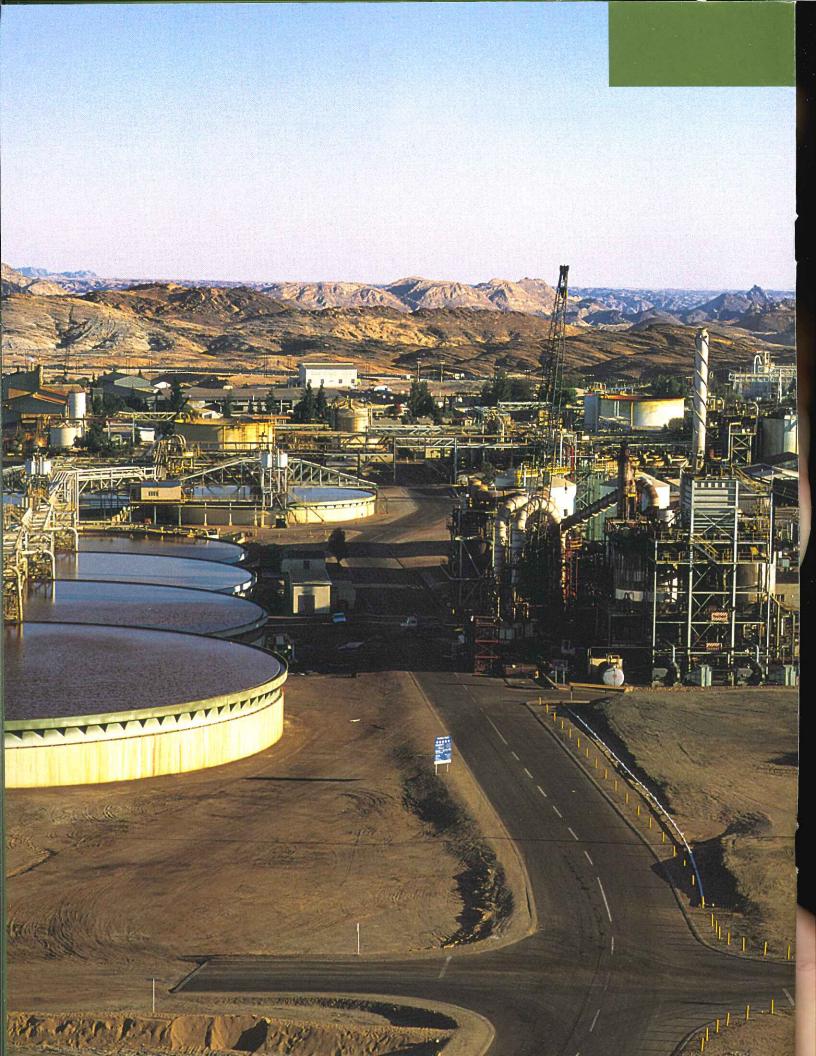
Rössing





PRÖSSING RÖSSING

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In the counter current decantation (CCD) tanks a flocculant is added to weigh down the slimes to the bottom with the clear uranium-bearing solution, also known as the pregnant solution, overflowing into a tank.



For Rössing, 1998 was an eventful year. A number of important programmes were initiated and further progress was made in improving efficiencies and reducing costs. The weaker market conditions experienced in 1997 continued and it became clear that uranium prices could remain low for some time. As a result, plans to increase production have been further deferred and the focus of the operation will be on improving efficiencies at current production levels.

Design capacity is 4500 tonnes per annum. In 1998 uranium production was 73% of capacity with a total of 3 257 tonnes produced, which was 4% less than in 1997. Mined tonnage decreased by 5% to just under 26 million tonnes.

The Company qualified for its
13th consecutive NOSCAR, the
award for excellence in safety
management. Safety performance in
the first half of the year was below
expectations, but an improvement in
the second half of the year ensured that
overall standards were maintained as
confirmed by the NOSA (National
Occupational Safety Association of South
Africa) audit. Five site contractors
continued to demonstrate their full
commitment to Rössing's safety
programme and achieved the NOSA five
star rating for the second consecutive year.

A number of programmes were implemented, which provided the Company with a solid basis to achieve its goals and to ensure the long-term

RÖSSING'S CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL NAMIBIAN MINERAL EXPORTS (% at current prices)





One of the five new 180 tonne Haulpak 730E haultrucks being assembled on the mine.

cost competitiveness of the business.

These programmes represent
an important investment in the

Company's future.

Among these was the purchase and delivery of five new Haulpak 730E haultrucks, which formed part of the programme to replace aging equipment that have high maintenance requirements.

Significant progress was made with the Business Systems Project (BSP) with Phase I and II going live in July and November respectively. The project has set the scene for business improvements in 1999 and beyond. In Processing the pre-screening plant, commissioned in December, will contribute to processing efficiency.

