

BHP BILLITON PLC
Form 6-K
October 25, 2005

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

October 5, 2005

BHP Billiton Plc

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Neathouse Place London SW1V 1BH United Kingdom

(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F: Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934: Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): n/a

5 October 2005
Number: 37/05

CARBON STEEL MATERIALS APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT MANGANESE

BHP Billiton announced today the appointment of Peter Beaven as President Manganese based in Johannesburg. In this role Mr Beaven will be responsible for continuing the optimisation and growth of BHP Billiton's Manganese business. BHP Billiton is the world's largest producer of high-grade manganese ore.

Mr Beaven moves into the role following two and half years as Chief Development Officer for the Carbon Steel Materials group based in Melbourne. In his role as Chief Development Officer for Carbon Steel Materials, Mr Beaven was responsible for business development, strategy and project development for the company's iron ore, manganese and coking coal assets. Prior to joining BHP Billiton Mr Beaven was an Executive Director with global investment bank UBS Warburg, playing a key role in the successful BHP Billiton merger in 2001. Before joining UBS Warburg he was a member of BHP Billiton's Corporate Finance team in the Petroleum and Minerals groups.

Commenting on the appointment, Carbon Steel Materials President Bob Kirkby said: "Peter's knowledge of the Carbon Steel Materials business coupled with his sound financial skills will serve him well in his new role and will help propel the company's manganese business forward."

For the year ended 30 June 2005 BHP Billiton's manganese business delivered US\$571 million of earnings before interest and tax from operating assets of US\$513 million.

Mr Beaven will take on his new responsibilities with immediate effect.

Background - Mr Peter Beaven

In his role as Chief Development Officer for Carbon Steel Materials, Mr Beaven was responsible for a global portfolio of assets and served on the owner councils for BHP Billiton operations BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, BHP Mitsui Coal and Samarco. From 2000-2003 he was an Executive Director with UBS Warburg in charge of Australasian Resources. He was a key member of the BHP Billiton merger team and has been involved with the marketing and transaction execution with a wide range of Australian and off-shore companies involved in the resources industry.

Career

Chief Development Officer, Carbon Steel Materials 2003-2005; Executive Director, UBS Warburg 2000-2003; Practice Leader Corporate Finance, BHP Billiton 1997-2000; Corporate Finance Manager, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson 1993-1997; Accountant, Natural Resources Institute 1993; Consultant, Price Waterhouse 1992-1993; Senior Auditor, Price Waterhouse 1990-1992.

Personal

University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, Bachelor of Accountancy.

Qualified South African Chartered Accountant.

Mr Beaven is 38 and holds dual British and South African citizenship.

Married with one child.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: <http://www.bhpbilliton.com>

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BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in Australia
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Registered in England and Wales
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The BHP Billiton Group is headquartered in Australia

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BHP Billiton Plc

Date: 5 October 2005

By: Karen Wood

Name: Karen Wood

Title: Company Secretary