



LOOSE DIAMONDS

ROUND DIAMONDS
PRINCESS DIAMONDS
EMERALD DIAMONDS
ASSCHER DIAMONDS
RADIANT DIAMONDS
PEAR DIAMONDS
OVAL DIAMONDS
HEART DIAMONDS
EXQUISITE DIAMONDS

HANDMADE JEWELLERY

ENGAGEMENT RINGS
THREE STONE RINGS
ETERNITY RINGS
WEDDING BANDS
DIAMOND BRACELETS
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DIAMOND NEWS

» [Rio Tinto diamond production tops 35 million carats in 2006](#)

Source: AFNS

Rio Tinto produced 9.561 million carats of diamonds in the fourth quarter of 2006, up 26 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005 but down 5 percent from the third quarter of 2006. In the company's fiscal year 2006, it produced 35.162 million carats of rough, down 1 percent from 2005.

At the company's wholly-owned Argyle Mine in Western Australia, production totaled 8.026 million carats in the fourth quarter, up 24 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005, due to continued high grades, while production at the mine in fiscal 2006 totaled 29.078 million carats, off 5 percent from fiscal 2005, due to wet conditions in the first half of the year. The company said it expects continued variability in production as the mine approaches the end of the open-pit life and the transition to an underground operation continues to progress. Argyle held more than \$100 million of surplus rough diamonds in inventory at the end of 2006.

At the Diavik Mine in Canada's Northwest Territories, in which Rio Tinto holds a 60 percent stake, the company's share of production was 1.495 million carats in the fourth quarter of 2006, up 36 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005, while fiscal 2006 production totaled 5.897 million carats, up 19 percent. The onset of winter weather conditions at Diavik resulted in a 30 percent decline in ore processed in the fourth quarter compared with the previous quarter. However, this impact was partly mitigated by higher grades, with all ore originating from the A154 South pipe. Despite the early closure of the ice road to the mine in early 2006, Diavik achieved record production for the year.

At the Murowa Mine in Zimbabwe, where Rio Tinto holds a 78 percent stake, the company's share of production was 39,000 carats in the fourth quarter and 187,000 carats for the fiscal year, off 11.4 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively.

Rio Tinto is prospecting for diamonds in Canada, Botswana, India, Brazil and Mauritania.

Date: 2007-02-03 **Time:** 11.21AM

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 7 DAYS MONEY BACK
 EXCELLENT PRICES

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CUT
 CARAT
 COLOUR
 CLARITY
 COST
 CONFIDENCE
 CARE
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DIAMOND NEWS

COMPANY DETAILS

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» Big diamonds on display at Golden Globe Awards

Source: AFNS

The release of the controversial film "The Blood Diamond" did not appear to discourage movie stars from wearing expensive diamond jewelry at the Golden Globe awards earlier this month. Large stones, including fancy yellows, were especially prominent.

Among the more prominent "bling" bearers were Beyoncé, who wore a multicolored diamond and old ivory bangle worth \$125,000 by Lorraine Schwartz, multicolored diamond earrings with a total weight of 40 carats, worth \$225,000, and a gray, yellow and white diamond ring with a total weight of 25 carats, worth \$110,000.

Jennifer Lopez also wore pieces designed by Lorraine Schwartz, including 10 carat yellow and white diamond earrings set in yellow and black gold, and a large fancy yellow diamond ring. Penelope Cruz sported yellow and white diamond flower earrings by Chopard, weighing 10 carats each. Sienna Miller wore a pair of Cartier private collection diamond chandelier earrings, while Angelina Jolie wore a diamond and 22K gold necklace and earrings by Bochic.

Date: 2007-02-02 **Time:** 09.15AM

» Russia jails four Israelis for diamond smuggling

Source: AFNS

Russia is holding four Israelis convicted of diamond smuggling in a prison 12 hours from Moscow, despite a treaty between the two countries that says that each country's nationals are to be allowed to serve prison sentences in their home countries, according to the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot.