The Company's Year 2000 project is well underway with specific programmes implemented to ensure company compliance by mid-1999.

Employee relations remained sound in 1998. A relationship building initiative held in October involved a cross section of employees, and paved the way for increased transparency and information sharing and contributed to a constructive salary negotiation process.



The Company continued to play an important role in the development of Namibia by its contribution to the economy in 1998 and the generation of approximately 10% of total Namibian exports. Employee salaries and benefits, taxes paid and local goods and services purchased totalled almost US\$85 million (N\$500 million)*.

In 1998 the Rössing Foundation directly invested nearly US\$1.50 million (N\$8.85 million) in its important work of social upliftment, training and skills improvement throughout the country. The Foundation managed a further US\$1.50 million on behalf of other non government organisations and foreign aid institutions which recognise the value of the Foundation as a facilitator of development programmes.

Rössing offers good conditions of employment, is committed to training and development and demonstrates a dedication to high standards. The Company's goal is to be a reliable,

CONTRIBUTION OF MINING TO GDP – 1997

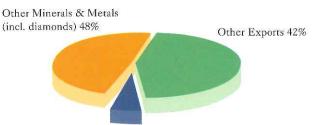
Source: Central Statistics Office



Mining 13.50%

CONTRIBUTION OF RÖSSING'S EXPORTS TO TOTAL EXPORTS – 1997

Source: Central Statistics Office



Rössing Exports 10%

competitive and responsible long-term supplier of uranium oxide to the nuclear power industry around the world. The challenge for the year ahead is to optimise the benefits of programmes implemented in 1998 to ensure that Rössing enters the new millennium with confidence as a world-class, low-cost, long-term sustainable supplier to the benefit of its customers, employees, shareholders and the people of Namibia.

* Exchange rate: 5.90



Chairman, Charles Kauraisa



Managing Director, Andrew Hope



General Manager, Werner Haymann



Financial Director, Mike Leech



Managing Director, Rio Tinto Mineral Services Ltd, Mike Travis

REVIEW

During 1998 the restricted spot price fell from US\$12 per lb U₃O₈ in January to US\$8.75 per lb U₃O₈ in December, the lowest point on record in real inflationadjusted terms. The year was marked by the lack of trading activity. UX Consulting recorded spot purchases of less than

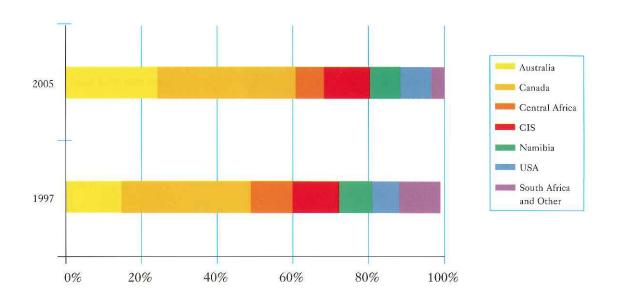
4 500 tonnes U₃O₈ for the year, half the volume contracted in 1997. This was partly a reflection of low uncovered utility demand following the contracting activity of 1996 and 1997, and partly an indication of discretionary buyers' reluctance to enter the market at a time of falling prices.

Spot price per lb of U₃O₈

	31/12/1996	31/12/1997		31/12/1998	
Restricted	\$ 14.70	\$ 12.05	-18%	\$ 8.75	-27%
Unrestricted	\$ 13.75	\$ 9.65	-30%	\$ 8.45	-12%

(Source: NMR Exchange Value)

GEOGRAPHICAL CONCENTRATION OF SUPPLY 1997 AND 2005 Source: Rio Tinto Estimate



^{*} Restricted price applies to those transactions in which the buyer/seller is restricted by either the Euratom Supply Agency, the US Department of Commerce or contractually from receiving/delivering CIS origin products and services.

A REVIEW

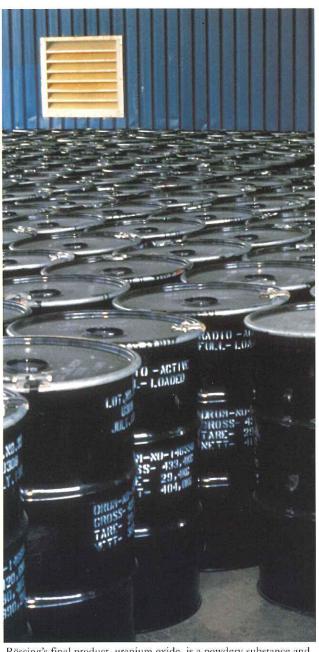
In the natural uranium market primary production again supplied only 60% of overall requirements. Secondary supply sources maintained a significant role in the supply and demand balance and the uncertainty surrounding many of these

sources was a contributory factor to the market decline.

