International iron ore company Centaurus Metals Limited (ASX Code: CTM) is pleased to advise that it has taken another important step forward with the approvals process for its flagship Jambreiro Iron Ore Project in Brazil after receiving Government approval for the Final Exploration Reports covering the Project’s three key tenements.

The approval – by the National Department of Mineral Production (DNPM), the key national regulatory body for Brazil’s mining industry – paves the way for Centaurus to lodge the PAE (Economic Exploitation Plan), which effectively represents the start of the approval process to secure the grant of a Mining Lease.

The Company has already significantly progressed the preparation of the PAE in anticipation of the approval of the three Final Reports, positioning it to lodge the PAE with the DNPM over the next couple of weeks.

The approval of the Final Reports supports the quality of the exploration work undertaken by Centaurus and provides a strong degree of confidence that the DNPM is satisfied with the quality of work undertaken as a basis for a future mining operation.

After the PAE is lodged, it could take up to six months before the Mining Lease is formally approved through the gazetting process in Brazil. A significant component of the approval will be driven by the timing of the environmental approvals process. In this regard, the Company lodged the key environmental approval document – the EIA/RIMA – in late March this year.

Centaurus’ Managing Director, Mr Darren Gordon, said the Company was pleased with the timely receipt of approval for the Jambreiro Final reports, indicating that the DNPM was pleased with the quality of exploration work carried out by the Centaurus exploration team.

“We will now work towards finalising the PAE for the Jambreiro Project and lodging this in the next couple of weeks to kick off the Mining Lease application process and a further key step on the path to production,” Mr Gordon said.

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