



Parker Centre

Parker Cooperative Research Centre for Integrated Hydrometallurgy Solutions

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World's second biggest miner joins the Parker Centre

Vale, the second largest mining company in the world, has joined the Parker Centre, the world's leading hydrometallurgy research provider, as a Core Industry Participant.

Formerly CVRD, Vale is a multi-commodity, multinational company headquartered in Brazil, and is the world's largest iron ore miner and second largest nickel producer. The company's other products include bauxite & alumina, aluminium, copper, manganese, potash, coal and kaolin.

Parker Centre Managing Director Dr Steve Rogers says the Centre's Board and Participants are pleased to welcome Vale as a significant new Centre Participant. He notes that Vale's addition extends the international spread of the Centre's Industry Participants into South America, adding to Participants who are headquartered in Australia, North America, South Africa and Europe.

The Centre's relationship with Vale began with mutual visits for discussions in 2004 and 2005, but gained traction with the secondment of a senior representative from Vale's Mineral Development Centre in Brazil to Perth, Western Australia in 2006. This representative has acted as Vale's liaison for research conducted between Vale and Australian mineral processing researchers, including base metals-related projects with the Parker Centre.

"The reputation of the Parker Centre outside of Australia was the first factor that attracted us to start working with the Centre," says Dr Natalia Streltsova, Director - Technology with Vale. "The choice then was to go for one-to-one projects between Vale and the Centre to use the Centre's expertise in some specific areas of research."

Since 2006, Vale has invested over A\$1.5 million in research projects with the Centre. Dr Streltsova says Vale's investment will continue, but with the company having a greater involvement in the Centre as a Core Participant.

As a Core Participant, Dr Streltsova says, Vale wants to broaden the spectrum of research projects and to increase the use of the training opportunities that the Parker Centre provides. "We also want to keep up to speed with what's happening in collaborative research areas and to collaborate in a pre-competitive environment," she says.

"In terms of the areas of research, there is a good fit with Vale's strategic directions in technology and with the spread of commodities, so we can tap into the Centre's expertise within the areas of strategic interest," notes Dr Streltsova. "Importantly, we now have a very good exposure to individuals and to the talent that the Parker Centre has, and we have established very trusting relationships."

"The Parker Centre looks forward to further strengthening an already strong and productive relationship with Vale," says Dr Rogers, the Centre's Managing Director.

Vale becomes the Centre's tenth Core Industry Participant, joining Alcoa of Australia, AngloGold Ashanti Australia, Aughinish Alumina, BHP Billiton, Billiton Aluminium Australia, Hatch Associates, Queensland Alumina, Rio Tinto and Rio Tinto Alcan. The Centre's 12 Supporting Participants are also involved in the minerals industry.

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Additional information:

The Parker Centre operates as a multi-million-dollar collaborative joint venture between four Core Research Participants (CSIRO Process Science and Engineering, Curtin University of Technology, Murdoch University and the University of Queensland), ten Core Industry Participants from the minerals industry (Alcoa of Australia, AngloGold Ashanti Australia, Aughinish Alumina, BHP Billiton, Billiton Aluminium Australia, Hatch Associates, Queensland Alumina, Rio Tinto, Rio Tinto Alcan and Vale) and 12 Supporting Participants (Barrick Gold, Central TAFE, Ciba Specialty Chemicals, Minara Resources, Minerals Council of Australia, Nalco Australia, Norsk Hydro, Nyrtstar, Outotec, Straits Resources, WA Department of Commerce and WorleyParsons Services).

The Centre generates research outputs that maximise returns from hydrometallurgical processing of mineral resources and reduce environmental impacts of hydrometallurgical processes. Established in 1992 and headquartered in Western Australia, the Centre is supported by the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres Program.

The Centre undertakes fundamental and applied research on behalf of the minerals industry (the alumina, gold and base metals market sectors), at laboratory and pilot scales and at operating sites in Australia, North America, the Caribbean, South America, Africa and Europe.

The outputs of the Centre's work have been applied widely throughout Australia and overseas. The independently estimated value (delivered and expected) of the adoption of the Centre's research outputs by industry from the Centre's establishment in 1992 to 2004 totals over A\$540 million NPV (net present value). Using a model developed for the Centre by RMDSTEM Ltd, assessment of projects undertaken between 2005-2008 shows a NPV benefits: industry investment ratio of 22:1.

Industry's recognition of the value of the Centre's work is demonstrated by the investment of a total of A\$6.7 million in the Centre's activities in 2008-2009 by 104 companies from the international minerals industry.

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