**PRESS RELEASE**

Unique abrasion resistant processes guarantee durable products

***03 November, 2014:*** *Industry-leading innovation and technology is at the heart of all Chromium Carbide (CrC) products manufactured by top liner plate expert Rio-Carb, which continues to maintain its status as a market leader and innovator in abrasion resistant processes.*

Rio-Carb production director **Colin Maine** attributes this ongoing success to the fact that the company’s comprehensive range of CrC products far outlast competitor products available in the local market. “The company’s impressive product list includes CrC overlay cladding, CrC wear liners, CrC hard-facing alloyed welding wire, and CrC impact resistant liner plates.”

All of these products boast latest in abrasion resistant technology. “The CrC hard-facing alloyed welding wire is fully compatible with Rio-Carb’s CrC wear liners and is suitable for use in any industry where abrasion from sliding wear occurs. It has an optimum hardness of between 60 and 62 Rockwell C, which is well above the industry standard, explains Maine.

Rio-Carb’s CrC impact resistant liner plates also offer many benefits to customers. These plates can be used in areas where previous CrC plates were restricted due to the limited impact resistance of the plates. However, Maine observes that where there is an improvement in impact resistance, there is a loss in the sliding abrasion or hardness of the plate.

According to Maine, the excellent long-life properties of Rio-Carb’s CrC overlay cladding does present some challenges. “The inner CrC layer in mining equipment is being outlasted by the external mild steel layer, even under extreme abrasion conditions where high tech paint protection has been applied. The solution is to protect the outer layer of the equipment with metallic zinc.”

To achieve this, Rio-Carb has installed an advanced metallic zinc thermal spraying process which significantly adds to the longer life of the equipment. The equipment is more temperature resistant in tough applications such as on cyclones, hot feed chutes and in sea water applications.

Rio-Carb’s manufacturing excellence is accomplished in its new 3 000 m2 state-of-the-art facility, which is designed with environmental sustainability in mind, and with the aim of providing clients with excellent quality products in substantially reduced turnaround times.

“The facility features a computer aided design (CAD) plasma control centre which is able to streamline the productivity of the company’s plasma cutting machines, by ensuring extremely accurate sizing and nesting of components. All of Rio-Carb’s processes, including CAD designing, CrC cladding, high definition plasma cutting, rolling, AWS welding, painting, studding and thermal zinc spraying, can be carried out under one roof, thereby ensuring quality control,” adds Maine.

Rio-Carb is also the only liner plate manufacturer in South Africa whose welding standards meet the requirements laid out by American Welding Society (AWS), which guarantees the highest standards of quality and reliability. “We have once again extended our ability to protect and lift our manufactured equipment to an even higher degree in search of the ultimate liner plate and wear protection. We welcome visitors to this state-of-the-art, unique and multi-disciplinary operation which is a leader in excellence by world standards,” Maine concludes.

***Ends***

**Notes to the Editor**There are numerous photographs specific to this press release. Please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click the Rio-Carb link.

**About Rio-Carb**Rio-Carb manufactures wear-resistant Chromium Carbide clad liner plates for heavy materials handling applications in the mining and allied resources industries. The company was initially motivated by Martin Maine, who had experience in the welding and manufacturing industries. He was importing the current product from Australia, and saw the opportunity to establish local manufacture in 1982, when Rio-Tinto had ambitions to establish manufacturing companies allied to mining, and therefore, financed and capitalised the new Rio-Carb for local manufacture. After being in the Rio-Tinto (SA) stable for 16 years, there was a management buy-out by the existing and current share-holders.

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