

Greek magnesite

Terna Mag ships first magnesite order from Kymassia Port in Greece

- First shipment from Mantoudi in 15 years
- New Herreshoff kiln planned for DBM
- Future positive for Greece?

Emma Hughes,
Siobhan Lismore-Scott

Magnesia mining company, Terna Mag SA, part of the GEK Terna group, has exported approximately 2,500 tonnes of magnesite from the Kymassia Port in Greece, marking the first shipment from the Mantoudi region in 15 years.

The recently-established company, which began mining activities eight months ago, shipped the cargo to Italy in February.

Terna said the shipment was part of its broader €100m (\$136m*) investment plan to revive mining activities in Mantoudi. This follows previous activity by GEK Terna six years ago.

In addition, GEK Terna's €15m acquisition of Viomagn SA has settled past tax and social security obligations as well as liabilities to suppliers and banks that remained outstanding from the company's previous owners.

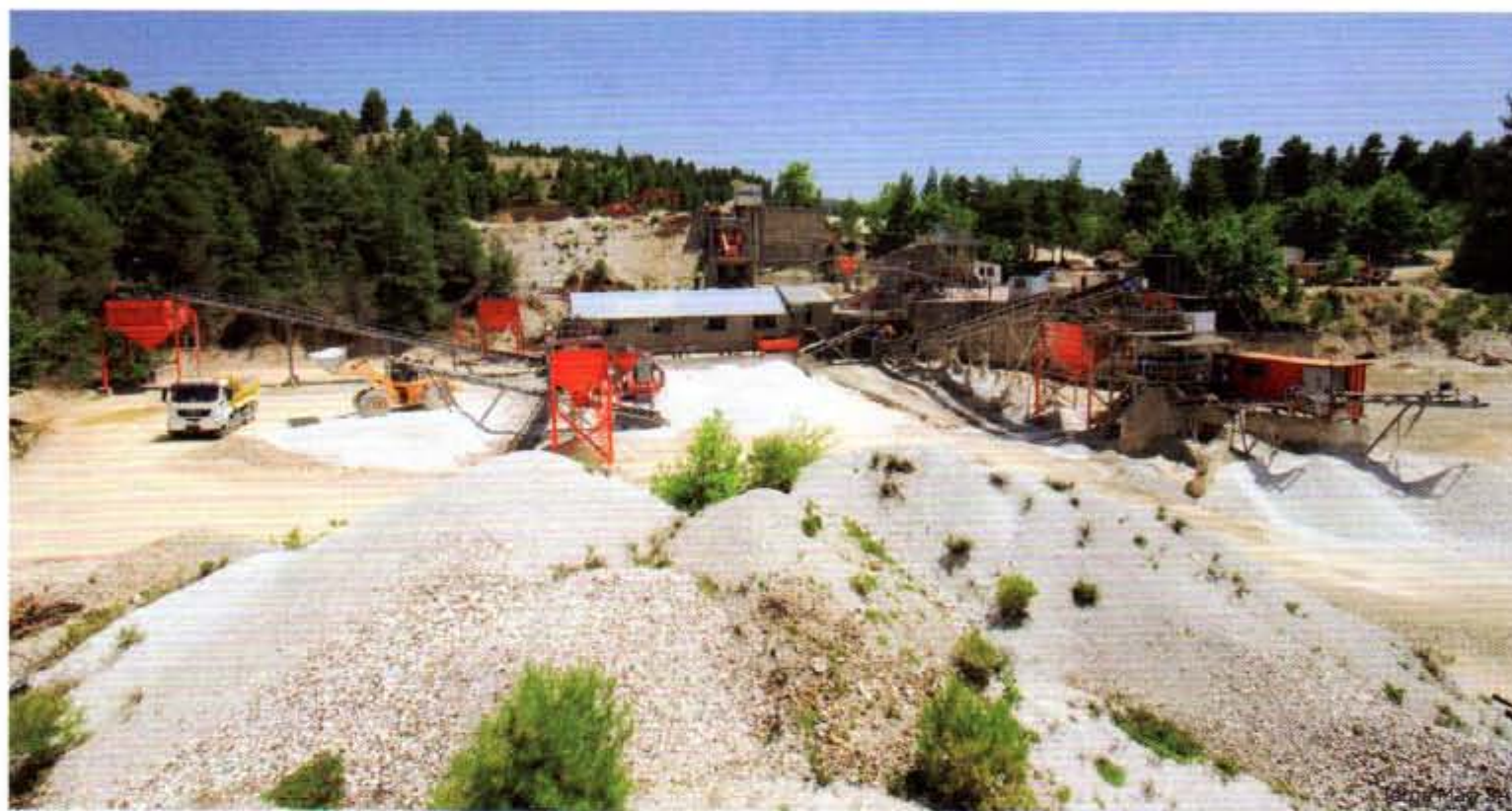
Terna shipped raw magnesite, but it is also able to produce caustic calcined magnesia (CCM).

"In the future, we will be producing dead burned magnesia (DBM), Magflot and possibly electric fused magnesia (EFM), the company told **IM**.

The company expects to be producing 450,000 tpa in 2018, separated into capacities of 100,000 tpa CCM, 35,000 tpa DBM and 50,000 tpa Magflot.

The company expects to ship 95% of its product abroad. It has customers in Italy, but is also speaking to other markets.

"We are targeting users of high quality natural cryptocrystalline magnesia and EFM producers as well as high quality brick refractory producers," the company said.



Terna Mag's site in Mantoudi, Greece

Rebuilding a historic site

Terna told **IM** that it is also in the process of rebuilding a herreshoff kiln, which it believes will be ready by the end of August. This will have a capacity of 60,000 tpa. The company already has a shaft kiln on site, which can produce 1,200 tpm CCM.

"Concerning past magnesite activity, there is a long tradition of magnesite mining and magnesia processing in the area," a company spokeswoman told **IM**.

"This is an area which has the famous magnesite reserves of Mantoudi that for many years supplied the world with superior quality magnesia products," she added.

Mining activity in Greece

Greece has faced significant economic difficulties over the past few years following the global economic recession, which rocked many European countries, but Greece in particular.

GEK Terna's investment in the Mantoudi region of Greece is expected to benefit the local economy, especially through new job creation.

The company currently employs 100 people at its facilities and plans to create an additional 400 jobs over the next three years, as operations ramp up.



Raw magnesite from the company's deposit

*Conversion made February 2014