During the year, privatisation of the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) was finally concluded. In order to facilitate the process, the US government transferred substantial quantities of inventory to USEC.

Consequently the level of inventory announced by USEC to be surplus to requirements, was greater than that expected by the uranium market. This resulted in added price pressures.

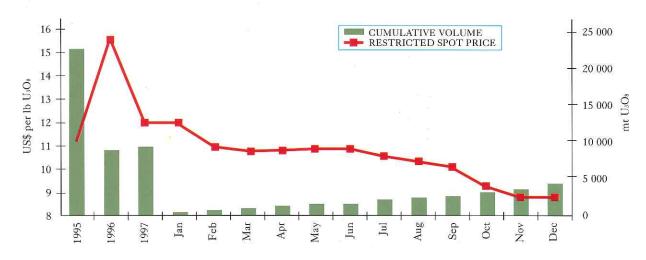
The weakening market made it increasingly difficult for the parties involved in the negotiations over the purchase of the feed from the Russian Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) to reach agreement. The blending down of this former military material has the potential to place large volumes of uranium onto the civil nuclear industry. The failure to resolve the mechanism for the sale and pricing of the feed creates major uncertainty for the market. The allocation by the US government of US\$325 million for the purchase of feed delivered in 1997 and 1998 is a positive development, which should assist the final conclusion of the negotiations.



Rössing's final product, uranium oxide, is a powdery substance and is safely and securely packed into steel drums for delivery to the Company's customers. One drum of uranium oxide, which contains almost 400 kg, contains the equivalent in energy of 25 000 barrels of crude oil.

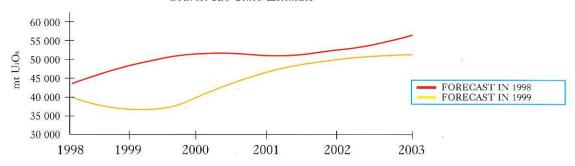
RESTRICTED SPOT PRICE AND VOLUMES

Source: Ux Consulting



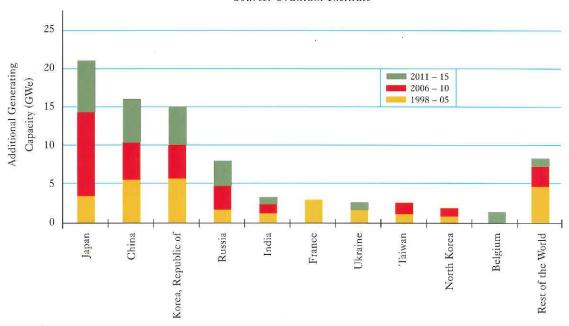
GLOBAL PRODUCTION FORECAST IN 1998 AND 1999

Source: Rio Tinto Estimate



ADDITIONAL NUCLEAR GENERATING CAPACITY 1998 - 2015

Source: Uranium Institute



WEVIEW DEVIEW

Low spot prices inevitably impacted the uranium mining industry. There was some consolidation among the primary producers and Cameco, the largest global producer, purchased Uranerz, the fourth largest producer. During the year production cut-backs and deferrals were also announced with significant reductions in Canada and Australia.

On the demand side, the year began with the Asian currency crisis, which directly affected the purchasing power of utilities. The initial severity of the situation abated relatively quickly and it is thought that long-term nuclear reactor construction programmes will not be affected.

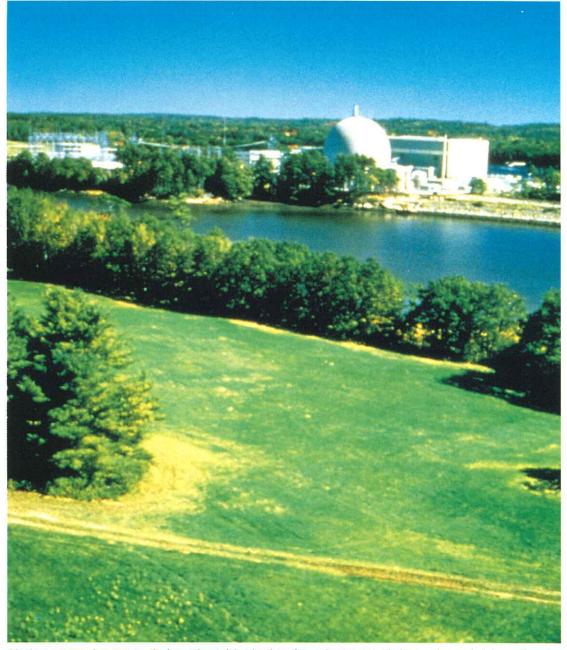
Deregulation continued in all the western markets. Utilities faced with increasing competition and price pressures are responding by mergers and acquisitions, cost cutting and restructuring, especially in the USA. Initial predictions for nuclear power in this environment were for the early closure of a substantial number of reactors but this now seems to be too pessimistic. While a few reactors have been, or will be closed, several have also been purchased. Utilities are demonstrating that nuclear power can be competitive in a deregulated market and increasing numbers are

seeking life extensions for their existing reactors. Elsewhere increased operational efficiency and capacity utilisation will help to mitigate the overall effect of premature reactor closures.

