons report.

Selected press coverage

- Mining Journal Green loans, Nordic bonds and crowdfunding could be the future of mine financing
- Mining Review Tech talk: Mining metals of the future
- Mining Review Gold rush: Can juniors benefit from market conditions?
- > Mining.com ICMM steps up game for miners with membership requirements update
- Mining.com Gemfields trades again in London after almost three years

Notable deals

- <u>£30 million placing</u> for London Main Market-listed Capital Limited to
 fund contractor projects for Centamin, acting for joint bookrunners
 Joh. Berenberg, Gossler & Co. KG and Tamesis Partners LLP (December).
- £7.4 million fundraising for AIM-listed Beowulf Mining plc via an open offer of shares in the UK and a rights issue of SDRs in Sweden (December).
- <u>US\$40 million secondary fundraising</u> for AIM-listed Shanta Gold Limited, acting for joint bookrunners Liberum Capital Limited, Tamesis Partners LLP and Cormark Securities Inc. (October).
- > <u>US\$30 million prepayment facility</u> for a **global commodities trader** in connection with a **Vietnamese fluorspar mine** (October).

- > US\$4.5 million administration funding agreement and security package, including a novel 'roll-up' feature in respect of a base metals mine in southern Africa (October).
- > <u>£5 million loan from a private credit fund for the development of a UK mine (August).</u>
- > US\$550 million increase/extension to a prepayment facility provided by an investment bank for a CIS-based aluminium smelter (June).
- **Gemfields Group's admission to trading on London's AIM market**, valuing Gemfields at £210 million, acting for **finnCap** in its capacity as nomad and broker (February).

Thought leadership

- Alternative financing for mining: New horizons
- Coronavirus: Un-choking the UK's metals supply chain
- How regulation can level the ESG playing field
- The battle for stronger EU conflict minerals legislation



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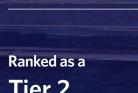


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More than **US\$2.7** billion of mining deals in 2020

in numbers:







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