

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Artisan Vehicle Systems Announces Investment in Kirkland Lake**

Artisan Vehicle Systems announced plans today to locate its Canadian headquarters in Kirkland Lake. The California based company is an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of zero emission battery powered mining vehicles.

"Kirkland Lake will be the assembly and service centre for our new Z40 Haul Truck, the largest all battery powered truck to ever operate underground," said Mike Mayhew, Director of Artisan's Mining Division. The Z40 will make its debut at Kirkland Lake Gold (KLG) in January, 2018.

"The town is a perfect location for us. We can service Kirkland Lake Gold – Macassa mine, which is a major client, and easily access the mining market throughout northeastern Ontario and northwestern Quebec," said Mayhew. "That is a key market for the Z40 and many other LHD and Trucks in the future. It is specifically designed to work in deep, hard rock mines that struggle with heat and ventilation issues. Its a nimble, powerful vehicle with zero emissions and lots of power. That means reduced operating costs and increased productivity for the mine. It also means a healthier and safer work environment; a consideration that we take very seriously at Artisan."

Artisan will operate temporarily in a converted rail shop. The long term plan is to build a "Centre of Excellence" state of the art facility in Kirkland Lake's industrial park. In addition to assembly and service, that facility will also participate in the company's research and development for future product development. Preliminary plans call for a 60,000 sq ft building, employing approximately 60 people. Over 80% of the overall production at KLG – Macassa Mine comes from Artisan's battery technology with over 200,000 hours of proven production hours in underground environment.

"I'm excited to welcome Artisan Vehicles to Kirkland Lake," said Mayor Tony Antoniazzi. "This is a dynamic and progressive company that represents the future of mining - clean, green and safe."

The Town's economic development team is working with Artisan. Funding applications have already been submitted to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and FedNor to support the extension of services and utilities to the proposed site on Archer Drive. Other assistance programs will also be explored, including R&D funding and new investment support.

"This is a priority for the Town," said Mayor Antoniazzi. "Artisan reflects the economic diversification and job creation mandate this Council set for itself at the start of its term. This is the second expression of interest we have received in Kirkland Lake in 2017; the other being the package sorting facility. I'm confident that it will not be the last."

ENQUIRIES:

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