A continuing threat to long-term demand is the issue of social and political acceptance of nuclear power, as demonstrated by recent events in Germany. However, recognition of the contribution that nuclear power makes to limiting greenhouse gas emissions and of the high cost of replacing existing capacity should provide a counter-balance to calls for early phase-out.

Overall the market outlook is one of gradually rising uranium requirements in the medium term. On the supply side there is uncertainty in many secondary supply sources and reduced primary production from an increasingly concentrated mining industry.

In this environment Rössing offers an established mine infrastructure with over 20 years of operational history. The Company maintains world-class environmental and technical standards with the backing of Rio Tinto, the world's largest mining company. It has substantial reserves and spare production capacity requiring no new



Nuclear generated energy results in a substantial reduction of greenhouse gas emissions each year, helping nations to meet their commitment on emission levels. Pictured here is the McGuire Nuclear Power Station in North Carolina, USA.

permits and minimal capital expenditure to be brought on line.

The philosophy of developing and maintaining close commercial dialogue and relationships with existing and potential customers has been paramount in achieving Rössing's objectives. As a country, Namibia provides political and social stability and sound economic management. As a company, Rössing represents a secure source of supply and offers corporate and geographical diversity to the world-wide nuclear fuel industry.

DEERATION SOVERATION S

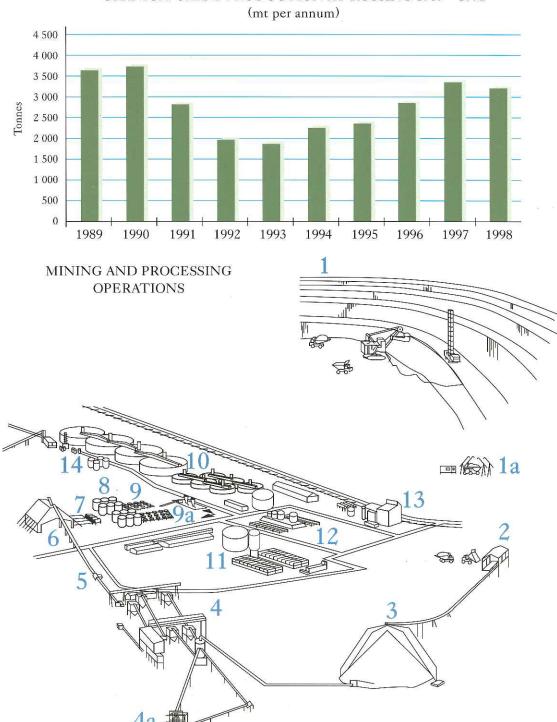
PRODUCTION

During the year 3 257 tonnes of U₃O₈ were produced, 5% less than in 1997.

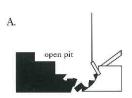
Mined tonnage was 5% lower than in 1997 totalling 25.60 million tonnes and

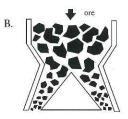
milled tonnage remained in line with 1997 levels at 11 million tonnes. The mining rate was reduced in the third quarter, awaiting the arrival of the new haultrucks.

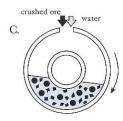
URANIUM OXIDE PRODUCTION AT RÖSSING 1989 – 1998



MINING AND PROCESSING OPERATIONS



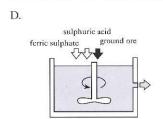


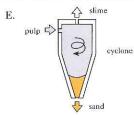


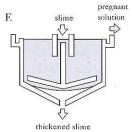
A. MINING: (1) The uranium ore at Rössing is recovered by drilling, blasting, loading and haulage. Due to erratic distribution of minerals in the ground, waste and ore are often mixed together. Radiometric scanners measure the radioactivity level of each truckload (1a). This determines whether the material is sent to the primary crushers (2) or to low-grade stockpile. Waste is transported to a separate dump.

B. CRUSHING: Ore is delivered to the primary crushers (2) by haultruck and then by conveyor to the coarse ore stockpile (3). It passes through a pre-screening plant (4a) and a further series of crushers and screens (4) until the particles are smaller than 19mm. After weighing (5) this fine ore is stored on another stockpile (6).