The four men, Eli Katz, Shimon Hirshorn, Vladislav Kagan and Shalom Ksirer, have been in jail for four years already, while their trial dragged on. They were sentenced to varying terms in prison. Katz is reportedly ill with cancer, but his family's pleas have failed to sway the Russian authorities.

Russia is reportedly prepared to transfer the four to serve their prison sentences in Israel only on condition that Israel extradite Leonid Nevzlin, former CEO of the Russian oil company Yukos and a strident of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who the Russian prosecutors office has accused of involvement in the murder in London of former KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko.

Date: 2007-02-01 **Time:** 18.50 PM

» DTC vows to work more closely with sightholders

Source: AFNS

The Diamond Trading Company (DTC), the sales and marketing arm of the De Beers Group, will work more closely with sightholders, according to Managing Director Varda Shine, who was speaking at the DTC's "sightholder dinner" January 17.

Among the steps she said the DTC will take will be: extending the intention to offer period for the 2008 contract period to 12 months; providing "a simplified but robust application process" that recognizes applicants' expertise in specific types of rough diamonds; and reinforcing the ethical standards required for doing business with the DTC. She said the DTC and sightholders alike must "stand up and be counted" on the issue of ethical business practices.

Shine said the DTC will consult with sightholders and diamond brokers on how to meet the company's strategic goals from 2008 on, and will sponsor a series of workshops on the subject, starting in February. Nicky Oppenheimer, chairman of the De Beers Group spoke about the pressures on profitability, while Gareth Penny, managing director of the De Beers Group, talked about ethical business practices, sustainability, De Beers's increased investment in diamond prospecting and new projects throughout the world, and the company's commitment to supporting the countries and communities where its diamonds are mined.

Well-known diamond industry analyst Chaim Even-Zohar said the changes Shine in particular is introducing to the DTC are more than cosmetic. "The marketing will be more focused; the goods will go to manufacturers; human 'intervention' will again play a role in the over-computerized allocation system; and the DTC will reduce its 'macro-management' of its clients' business," Even-Zohar wrote. He added that Shine's stress on ethics is substantive, and that Shine's changes should help make the promise of De Beers' long controversial "Supplier of Choice" program more real.

Date: 2007-01-31 **Time:** 16.30 PM

» **Zimbabwe parliament to investigate diamond, gold deals**

Source: AFNS

Zimbabwe's Parliamentary Committee on Mines, Energy and the Environment is to investigate powerful politicians for engaging in illicit diamond and gold deals, said committee Chairman Joel Gabuza.

Attention has focused on ordinary villagers doing illegal freelance mining of diamonds and gold, but they are just a small part of the problem in reality, Gabuza said.

Zimbabwe has one diamond mine controlled by Rio Tinto and two others which the government or its supporters are accused of seizing by force.

Date: 2007-01-30 **Time:** 11.21AM

» **AWDC names Johan Hellemans as Human Resources Manager**

Source: AFNS

Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC), formerly HRD, has announced the appointment of Johan Hellemans as the body's new Human Resources Manager. In his new position he will support the development of AWDC as a progressive organisation with more than 300 employees.

Mr Hellemans, 49, began his career as corporate lawyer specialising in labour and social security law,

before he was appointed the legal advisor at Multipharma Group. In 1998 he joined Bayer Antwerp as an HR Officer, and in 2002 became the HR Manager at Lanxess Rubber. Over the years, he accumulated a rich expertise in labour and employment-related issues on operational and management level.

In addition to his law degree, Mr. Hellemans holds a master's degree in human resource management.

About AWDC and HRD Antwerp NV

The Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) is the official representative of the Belgian diamond sector, and in this capacity is charged with managing the relationship between the diamond sector and government, and promoting the interests of the Belgian diamond industry worldwide.

HRD Antwerp NV is the commercial subsidiary of AWDC, and is a leading provider internationally of diamond and gemstone identification and grading reports, gemological education, and specialized equipment for the diamond, gemstone and jewelry industries.

Both organizations are located at Hoveniersstraat 22, Antwerp, Belgium.

