



Do you have business or industry news of interest to the minerals, metals, and materials community? Submit your announcement or press release to Lynne Robinson, JOM Magazine Editor, at [lrobinson@tms.org](mailto:lrobinson@tms.org) for consideration.

## *In Case You Missed It:* **Business News from the Field**

### **Ashland to Explore Selling Composites Business**

**Covington, Kentucky, USA:** Specialty chemicals company, Ashland Global Holdings Inc., is exploring strategic alternatives for its composites segment as well as for its butanediol manufacturing facility in Marl, Germany and related merchant intermediates and solvents products. Ashland intends to evaluate all options with respect to these assets, including a potential sale to be completed by the end of 2018. The company expects to use proceeds from a possible sale of these assets for debt reduction and share repurchases.

### **DowDuPont Announces Independent Entity Names**

**Midland, Michigan, USA:** DowDuPont revealed the corporate brand names that each of its three divisions plans to assume once they are separated as independent companies. The Materials Science Division will be retaining the Dow name and diamond branding once it becomes an independent entity. The DuPont title will be retained by the Specialty Products Division, while the company's Agriculture Division will become Corteva Agriscience™.

### **Rio Tinto Exits Coal**

**Melbourne, Australia:** With the recently

announced sale of its Kestrel mine interest to EMR Capital and PT Adaro Energy Tbk, Rio Tinto has exited the coal industry. Rio Tinto's 80% interest in the Kestrel underground coal mine in Queensland, Australia, sold for \$2.25 billion and is expected to be finalized in late 2018. Rio Tinto has stated that the exit from coal will allow it to strengthen its portfolio and focus its capital on higher return areas.

### **Statoil Renamed to Equinor Stavanger, Norway:**

Statoil has changed its name to Equinor ASA. The rebranding is intended to reflect the company's growing emphasis on a low-carbon emissions future and its shift from primarily oil to a wider selection of energy sources. "Equi" expresses the company's emphasis on all types of energy resources while "nor" nods to its roots in Norway and its strengths in the North Sea. The change was approved at the company's annual general meeting and was subsequently made official in the Norwegian register of business enterprises.

### **AM Partnership Focuses on Aerospace**

**Berlin, Germany:** 3D printing startup BigRep and Etihad Airways, a major Middle Eastern commercial aviation servicer, have announced plans to jointly develop new plastic additive manufacturing products for the aerospace industry. The partnership will focus on producing aircraft cabin parts for both new aircraft and the retrofit market.

**Serooskerke, The Netherlands:** OOS International has begun construction on the OOS Walcheren, its second semi-submersible crane vessel (SSCV) for China Merchants Heavy Industry. The vessel is expected to be completed in 2020 and will be identical to its sister vessel, the Serooskerke (pictured left) which will be completed in mid-2019. The SSCV series offers multi-purpose, heavy lifting vessels that can perform decommissioning work, windmill installations, and offshore accommodation, as well as modular plug and abandonment. (Image courtesy of OOS International.)

