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JX Nippon Mining & Metals Corporation

**Demonstration Trials with an Eye on the Recycling of Rare Metals
Extracted from Used Lithium-Ion Batteries and Other Items**

JX Nippon Mining & Metals Corporation (hereafter “JXNMM”; head office: Otemachi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; president: Masanori Okada) has been conducting demonstration trials with an eye on the recycling of rare metals recovered from used lithium-ion batteries and other items, and it has decided to continue to implement trials.

JXNMM was commissioned by Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry to carry out demonstration trials from April 2010 for the recovery of cobalt, nickel, manganese, and lithium (hereinafter the “Rare Metals”) from used lithium-ion batteries and other items. JXNMM has completed these trials conducted at its Tsuruga Plant in Tsuruga City, Fukui Prefecture, and the trials confirmed the effectiveness of JXNMM’s original technology for the recovery of the Rare Metals. JXNMM has decided that the quality of the recovered Rare Metals must be improved and the handling and recycling of the materials recovered must be made more economical for JXNMM to launch commercial-scale operations in the future.

For this reason, JXNMM has decided to introduce certain facilities to the Tsuruga Plant where the commissioned demonstration trials were conducted and to initiate further demonstration trials and various commercialization-related studies with an eye toward commercialization in October 2012. The investment is expected to total about 700 million yen.

Lithium-ion batteries are not only used in electronic devices, such as mobile phones and personal

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computers, but they have also been attracting international attention in recent years as onboard power sources for hybrid and electric cars. As a result, they have spread rapidly. With the recent Great East Japan Earthquake, lithium-ion batteries are now also in the spotlight for their power storage capabilities.

Demand for lithium batteries is expected to expand more and more in the future. As part of its measures to strengthen and expand its recycling and environmental services business, JXNMM will commercialize the recycling of these Rare Metals as soon as possible and do its utmost to contribute to the stable supply of raw materials for lithium-ion batteries and the establishment of a resource recycling-oriented society.

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