

# Gahcho Kué kicks off diamond production

Gahcho Kué mine, the Canadian joint venture between De Beers Group (51%) and Mountain Province Diamonds (49%), which is expected to produce approximately 54m carats of rough diamonds over its lifetime, officially began commercial production on 2 March.

The fly-in/fly-out remote mine site is situated approximately 280km northeast of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories (NWT) of Canada. Comprising three open pits, the mine will employ 530 people full-time, with the majority working a two-week in/two-week out rotation.



Source: De Beers Group

In addition to a C\$440m boost to the NWT economy through 2015, the Gahcho Kué mine will provide a further C\$5,3bn in Gross Value Added (GVA) to the NWT now that it has reached commercial production, according to a socio-economic impact report by EY.

Bruce Cleaver, CEO, De Beers Group, said: “Today marks a significant landmark for De Beers in Canada as Gahcho Kué becomes an important contributor to the group’s global production. That the mine has reached this landmark, on budget and ahead of schedule, is testament to the partnerships that have worked together since construction began.

Patrick Evans, president and CEO of Mountain Province Diamonds, added: “The dedicated support of our shareholders, business partners and employees has made today’s important achievement possible. Gahcho Kué is a rich diamond

deposit that secures Canada's position as one of the world's leading diamond producers. Our thanks and appreciation goes to our operating partner, De Beers Canada, for delivering the Gahcho Kué mine safely and ahead of schedule."

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