C. GRINDING: Wet grinding of the crushed ore by means of steel rods reduces it further to a slurry with the consistency of mud. The four rodmills (7), which are 4.3m in diameter, are utilised as required by production levels and operate in parallel.

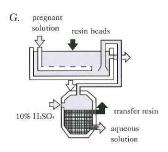


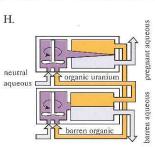


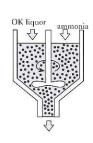


D. LEACHING: A combined leaching and oxidation process takes place in large mechanically agitated tanks (8). The uranium content of the pulped ore is oxidised by ferric sulphate and dissolved in a sulphuric acid solution. Sulphuric acid is produced through a pyrite/sulphurroasting process on site (14).

E. SAND/SLIME SEPARATION: The product of leaching is a pulp containing suspended sand and slime. Cyclones separate these components and, after washing in Rotoscoops (9) to remove traces of uranium-bearing solution, the sand is pumped through a pipe (9a) to a tailings disposal area. F. THICKENING: Counter-current decantation thickeners (10) wash the slimes from previous stages. A clear uranium-bearing solution ('pregnant' solution) overflows from No. 1 thickener, while the washed slime is mixed with the sands and pumped to the tailings area (9a).





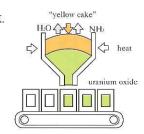


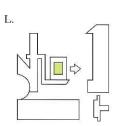
aqueous solution (from ion exchange)

G. CONTINUOUS ION EXCHANGE: CIX(11) The clear pregnant solution now comes into contact with beads of specially-formulated resin. Uranium ions are absorbed onto the resin and are preferentially extracted from the solution. Beads are removed periodically to clution columns where a strong acid wash removes the uranium from the beads. The resulting cluate is a purified and more concentrated uranium solution. H. SOLVENT EXTRACTION: SX(12) The acidic cluate from the ion exchange plant is mixed with an organic solvent which takes up the uranium bearing component. In a second stage, the organic solution is mixed with a neutral aqueous ammonium sulphate solution which takes up the uranium-rich 'OK liquor'. The acidic 'barren aqueous' solution is returned to the clution columns.

I. PRECIPITATION: (13) The addition of gaseous ammonia to the 'OK liquor' raises the solution pH, resulting in precipitation of ammonium diuranate, which is then thickened to a yellow slurry.







J. FILTRATION (13) The ammonium diuranate is recovered on rotating drum filters as yellow paste-'yellow cake'.

K. DRYING AND ROASTING (13) Final calcining drives off the ammonia, leaving uranium oxide. The product is then packed into metal drums. Neither ammonium diuranate nor uranium oxide are explosive substances.

L. LOADING AND DESPATCH (13) The drums of uranium oxide are loaded and exported to overseas customers for further processing. At full capacity, the plant can produce 5 000 short tons of uranium oxide each year.

The five

The five new Haulpak 730E haultrucks purchased represent an investment of US\$10.50 million (N\$62 million). The 180 tonne trucks arrived in the Namibian harbour of Walvis Bay from the USA at the end of the year and were transported to the mine for assembly. The trucks, with a higher load capacity than the old fleet, will be commissioned early in 1999. This brings the total of Haulpak 730E trucks in the Rössing fleet to 11.

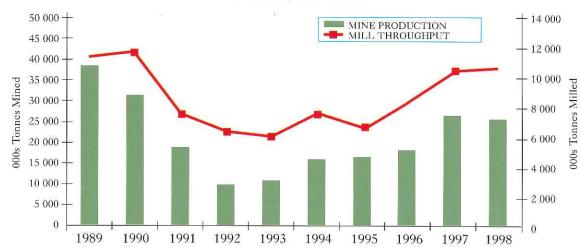
A diamond drilling programme commenced during 1998 to increase the level of proven ore reserves within the pit. The plan is to drill 18 000 metres over a 20 month period. In 1998 a total of 16 holes comprising approximately 5 800 metres were completed.

In the Processing area a pre-screening facility was constructed in 1998 at a cost of US\$3.20 million (N\$19 million) and

was tied into the fine crushing circuit to improve the throughput capacity of the circuit, by removing under-size material from the bulk. In addition, the pre-screening plant will enable radiometric ore sorting on the coarser rock fraction in the future. Plans for the ore-sorting plant were finalised and will be reviewed for implementation during 1999.

