Despite Slowdown in Physical Demand, Gold Projected to See 12th Consecutive Bull Year

23.08.2012 | Marketwire

Five Star Equities Provides Stock Research on Harmony Gold Mining and Brigus Gold

NEW YORK, NY -- (Marketwire) -- 08/23/12 -- Gold prices have rebounded to above $1,600 an ounce, from as low as $1,540 in May, on hopes of further monetary easing from both the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank. "When we look forward into the second half of this year, there are a great many unanswered questions that could potentially be positive for the gold market in terms of the future of the euro zone and also I think in North America," said Marcus Grubb, managing director at the World Gold Council (WGC). Five Star Equities examines the outlook for companies in the Gold Industry and provides equity research on Harmony Gold Mining Co. (NYSE: HMY) and Brigus Gold Corp. (NYSE: BRD) (TSX: BRD).

Access to the full company reports can be found at:

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A recent report from the World Gold Council showed that global demand for gold fell 7 percent in the second quarter. Demand in China, the world's largest buyer, fell 7 percent from the year ago quarter. The drop was the first year-over-year decrease in nearly a decade. India saw the steepest drop, as demand fell 38 percent in the second quarter. For the year India's total demand for gold is expected to be in the range of 688 and 700 metric tons, a drop of between 28%-33% from the year prior. Despite the drop in demand the WGC still expects 2012 to be a bull year for gold.

"If you look at the price behavior this year, our view is that it's likely we will see a 12th straight year of the bull market," said Mr. Grubb.

Five Star Equities releases regular market updates on the Gold Industry so investors can stay ahead of the crowd and make the best investment decisions to maximize their returns. Take a few minutes to register with us free at www.FiveStarEquities.com and get exclusive access to our numerous stock reports and industry newsletters.

In FY11, Harmony produced 1.30 million ounces of gold, making it one of the world's largest gold mining companies. The group's operations are located primarily on the Witwatersrand Basin in South Africa. The company recently reported gold production for the June 2012 quarter was 14 percent higher than the previous quarter.

Brigus is a growing gold producer committed to maximizing shareholder value through a strategy of efficient production, targeted exploration and select acquisitions. For the second quarter of 2012 the company produced 18,254 ounces of gold, consistent with quarterly production guidance, and a 16 percent increase over second quarter 2011.

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