

Argyle Pink Diamonds
2 Kings Park Road
West Perth 6005
Western Australia
T +61 (8) 9482 1166
F +61 (8) 9482 1161
E info@argylediamonds.com.au

Press release

Argyle Pink Diamonds announces new Authorised Partner in India

Perth, December 13, 2010 – Rio Tinto's Argyle Pink Diamonds business today announced specialist diamond jewellery designer, manufacturer and luxury retailer, Nirav Modi from Firestone Diamond, as its partner in India for the signature pink diamonds from the Argyle Diamond Mine.

Firestone Diamond joins a select group of master craftsmen known as Authorised Partners and Select Ateliers who have been appointed to work with the iconic Argyle pink diamonds. According to Josephine Archer, Business Manager for Argyle Pink Diamonds,

"We extend a very warm welcome to Firestone Diamond as our partner in India. Nirav Modi's commitment to beautiful design and quality craftsmanship is a perfect fit with the rarity, beauty and luxury of Argyle pink diamonds."

Firestone Diamond is a third generation diamond company specialising in the design and manufacture of one-of-a-kind heirloom jewellery pieces. Firestone has previously acquired rare pink and blue diamonds from the Argyle mine, showcasing them in beautiful jewellery pieces. Most recently the sale of Nirav Modi's extraordinary Rs. 16 crore (US\$ 3.56 million) Golconda Lotus Necklace launched this unique designer into the world of jewellery as an artistic form. This stunning necklace comprised an unprecedented collection of 34 rare Argyle pink diamonds, linked together by special diamond chains. According to Nirav Modi, Chairman of Firestone Diamond,

"The time is right for India to take its place in the world of rare coloured diamonds. This exclusive partnership provides an ideal opportunity to enhance the demand for rare pink diamonds in India. We look forward to more successful collaborations with Argyle Pink Diamonds."

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For further information, please contact:

Robyn Ellison
Communications Manager
Rio Tinto Diamonds
M: +61 417 968 359
E: Robyn.Ellison@riotinto.com

Yasna Mistree / Aesha Malnika
Linopinion – The Lintas PR Division
M: +91 9890942610 / +91 9819421220
E: yasna.mistree@loweworldwide.com / aesha.malnika@loweworldwide.com

Notes to editors

About Argyle Pink Diamonds

Pink Diamonds, produced at Rio Tinto's Argyle Mine in Western Australia, are highly coveted as the world's most sought after gems. The Argyle Diamond mine produces more than 90 per cent of the world's pink diamonds, which are sold in a broad range of colours and sizes to an international customer base. The best stones are reserved for the annual Pink Diamond Tender. Rio Tinto's Argyle Pink Diamonds business is located in Perth, Western Australia, alongside its cutting and polishing factory.

Pink diamonds' value is directly related to their rarity. For every coloured diamond, there exists at least 10,000 colourless ones because the physical conditions needed to colour a diamond naturally occur very scarcely.

Rio Tinto's Argyle mine occupies the traditional land of the Gidja and Mirriuwong speaking people and neighbouring language groups who have a very different view on how the Argyle diamonds became coloured. The Aboriginal people believe that the Argyle mine was created when three women were trying to trap a barramundi fish, however the barramundi was too clever and jumped through the net and landed at the site where the mine was established. It is believed that the colours of the diamonds come from different parts of the barramundi as the fish wiggled through the net, with the pink diamonds coming from the heart of the barramundi.

Website: www.argylepinkdiamonds.com.au

About Rio Tinto Diamonds

Rio Tinto is one of the world's major diamond producers through its 100 per cent control of the Argyle mine in Australia, 60 per cent of the Diavik mine in Canada, a 78 per cent interest in the Murowa mine in Zimbabwe and 100% of the Bunder Project in Madhya Pradesh.

Rio Tinto Diamonds is a leading supporter of the Kimberley Process as well as a founding member of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices.

Website: www.riotintodiamonds.com

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

Website: www.riotinto.com