

February 7, 2003

JSC "MMC Norilsk Nickel" and a group of western banks have signed a loan facility agreement

On February 7th, 2003, JSC "MMC Norilsk Nickel" and a group of western banks have signed a loan facility agreement for USD 250 mln.

The syndicated loan announced in December 2002 was arranged by Citibank, ING Bank and Societe Generale, as Mandated Lead Arrangers.

Citibank acted as Coordinating Bookrunner for the facility with ING and SG as Joint Bookrunners.

Syndication was a success and the volume of senior participation commitments exceeded the initially agreed amount. However, the Borrower chose to keep the loan amount at the original level and all banks were scaled back.

The loan is provided for 3 years as a pre-export finance facility. It is structured as a combination of a revolving credit line for USD 100 mln and a term loan of USD 150 mln. Pricing of the revolving tranche is 3% p.a. over LIBOR and of the three year term loan - 3.25% p.a. over LIBOR. It is the first revolving credit facility for a Russian corporate to be syndicated in the international market.