

ASX / Media Release

18 December 2009

Meridian Minerals Exercises Option over 600,000tpa Zinc-Lead Processing Plant

Key points:

- **Purchase Option exercised over the Galmoy zinc-lead processing plant located in Ireland, through an initial down payment of €1.3M,**
- **Galmoy is a complete 600,000 tpa plant which was operating until June 2009,**
- **Completed due diligence suggests that the plant will effectively process zinc-lead mineralisation from the Lennard Shelf Project in WA,**
- **Purchase cost is €6M, including the initial down payment of €1.3M, to be made over a 12 month period,**
- **Relocation of the plant to the Lennard Shelf Project would occur late in 2010, subject to the completion of the Kapok/Kapok West Feasibility Study.**

Australian resources company Meridian Minerals Limited ('Meridian' or 'Company') (ASX: MII) today announces that it has exercised its exclusive option to purchase the Galmoy zinc-lead mineral processing plant located in Ireland. The purchase option was exercised by making an initial down payment of €1.3M. The total purchase price of the Galmoy plant will be €6M, paid in a series of instalments over a twelve month period.

Meridian's Managing Director, Jeremy Read, said that exercising the option to purchase the Galmoy processing plant was a positive step forward for the Lennard Shelf Project and Meridian.

"Following our thorough due diligence on the Galmoy plant, we concluded purchasing the Galmoy plant and relocating it to the Lennard Shelf Project was the best way of being able to recommence mining at Kapok and Kapok West by early 2012," Mr Read said.

"Relocation of the Galmoy plant is contingent upon a successful outcome from the Kapok/Kapok West feasibility study, but provided that occurs we would commence relocation of the Galmoy plant in October-November 2010."

Galmoy Plant Relocation

Meridian has commenced a +20,000m drill program at the Kapok/Kapok West resources, which is a key component of a Feasibility Study into the viability of recommencing mining on the Lennard Shelf Project via a combined operation at Kapok and Kapok West. Meridian is targeting the fourth quarter of 2010 to be able to decide whether to commit to a combined Kapok/Kapok West Mining operation.

If the feasibility study concludes that profitable mining operations can be re-established at Kapok/Kapok West, then it will be important to bring these resources into production as quickly as possible. Purchasing a second hand plant has the potential to save 12 months from the timeline to re-establish zinc and lead production, in comparison to designing and building a new processing facility.

The purchase price for the Galmoy plant is €6M which includes dismantling, cleaning and packing into shipping containers supplied by Meridian. Meridian has paid a non-refundable down payment of €1.3M and has a further €4.7M to be paid, according to the schedule detailed in Table One.

Table One – Payment Schedule for Galmoy Plant

Date	Amount (€M)
Dec 09 (paid)	1.3
15 April 10	1.3
15 July 10	1.85
15 Sept 10	0.875
15 Nov 10	0.675
TOTAL	6.0

For further information please visit www.meridianminerals.com.au or contact:

Mr Jeremy Read
Managing Director
Meridian Minerals Limited
Tel: 07 3844 6444
Mob: 0409 484 322

Mr David Tasker
Professional Public Relations
Tel: 08 9388 0944
Mob: 0433 112 936
Em: david.tasker@ppr.com.au

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results, Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by Mr Jeremy Read, who is a member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Read is a full-time employee of Meridian Minerals Limited. He has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Read consents to the inclusion in this announcement of the matters based upon his information in the form and context in which it appears.