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MMC NORILSK NICKEL ANNOUNCES PRELIMINARY CONSOLIDATED PRODUCTION RESULTS FOR 2ND QUARTER 2010 AND 1ST HALF OF 2010

Moscow, July 30th, 2010 – OJSC MMC Norilsk Nickel (hereinafter – “Norilsk Nickel” or “the Company”), the world’s largest nickel and palladium producer, announces preliminary consolidated production results for the second quarter of 2010 and first half of 2010 at its Polar and Kola Divisions in Russia and international operations in Finland, Botswana and South Africa.

- Overall saleable nickel production in the second quarter of 2010 amounted to 75 thousand metric tonnes comparing to 70 thousand metric tonnes in the first quarter of 2010. The growth in overall production volumes is mostly due to increased load of international nickel assets of the Company. In the first half of 2010 nickel production totaled 145 thousand metric tonnes, representing a 3.3% growth as compared to the first half of 2009.
- Overall saleable copper production in the second quarter of 2010 increased to 103 thousand metric tonnes from 97 thousand metric tonnes in the previous quarter. The main reason of copper output growth in the second quarter of 2010 is the superior performance of Russian divisions relative to the approved production plan. Overall saleable copper production in the first half 2010 increased by 1.9% as compared to the first half of 2009 and amounted to 199 thousand metric tonnes.
- The Company has produced 804 thousand troy ounces of palladium in the reporting quarter, representing a 114 thousand troy ounces growth as compared to the first quarter of 2010. The increase in palladium output in the second quarter of 2010 was largely driven by the growth of production at Russian divisions of the Company. In the first half of 2010 the overall output of palladium augmented by 140 thousand troy ounces and totaled 1 494 thousand troy ounces.
- Overall platinum output in the reporting period reached 198 thousand troy ounces (+38 thousand ounces as compared to the first quarter of 2010), mostly due to the strong performance of Russian divisions. In general, in the first half of 2010 the Company increased platinum output by 43 thousand troy ounces up to 358 thousand troy ounces.

In the second quarter of 2010 the Polar and Kola Divisions in Russia produced 57.3 thousand metric tonnes of nickel slightly exceeding the approved production plan. In the first half of 2010 the production of nickel totaled 114.1 thousand metric tonnes which represents a 2% increase in comparison with the first half of 2009.

In the second quarter of 2010 copper production of the Russian divisions of the Company amounted to 94.7 thousand metric tonnes, surpassing the budgeted amount by 3 thousand tonnes. In the first half of 2010 the production of copper totaled 185.3 thousand metric tonnes, being largely in line with the results of the first half of 2009.

In the reporting period palladium production at the Kola and Polar Divisions amounted to 751 thousand troy ounces, which is 95 thousand troy ounces higher compared to the results of the first quarter of 2010. In the first half of 2010 the output of palladium totaled 1,407 thousand troy ounces, representing a 9.8% increase as compared with the first half of 2009.

The Russian divisions of the Company augmented platinum output in the second quarter of 2010 by 32 thousand troy ounces up to 186 thousand troy ounces. In the first half of 2010, the Polar and Kola Divisions produced 340 thousand troy ounces of platinum, constituting a 13% growth as compared to the results of the first half of previous year.

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In the second quarter of 2010 the Harjavalta nickel refinery in Finland produced 12.8 thousand metric tonnes of own nickel. In the first half of 2010 the production totaled 21.7 thousand metric tonnes of nickel as compared to 16.6 thousand metric tonnes in the first half of 2009. In the meanwhile, no tolled nickel has been processed in course of 2010. The substitution of tolled volumes by proprietary output is being implemented with minor delays due to lower deliveries of materials for leaching treatment, caused by circumstances beyond the control of the Company. The Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta refinery is envisaging catching up with the annual production targets in the second half of 2010.

