

RIO TINTO PLC
Form 425
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and BHP Billiton Limited

Pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933

Subject Company: Rio Tinto plc

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NEWS RELEASE

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BHP BILLITON FILES FORM F-4 REGISTRATION STATEMENT WITH SEC

BHP Billiton announced that it has filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission its Registration Statement on Form F-4 in connection with its previously announced offer for Rio Tinto plc, as required by the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

The Form F-4 registers the BHP Billiton exchange securities to be offered as consideration to holders of Rio Tinto plc ordinary shares located in the US and to holders of Rio Tinto plc American Depositary Shares (ADSs) wherever located. The Form F-4 is subject to review and must be declared effective by the SEC before the exchange securities can be issued. Today's filing initiates this process with the SEC.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: www.bhpbilliton.com

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BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in Australia

Registered in England and Wales

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A member of the BHP Billiton group which is headquartered in Australia

Important Notice

The directors of BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc (BHP Billiton) accept responsibility for the information contained in this release. Having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this release is, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the directors of BHP Billiton, in accordance with the facts and contains no omission likely to affect its import.

Information Relating to the US Offer for Rio Tinto plc

In connection with the offer and sale of securities BHP Billiton would issue to Rio Tinto plc US shareholders and Rio Tinto plc ADS holders, BHP Billiton has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) a Registration Statement on Form F-4 (the Registration Statement), which contains a preliminary prospectus (the Prospectus), and will file additional relevant materials with the SEC. This communication is not a substitute for the Registration Statement or the Prospectus that BHP Billiton has filed, or any amendments or supplements to those documents BHP Billiton may file, with the SEC.

U.S. INVESTORS AND U.S. HOLDERS OF RIO TINTO PLC SECURITIES AND ALL HOLDERS OF RIO TINTO PLC ADSs ARE URGED TO READ THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT, THE PROSPECTUS AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM AND/OR FILED WITH THE SEC REGARDING THE POTENTIAL TRANSACTION, AS WELL AS ANY AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO THOSE DOCUMENTS, WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

Investors and security holders are able to obtain a free copy of the Registration Statement and the Prospectus as well as other relevant documents filed with the SEC at the SEC s website (<http://www.sec.gov>). Copies of such documents may also be obtained from BHP Billiton without charge.

Information for US Holders of Rio Tinto Limited Shares

BHP Billiton Limited is not required to, and does not plan to, prepare and file with the SEC a registration statement in respect of the Rio Tinto Limited Offer. Accordingly, Rio Tinto Limited shareholders should carefully consider the following:

The Rio Tinto Limited Offer will be an exchange offer made for the securities of a foreign company. Such offer is subject to disclosure requirements of a foreign country that are different from those of the United States. Financial statements included in the document will be prepared in accordance with foreign accounting standards that may not be comparable to the financial statements of United States companies.

Information Relating to the US Offer for Rio Tinto plc and the Rio Tinto Limited Offer for Rio Tinto shareholders located in the US

It may be difficult for you to enforce your rights and any claim you may have arising under the U.S. federal securities laws, since the issuers are located in a foreign country, and some or all of their officers and directors may be residents of foreign countries. You may not be able to sue a foreign company or its officers or directors in a foreign court for violations of the U.S. securities laws. It may be difficult to compel a foreign company and its affiliates to subject themselves to a U.S. court s judgment.

You should be aware that BHP Billiton may purchase securities of either Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited otherwise than under the exchange offer, such as in open market or privately negotiated purchases.