



MINING SECTOR IN BULGARIA

Why Bulgaria?

- EU Single Market enables free movement of people, services, goods and capital
- 10% corporate tax (lowest in the EU)
- Highly-skilled and multilingual labour;
- Low operating base (staff, rents, utilities);
- GDP growth at 3-4% in the mid-term

Market overview and key opportunities

The mineral and raw materials industry is important for Bulgaria and one of the best developing sectors in recent years. Labour productivity is close to the EU average. Around 300 companies operate in exploration, extraction and processing of underground natural resources and related activities and services.

“Bulgaria is a mining country” (Euromines) – the third largest European producer in gold and copper. Mining represents 4-5% of GDP and supports 40% of electricity generation. Bulgaria is one of the top 30 global coal

producing countries. Metallic resources represent 25% of output, of which copper is 98%, lead/zinc 2%.

Bulgaria holds a leading position in European mining. The country ranks third in copper, fourth in gold, fifth in lignite mining.

The main raw materials produced in Bulgaria are lignite, lead-zinc, copper and polymetallic ores, gypsum, limestone, bentonite, kaolin, quartz sands, refractory clays, marble. 80% of mining activities are carried out through open cast mining.

As of August 2017, there were 128 exploration concessions, and 526 concessions for extraction of underground resources:

- 330 for building materials
- 73 for industrial minerals
- 69 for stone-facing materials
- 19 for metal and mineral resources
- 18 for oil and natural gas
- 16 for solid fuels
- 1 for mining waste

Specific opportunities include:

- Dundee Precious Metals, Krumovgrad: £136m investment in open pit gold mine. Construction permit granted, mining operations due to start 2018
- Asarel Medet, Breznik: £60m investment in open pit gold/silver mine, operations expected 2021
- Asarel Medet, Panagyurishte: ongoing investments in large-scale open pit copper mine

UK expertise and capability in mining equipment (crushing, grinding, flotation processing); health and safety, environmental and social impact assessment; and mine closure, restoration and recycling is all relevant to the opportunities in the Bulgarian market.

Key Mining Players

[Ellatzite-Med AD](#)

- Extraction and processing of copper porphyry gold-bearing ores from Ellatzite deposit, open-pit mine near the town of Etropole
- 6.5 km underground rubber-belt conveyor line.

[Dundee Precious Metals Chelopech](#)

- Chelopech mine, the deposit lies in the Panagyurishte mining district where a number of copper-bearing massive sulphide and porphyry copper deposits exist
- The mining license covers an area of 266 hectares

[Asarel Medet-JSC](#)

- A company for open pit mining and processing of copper ores
- Provides 50% of the national production of copper ore
- Processes about 13 million tons of ore per year.

[Mini Maritza-Iztok EAD](#)

- Coal seams in Maritza Iztok basin are located at 6-10 m to 110 – 120 m below the surface
- Total thickness of the coalfield complex - 35 – 40 m, divided by clay layers into three seams
- The medium (second) seam is the main coal carrier with an average thickness of 15 – 25 m
- The deposit is operated by three opencast mines - Troyanovo-1, Troyanovo-North and Troyanovo-3.

All are investing to meet to European standards for sustainable development and environmental management.

Key Local Stakeholders

United Body for Government of Underground Resources

Ministry of Energy

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Industry Events

18 Aug – Miners' Day

12 – 16 March 2018 –

Balkans Mining Mission

May 2018 –

European Mining Business Forum

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September 2017