

LOCATION
NORTHERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

SECTOR
MANGANESE

CLIENT
INVESTOR

OVERVIEW

A-Cubed Consulting was retained by ITOCHU Australia in February 2012. ITOCHU needed to assess the growing demand for rail and port capacity by the manganese industry from the Northern Cape. This was against a backdrop of the existing rail and port transport infrastructure being all owned and controlled by the state transport utility, Transnet. The impact of capacity expansion plans and the timing thereof by Transnet was therefore of key focus. The output from this study informed the decision-making process in respect of an investment opportunity in a greenfield manganese mine in the Northern Cape.

In this respect ITOCHU retained A-Cubed Consulting to provide a high-level study on current and future logistics capacities and opportunities for the export of manganese ore.

SCOPE OF WORK & METHODOLOGY

An initial report led to the appointment to proceed with the full study. This was essentially a desktop study and A-Cubed's in-house knowledge and experience of the local market, transport routes and port terminal capacities enabled a comprehensive level of data and analysis to be used for the Study.

The scope essentially entailed a review of the current logistics options available to manganese producers and developments taking place to increase transport linkages and capacities. This was analyzed and assessed and recommendations made to ITOCHU. Attendant risks were also identified.