In the second quarter of 2010 overall combined production of nickel in concentrate by Tati Nickel and Nkomati totaled 5.2 thousand metric tonnes. In the first half of 2010 these entities produced 9.6 thousand metric tonnes of nickel in concentrate. Before netting intragroup shipments the half-year results of African assets of the Company were largely in line with the production results of the first half of 2009.

In the reporting period no mining and metallurgical works were performed at the Australian assets.

The stated production volumes do not include the production results of Stillwater Mining Company, a subsidiary of the Company.

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MMC NORILSK NICKEL SALEABLE METALS PRODUCTION	1Q 2010	2Q 2010	Change, Q-o-Q	1H 2010	Change, P-o-P
Norilsk Nickel Polar and Kola Divisions (Russia)					
Nickel, metric tonnes	56 861	57 270	1%	114 131	2%
Copper, metric tonnes	90 567	94 693	5%	185 260	0%
Palladium, thousand troy ounces	656	751	14%	1 407	10%
Platinum, thousand troy ounces	154	186	21%	340	13%
Norilsk Nickel Finland					
Nickel, metric tonnes ¹	8 924	12 788	43%	21 712	31%
Copper, metric tonnes	2 239	2 996	34%	5 235	129%
Palladium, thousand troy ounces	9	12	33%	21	163%
Platinum, thousand troy ounces	2	5	150%	7	133%
Norilsk Nickel Africa²					
Nickel, total, metric tonnes	4 395	5 172 ³	18%	9 567 ⁴	n/a
Tati Nickel nickel to third parties, metric tonnes	3 798	4 382	15%	8 180	n/a
Nkomati (50%) nickel, to third parties, metric tonnes	597	790	32%	1 387	n/a
Tati Nickel and Nkomati (50%) copper, metric tonnes	3 768	4 862 ³	29%	8 630 ⁴	n/a
Tati Nickel and Nkomati (50%) palladium, thousand troy ounces	25	41	64%	66 ⁴	n/a
Tati Nickel and Nkomati (50%) платина, thousand troy ounces	4	7	75%	11 ⁴	n/a
TOTAL SALEABLE METALS PRODUCTION⁵					
Nickel , metric tonnes	70 180	75 230	7%	145 410	3%
Copper , metric tonnes	96 574	102 551	6%	199 125	2%
Palladium , thousand troy ounces	690	804	17%	1 494	10%
Platinum , thousand troy ounces	160	198	24%	358	14%

Notes:

1 Production results include processing of nickel concentrate from Norilsk Nickel Africa and purchased materials.

2 Tati Nickel production results are on a 100% basis.

3 Excluding 252 tonnes of nickel in concentrate, 170 tonnes of copper in concentrate, shipped to Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta refinery for further processing. These volumes were deducted from production results of Norilsk Nickel Africa and included in production results of Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta.

4 Excluding 1,554 tonnes of nickel in concentrate, 894 tonnes of copper in concentrate, 6 thousand troy ounces of palladium in concentrate and 2 thousand troy ounces of platinum in concentrate, shipped to Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta refinery for further processing. These volumes were deducted from production results of Norilsk Nickel Africa and included in production results of Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta.

5 Totals may vary from sum of numbers as a result of rounding.

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ABOUT MMC NORILSK NICKEL:

MMC Norilsk Nickel, a company incorporated under the laws of the Russian Federation, is the largest diversified mining and metals company in Russia, the world's largest producer of nickel and palladium and one of the world's largest producers of platinum, rhodium, copper and cobalt. In addition to this, MMC Norilsk Nickel produces a large number of other by-products, including gold, silver, tellurium, selenium, iridium and ruthenium.

The key production units of the Company's group in Russia are at the Polar and Kola Peninsulas. MMC Norilsk Nickel international assets include operations in Finland, USA, Australia, Botswana and South Africa.

MMC Norilsk Nickel's shares are traded at MICEX and RTS. ADRs on the Company's shares are traded on over the counter market in the US and at the London and Berlin stock exchanges.

Please visit www.norilsknickel.ru for more information about the Company.