



PRESS RELEASE

6th March 2012

Redundancy Consultation Ends at Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto Alcan today brought the Redundancy consultation to an end. With no buyer available to save long terms jobs at the smelter, hundreds of GMB members will be made redundant at the end of May.

Keir Howe, Regional Organiser, said "After a difficult consultation process no long terms plans have emerged to save jobs at Alcan. Hundreds of GMB members will be faced with losing their job by the end of May and with the economy in the present state our members are worried there won't be enough jobs out there for them all".

The GMB will continue to push to find a buyer for the site throughout the notice period which will last 12 weeks, Keir Howe said, "Alcan has a hardworking and dedicated workforce which any potential buyer could benefit from. The loss of the smelter will be devastating for our members, their local communities and the region as a whole and it is time the government stepped in to assist in saving this site. This is the largest private sector employer in Northumberland and will be the first of many companies in the energy intensive industry that may be lost if the government does not act."

-ENDS-