Date: 2007-01-29 **Time:** 09.11AM

» **Tax cut accelerates Chinese diamond trade, says bourse**

Source: AFNS

A tax reduction on rough diamond imports in 2006 led to a 44.4 percent increase in China's imports and exports of diamonds that same year, which stood at a record high of \$610 million U.S. dollars reported the Shanghai Diamond Exchange, according to the Xinhua news agency. The figure excludes figures for goods brought into the country purely for processing.

China abolished VAT on imported rough diamonds on July 1, 2006, and reduced the tax rate on imported polished diamonds from 17 percent to 4 percent. As a result, polished diamond imports increased by 194 percent during the second half of the year, when compared to the same period in 2005, to \$147 million.

In 2006, the Shanghai Diamond Exchange was responsible for the collection of 131 million yuan (\$16.8 million) in VAT on imported diamonds, which was below the amount reported in 2005.

Date: 2007-01-28 **Time:** 18.50 PM

» **Diamonds keeping Namibian economy healthy**

Source: AFNS

Record diamond production by Namdeb and some smaller diamond producers should help keep the Namibian economy strong this year and next, according to Martin Mwinga, portfolio manager for RMB Asset Management Namibia, who was quoted in The Namibian, a Windhoek newspaper.

Mwinga's company expects GDP growth of 4 percent in 2007 and 4.5 percent in 2008, compared to an estimated 3.9 percent in 2006. Similarly, Old Mutual Africa Operations Managing Director Johannes Gawaxab expects 4.3 percent GDP growth in Namibia this year.

Namdeb is the 50-50 joint venture between the Namibian government and De Beers. Namibia, Botswana, Angola and South Africa have all been pressing De Beers and other diamond producers to "beneficiate" more locally produced rough diamonds back to the countries where they are mined, so as to encourage the development of the local diamond polishing and jewelry manufacturing industries.

Date: 2007-01-27 **Time:** 09.15 AM

» **Philips unveils flat TV set with 225 carats of diamonds**

Source: AFNS

Philips Electronics has used the 2007 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas to celebrate the production of its one millionth Ambilight FlatTV with the unveiling of a television set featuring 2,250 diamonds, with a total weight of 225 carats. The TV created in conjunction with New York-based jewelry company A.Link, which is a partner of the Antwerp based DTC sightholder, Dali Diamond.

Diamonds are set in the frame of the flat television screen in a graceful floral pattern. "The combination of our top of the line diamonds and the Ambilight technology creates a beautiful radiance of colorful light and glamour," said Jeffrey Link, president of A.Link. "We pride ourselves in developing products that are iconic and highlight the diamonds in a stylish and sophisticated manner. The millionth Ambilight FlatTV is an amazing icon that we are proud to have helped develop."

Date: 2007-01-26 **Time:** 08.45 AM

» **Black diamonds come from outer space, researchers say**

Source: AFNS

Black diamonds came from outer space, according to a paper published online in the scientific journal *Astrophysical Journal Letters*. The research was summarized on the U.S. National Science Foundation's website.

Scientists Jozsef Garai and Stephen Haggerty of Florida International University along with Case Western Reserve University researchers Sandeep Rekhi and Mark Chance, claim an extraterrestrial origin for the unusual black diamonds. Also called carbonado diamonds, the stones are found only in Brazil and the Central African Republic, and appear to be completely unrelated to terrestrial diamonds, which are found in volcanic kimberlite ore.

Infrared synchrotron radiation at Brookhaven National Laboratory was used to discover the diamonds' source. Trace amounts hydrogen in the carbonado diamonds indicate an origin in a hydrogen-rich interstellar space, the researchers believe.

The term carbonado was coined by the Portuguese in Brazil in the mid-18th century, based on the diamonds' visual similarity to porous charcoal. The new data support earlier research by Haggerty showing that carbonado diamonds formed in stellar supernovae explosions. Black diamonds were once the size of asteroids, a kilometer or more in diameter when they first landed on Earth.

Date: 2007-01-25 **Time:** 09.35AM