

Client:
Moneo Metals

Project:
The Moneo Nickel & Cobalt Project

Project Location:
New Caledonia

Project Value:
USD 875M (2001)

Services:
Owner's Engineer

1. Project Overview

Moneo Metals is a private consortium formed to develop the Moneo nickel and cobalt project which was based upon an expansion and upgrading of the existing mining operation. The limonite resource was 35.5 Mt (dry) grading 1.29% nickel and 0.17% cobalt and an 18.3 Mt (dry) of earthy saprolite grading 2.23% nickel and 0.10% cobalt.

The project proposed to mine and process some 2 Mt (dry) of limonite ore and earthy saprolite per year. Utilising high temperature acid pressure leach technology to process the ore, annual production would have been 25,000 t of nickel and 3,000 t of cobalt. Tailings were to be disposed of utilising deep sea tailings disposal techniques into a trench some 22 km offshore.

Project scope also included development of an acid plant, power station, port and water storage dam.

2. Scope of Work

ProMet provided the overall Project Management for the project during engineering feasibility studies. Responsibilities included:

- Generation of the bankable study document
- Adoption and integration of 2nd generation pressure acid leach technology into the project
- Managing consultants including test work, engineering, environmental, deep sea tailings disposal specialists, dam specialists, financial modelling, marketing, etc.
- Project controls, i.e. time and budget
- Project reporting to the Board

3. Schedule

- Project suspended due to funding difficulties

