

# Salt Partners

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## Salt Partners appointed as consultants for salt project at Mandi

Hindustan Salts Limited (HSL) appointed Salt Partners to prepare a Detail Project Report (feasibility study) concerning production of salt, caustic and chlorine from rock salt deposits at Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, India. Salt Partners will examine alternative methods of solution mining, brine purification, salt crystallisation and chloralkali production and will investigate the markets for salt and chloralkali products in the area. The study will determine the capital investment, operating cost and profitability of the various production options at capacities around 60,000 t/y of caustic.

The salt formations between Mandi and Jodingarnagar in the Himalayas are estimated to contain more than 100 million tonnes of salt. Presently, the salt mines owned by HSL in that area produce 3,000 – 6,000 t/y of red brown rock salt that can be used only as cattle feed. The Government of India, Department of Heavy Industries, intends to develop the salt deposit into a major industrial unit using technologies never employed in India before.

The main economic features of the project are:

- Availability of low cost hydraulic power;
- Large and growing market for refined salt and caustic soda but limited demand for chlorine;
- Population of 300 million people living in the neighbouring states;
- Distance of more than 1,000 km from the main alternative salt sources in Gujarat;
- Investment friendly policies pursued by the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

The project is intended to be implemented as a joint venture between the government and the private sector, with HSL holding 26% and the private partnership 74% of the equity.

Hindustan Salts Limited, a Government of India Enterprise, produce sea salt at Kharaghoda in Gujarat and rock salt at Mandi. HSL subsidiary company, Sambhar Salts Limited, operates solar saltworks at Sambhar Lake. Total salt production is 600,000 t/y. The corporate offices are in Jaipur, Rajasthan.



Salt Partners is an independent firm of salt consultants and engineers, active in the field of salt production, processing and hypersaline biotechnology. Salt Partners' reputation is based on more than 30 years of experience gained in salt projects implemented world-wide.

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