



## News Release

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## **Kennecott Utah Copper Transitions Leadership**

*Bill Champion's appointment makes way for Andrew Harding*

(Copperton, UT – Oct. 11, 2007) - Kennecott Utah Copper (KUC), the world's largest copper producer in history, is welcoming Andrew Harding as President and CEO following Bill Champion's appointment to the position of Managing Director of Rio Tinto's Diamonds. Champion and Harding's new leadership assignments take effect November 1, 2007.

Champion, who led KUC since 2002, will be based in London and responsible for Rio Tinto's diamond mining operations in Australia, Canada, Zimbabwe and the Antwerp based diamond sales and marketing division. During his tenure at KUC, Champion was instrumental in pushing safety to the forefront of operations where KUC became an industry leader and positioned the company as a leader in copper production for years to come.

"My time at Kennecott Utah Copper has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," said Bill Champion, Managing Director of Rio Tinto's Diamonds business unit. "I feel confident and excited to leave for my new opportunity knowing that Andrew will bring an abundance of energy, enthusiasm and fresh ideas to his new role."

Prior to Harding's current role as Chief Operating Officer at KUC, he served as global practice leader for mining in Rio Tinto's Technology and Innovation group where he focused on leading performance improvement initiatives. Harding has also held several operations positions throughout his career in the iron ore, energy and aluminum industries.

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“I am excited about the opportunity to lead a first-class operation and work with all the wonderful people at Kennecott Utah Copper,” said Andrew Harding, newly appointed President and CEO, KUC. “Bill did a great job of laying the groundwork for the success of this operation, and I am happy to carry it on.”

### **About Kennecott Utah Copper**

As the second largest copper producer in the United States, Kennecott Utah Copper provides about 17 percent of this country's copper needs. Kennecott Bingham Canyon Mine is the largest man-made excavation in the world. It has produced more copper, 17.3 million tons, than any mine in the world. Every year, Kennecott produces about 300,000 tons of copper, along with 400,000 ounces of gold, 3 million ounces of silver, about 24 million pounds of molybdenum, and about 1 million tons of sulfuric acid, a by-product of the smelting process. Rio Tinto purchased Kennecott Utah Copper in 1989 and invested about \$2 billion in the modernization of KUC's operations. KUC has also spent more than \$350 million on the cleanup of historic mining waste and \$100 million on groundwater cleanup. KUC has 1,600 full-time employees and 600 contractors. For 70 years, KUC was the largest private employer in the State of Utah. [www.kennecott.com](http://www.kennecott.com).

### **About Rio Tinto**

Rio Tinto, the parent company to Kennecott companies, is a world leader in discovering, mining and processing the earth's mining resources in an economically, socially and environmentally responsible way. Wherever Rio Tinto operates, health and safety is the first priority. Group businesses also put sustainable development at the heart of their operations. They work as closely as possible with host countries and communities, respecting their laws and customs. For Rio Tinto, it is important that the environmental effects of its activities are kept to a minimum and local communities benefit as much as possible from operations. The US businesses produce borates, coal, copper, gold, gypsum, lead, molybdenum, silver, talc and zinc. The company employs more than 30,000 people worldwide and 2,300 people in Utah. [www.riotinto.com](http://www.riotinto.com)

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