1998 was a year of significant change for the acid plant. During the first quarter, the Otjihase mining operation, the source of pyrite to Rössing, suspended operations and the supply of pyrite was discontinued. It was decided to import sulphur to produce acid for the remainder of the year. A record shipment of 36 000 tonnes, the largest ever handled by the Walvis Bay harbour, was received in September. Both roasters of the acid plant have been running on sulphur only for five months – the only pyrite plant burning elemental

MINE PRODUCTION/MILL THROUGHPUT 1989 – 1998 (tonnes mined/tonnes milled)



sulphur in the world. No maintenance problems were encountered and as Otjihase's future remains uncertain, indications are that the bulk of the acid in 1999 will also be produced from elemental sulphur.

BUSINESS SYSTEMS PROJECT

With the implementation of the Business Systems Project the Company has joined a number of leading international mining corporations using SAP/R3 to optimise business processes. This new integrated information system is a further investment in the long-term future of the Company, which will improve the quality of business information. This will assist in identifying cost reduction opportunities in a number of operational areas.

The project, which was completed at a cost of US\$4.80 million (N\$34 million), was aligned with and complemented the pilot Rio Tinto Group Systems Project (GSP). Rössing implemented SAP/R3 for over 400 users and was one of the first customers world-wide to add the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) functionality.

YEAR 2000

Rössing embarked on programmes to finalise its preparedness for the Year 2000 challenges in 1997. Inventory data capture and classification was completed by the



The open pit production operates on 3 shifts a day, 7 days a week, which means production continues right through the night.

third quarter of 1998. Remediation work on large systems began in 1996 and a number were already complete before year-end. All systems are scheduled to be compliant by June 1999.

A full risk review of all Year 2000 exposures was carried out. Risks have been categorised in terms of severity and likelihood and contingency plans are being drawn up. Critical risks are scheduled to become fully compliant by end February 1999 with all medium risks compliant tested by end June 1999.

Shipping and production schedules have been adjusted to ensure that deliveries to customers for at least the first four months of 2000 are in place before the end of 1999. The Company is working to ensure that it is fully prepared for the new millenium in all areas of the operation and is on target for full compliance by June 1999.

HUMANI OVERVIEW

HUMAN RESOURCES

Rössing employed 1 182 people at the end of 1998, a 5% net decrease on the previous year. Reductions in employee numbers continued across the site with only critical vacant positions being filled. A number of employees took advantage of the early retirement packages offered in November. Productivity as measured by output per person, remained at last year's record level. A total of 57 employees received 20 year service awards during the year, taking the average length of service to 14 years.

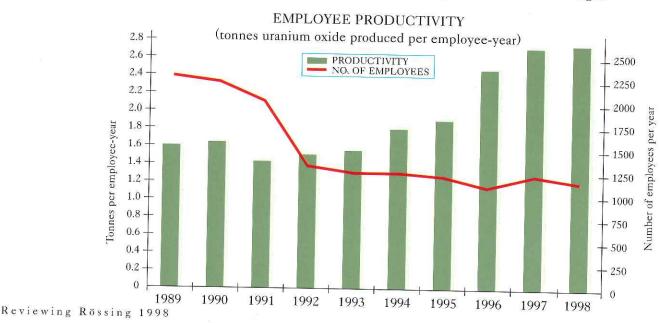
The training and development focus areas were performance management and SAP/R3 application and utilisation. The performance management training facilitated the identification of value drivers and the formulation of individual performance agreements for all management levels.

The groundwork for implementing the system for employees in the bargaining unit was also established.

At the Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology in Arandis the Company continued to support 34 apprentices being trained as diesel mechanics, electricians, boilermakers, instrumentation technicians and fitters and turners.

The relationship building exercise, involving representatives from all levels of the Company, half of them members of the Mineworkers Union of Namibia, provided the parties with the opportunity to present their respective business objectives and identify methods of maintaining effective relationships.

The exercise fostered goodwill and a better understanding of the Company's business performance and challenges.





Various dust monitoring programmes are implemented to assess tailings erosion and to quantify the effectiveness of the control measures. The monitors used include the multi-vertical dust samplers, which have been designed by Rössing.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Rössing is committed to providing a safe and healthy operating environment. The Environmental Control and Environmental Engineering Sections continuously monitor radiation and dust, gaseous emission, noise levels and seepage by looking at water and air quality and the ecology. The purpose of monitoring is threefold. Firstly, to collect background information, secondly, to confirm the effectiveness of control measures and thirdly, to identify new impacts that might require remedial action. Standards have been set, and are maintained, well inside those recommended and stipulated by the internationally recognised bodies.

Safety

Rössing's leadership in the field of safety was once again demonstrated when the Company qualified for its 13th consecutive NOSCAR.

There were 18 lost time accidents during the year, compared to 12 in 1997. The overall disabling injury incidence rate was 0.93. Although the safety results were disappointing compared to 1997, the second half of 1998 saw a downward trend of injuries, which was a good indication of the positive effect of measures implemented. Among these measures were pre-accident investigations, increased supervisory involvement in defining problem areas and a team approach to safety investigations. This resulted in increased employee involvement and awareness of the hazards.

Environment

The Company embarked on the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) comparable to the ISO 14001 standard. The objective of the system is to establish a systematic approach towards environmental control based on continuous improvement.

S OVERVIEW

This system will allow the Company the opportunity to illustrate its environmental performance by means of a recognised international standard. In addition it will provide the value-added prospect of managing environmental impacts and potential risks on site in an efficient and systematic way. The system will be fully implemented mine-wide by mid-1999.

A waste management programme was implemented during 1998 making provision for remedial measures required to the landfill site, investigation of waste minimisation and recycling strategies, and hazardous waste management. Remedial measures to the landfill site included a change in the method of waste disposal from an end-tipping method. This has been replaced by a cell method. The other measures included the compaction and covering of waste material and the construction of a cut-off trench immediately downstream of the waste dump. Programmes for the recycling of paper, wood and metals were either implemented or extended during the year. Management plans for the disposal or recycling of all known major hazardous wastes generated on site were also completed.

Health

As part of the "Wellness in the Workplace Programme" the training of peer educators



A full medical examination is done on every employee on a regular basis at the Medical Centre on the mine.

continued in the Erongo Region, where the mine is situated, for both adults and learners. The success of this exercise not only helps to combat the spread of HIV/ AIDS, but also emphasises other aspects of health promotion and education.

The Company's five year plan to address HIV/AIDS related issues was compiled and implemented. In order to prevent the duplication of services in the Erongo Region the report will be used as an example to encourage other companies to take part in the effort to combat HIV/AIDS. Alcohol and drugs, smoking and cancer, sexual harassment, stress and child abuse were among the topics of the ongoing awareness campaigns presented on site and in the surrounding communities.

RÖSSING'S POLICY STATEMENT ON HEALTH, SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Striving to minimise its impact on the environment in the widest context, by adopting the principle of best contemporary practice during its operation and after decommissioning. Limiting Company exposure to environmental risk by identifying, controlling and monitoring environmental impacts on a regular, systematic basis.

Upholding the right of every employee to work in safe conditions and ensuring that the general public, as well as employees, are protected from potential health hazards associated with the operations of the Company.

Rössing has a comprehensive health, safety and environmental management programme in place.

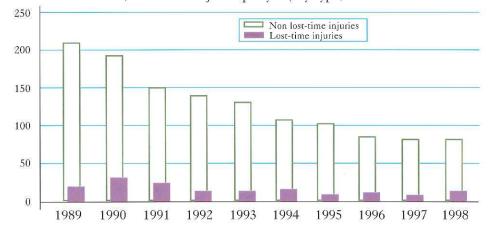
The Company is committed to:

A policy of responsible disclosure with regard to its environmental management and performance. The Company will not, without good reason, restrict the availability of relevant information either to employees or to the general public.

Training all employees in safe, practical and efficient work methods that take cognisance of potential health hazards and potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the operation.

Complying with appropriate health, safety and environmental legislation, taking due note of article 95 of the Namibian Constitution and adhering to the best contemporary practice and requirements of the uranium mining and processing industry elsewhere.

HISTORY OF INJURY RATE AT RÖSSING (Number of injuries per year, by type)



RÖSSING

RÖSSING PROGRAMMES

Rössing's communities policy and five year plan were updated in alignment with the needs of the business. The communities strategy will increase focus on the Erongo Region and immediate communities in the vicinity of the mine, while maintaining a profile of programmes at the national level through the activities of the Rössing Foundation and the Company's External Relations programmes.

The visitors' programme assisted in maintaining good relations and communications and created a better understanding of Rössing's business

Three women in Arandis earn a small income from collecting glass in the town as part of the recycling project run by the mine.

challenges. Visitors to the mine totalled nearly 3 500.

The Company supported and participated in a number of special programmes hosted by the Government of Namibia to promote the country as an investment option. These included the World Economic Forum and the Southern African International Dialogue (SAID). Rössing and the Swakopmund Muncipality co-sponsored and hosted a welcoming banquet in Swakopmund for 450 delegates to SAID, many of which visited the mine.

During the year the Company donated the former Tamariskia single quarters to the Erongo Development Foundation to enable the establishment of a House of Safety for abused and destitute persons. Rössing is represented on the board of the Foundation.

A recycling project was started on the mine along side the waste management programme. A network to collect waste paper throughout the Company and in the community was set up. The paper is sold to a recycler and the money generated will be used to fund environmental cleanup initiatives in the Erongo Region. A glass recycling project is also supported in Arandis.

RÖSSING FOUNDATION

The Rössing Foundation, which was established in 1978, is administered by a full time Director who is responsible to an independent Board of Trustees. The organisation is funded by donations received from Rössing, but also manages a number of projects on behalf of non governmental organisations and foreign aid institutions.

During 1998 the Foundation continued its important work in the development and upliftment of Namibians. A three year plan was developed to refocus the work of the Foundation, improve the cost effectiveness of operations and bring expenditure in line with income to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Foundation. This translated into programmes involved in capacity building with a focus on education and training, natural resource management, enterprise development and the sharing of resources and networking.

In total about 20 000 Namibians were to benefit from activities managed by the Foundation, including the training and income generating activities under the Namibia Craft Centre.

Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRM)

This particular programme is aimed at developing a capacity within Namibia to



Additions to the Rössing Foundation Adult Education Centre in Ondangwa in the north of Namibia were opened by the Minister of Higher Education, Vocational Training, Science and Technology in April 1998. The additions include a library, four classrooms and a fully equipped kitchen and dining room. The opening day was marked with choir and dance entertainment.

provide an effective and efficient facility to strengthen certain components of the national CBNRM programme. During the course of 1998 the Foundation fulfilled an identified need within the national programme to provide training to government ministries, non governmental and community based organisations. The Foundation also established conservancy management committees and related entrepreneurial activities in the more rural communities.

In partnership with the World Wildlife
Fund – UK, the Foundation has
introduced a relevant training programme
for this project.

THE RÖSSING BACKGROUND
RÖSSING. the 1-

Rössing, the largest open pit uranium mine in the world, is situated in Namibia. It lies 65 kilometres inland from the coastal town of Swakopmund, in the Namib Desert. This region is characterised by limited vegetation, rocky outcrops and

the mine is about 30 mm per year.

gravel plains. The average rainfall around

Captain Peter Louw, a mineral prospector working in the Namib Desert, discovered radioactive pitchblende in the late 1920's. It was only in 1966, however, that Rio Tinto South Africa Ltd, a subsidiary of the RTZ Corporation (now Rio Tinto plc), negotiated an option on the 1 000 square kilometre concession. A team from RTZ then established an exploration camp in the Namib Desert. An extensive programme of geophysical and geological surveys commenced, followed by a detailed feasibility study. The ore body was found to be an economical high tonnage deposit of low-grade uranium occurring in granitic rocks termed as alaskite.

A decision to go ahead with the mining project was made in August 1973. The plant and mine were designed to produce 4 500 tonnes of uranium oxide per year and began operating in March 1976. It reached full-scale production for the first time in 1979.

GEOLOGY OF THE RÖSSING DEPOSIT

Rössing is the largest known uranium ore deposit of its kind and has a geological history dating back 700 million years to when the Namib Desert formed part of the sea. Very slowly, a thick succession of sediments began to accumulate on the floor of this ancient ocean. With time, geological processes led to the burial and hardening of these sediments deep within the earth's crust. At these depths extremely high pressures and temperatures caused complex folding of the sedimentary rocks. Underlying molten granite was forced upwards and became embedded in the sedimentary rocks. This intrusive granite, known locally as alaskite, contains the uranium minerals that are either microscopically small crystals of uraninite or easily seen yellow crystals of betauranophane. Subsequent erosion has removed much of the covering rock and exposed the Rössing deposit.



An aerial view of the open pit, which is 3km long, 1km wide and 300m deep.

Namit.

Namibia's surface area is 824 000 square kilometres with a population of **1,75** million and a population growth rate estimated at **3**%.



STATISTICAL DATA - RÖSSING & NAMIBIA

Source: Central Statistics Office and Rössing

NAMIBIA	UNITS	1997
Gross Domestic Product (current prices)	N\$millions	15 115
GDP per capita	N\$	8 923
Total Exports of goods (current prices)	N\$millions	6 263
Total Mineral Exports (incl. diamonds)	N\$millions	3 650
Total Public Debt as % of GDP	%	19
Total Government Revenue (incl. grants)	N\$millions	5 689
Total Mining Taxes (incl. diamonds)	N\$millions	135
Inflation Rate	%	8.80
Total Water Consumed	million m ³	109.50
Total Electricity Produced	million kWh	0.630
GDP Growth Rate (constant prices)	%	1.80

RÖSSING URANIUM MINE	UNITS	1997	1998
Uranium Production	tonnes	3 425	3 257
Contribution to World Production	%	8	8
Rank Amongst Principal Producers		6	4
Contribution to Mineral Exports	% by value	17	not available
Total Tonnes Mined	million t	26.81	25.60
Total Tonnes Milled	million t	10.67	10.95
Number of Employees		1 249	1 182
Productivity per Employee-year		2.74	2.75
Fresh Water Purchased	million m³	2.86	3.45
Electricity Purchased	million kWh	208.70	210.70