

Exploration

Rapu Rapu results

Lafayette Mining NL, the operator of the Rapu Rapu joint venture formed late last year (*MJ*, December 18, 1998, p.488), has received assays for drill holes completed on the Ungay Malabago polymetallic property before the Christmas period. TVI Pacific, the current owner of the property, reports that the first phase of drilling is designed to gather core for metallurgical testwork in Australia, and the second phase will test extensions to known mineralisation. Better results from the partially-completed first phase are as follows:

Hole	Interval (m)	Au (g/t)	Cu (%)	Zn (%)	Ag (g/t)
UMC 001	150-159	2.09	1.40	2.59	32.92
UMC 002	149-158	2.87	1.68	2.72	35.02
UMC 003	58-99	1.84	1.05	1.89	30.92
and	113-123	1.39	1.43	6.92	19.98

Lafayette regards the intersections as indicating a "large increase in the widths of the previously-identified mineralisation". Once the current drilling programme has been completed, Lafayette intends to carry out an infill drilling programme in order to confirm the known mineralisation.

High-grade garnet sands for Freeport

Canadian exploration company Freeport Resources Inc. has analysed garnet sands found on its Hutton property in Quebec. The sands were discovered last year, prompting Freeport to stake the Kanga East claims, covering two alluvial almandine garnet sand accumulations on tidewater. The beach is split into two areas, Beach South (0.2 km²) and Beach North (0.33 km²). After a sampling programme, Freeport estimates that Beach South contains an average of 55% garnet, and Beach North contains an average of 22% garnet. The sampling efforts have indicated that the garnet would be best suited to water-jet cutting and/or water purification.

Hebron Fjord finds new gold zone

Canadian junior Hebron Fjord Resources Inc. reports that drilling at its Torrecillas gold property in Peru has intersected new gold mineralisation 3 km from known mineralisation. The Retorno zone, intersected by the third of four holes, is an epithermal zone peripheral to the previously-discovered stockwork and silica cap. The drill-hole encountered epithermal quartz and disseminated pyrite mineralisation over 84 m thick, with moderate gold

values. The hole intersected 0.41 g/t Au over 28.5 m from 7 m, and 0.29 g/t Au over 25.5 m from 64 m.

The alteration associated with the epithermal zone has been observed over a 300 m x 50 m area, and Hebron Fjord believes that the find confirms the presence of an epithermal system associated with a porphyry. The company, acting on this theory, has acquired properties adjacent to the stockwork zone, enabling it to cover the whole area hosting the porphyry system responsible for the stockwork, epithermal and breccia occurrences. It intends to continue exploration of the property starting as soon as this February. Hebron Fjord acquired the Torrecillas property from Mazarin Mining Corp. last year (*MJ*, April 17, 1998, p.301).

Two targets at Ortiga

A first-phase exploration programme has identified two volcanic-hosted gold targets, designated the Silicified zone and the Breccia zone, at TNR Resources Ltd's La Ortiga property in San Juan Province, Argentina. The Silicified zone is characterised by intense silicification, with massive chalcidonic and opaline silica and smoky to milky quartz, over a 1.2 km x 1.8 km area. A major brecciated fault structure is present in the area, mineralised by quartz, up to 50 m wide. The Breccia zone lies about 5.5 km to the west of the Silicified zone, and comprises a number of moderately to intensely silicified hydrothermal breccias, ranging from 15 m to 30 m in diameter.

The second phase of exploration is currently in progress, comprising additional sampling, geophysics and trenching. It is designed to investigate the known targets further, to identify new areas of interest, and to advance these to the drilling stage.

TNR has granted Orko Gold Corp. the right to earn a 60% interest in La Ortiga, and two other properties in the vicinity, in return for a total of US\$340,000 cash and 600,000 shares paid before December 7, 2001 (*MJ*, November 16, 1998, p.385). Orko must also spend US\$3 million on exploration by May 7, 2003.

Airborne surveys over Greenland

The Greenland Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum (BMP) and the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) have decided on the target area for airborne geophysical survey operations. The area is in central west Greenland, over which around 75,000 line-km of aeromagnetic survey are to be flown. The project, called Aeromag 1999, follows on from Aeromag 1995 and 1996, and has the primary objective of stimulating mining exploration in Greenland. A secondary objective is the provision of modern, high-quality geophysical data which will have lasting value in understanding the geology of Greenland.

GEUS, a Danish Government research institution, will manage the project, and data acquired will be available for purchase - 'at modest prices' - by the mining industry. The data will be released in the early part of 2000.

Good grades at Manantial Espejo

Vancouver-based Silver Standard Resources Inc. has received assays from drilling completed at the Manantial Espejo silver-gold property in Santa Cruz Province, Argentina (*MJ*, November 20, 1998, p.404). The programme tested three targets, including the Maria Vein, from which the following results were obtained:

Hole	Interval (m)	Au (g/t)	Ag (g/t)
T-114	16.1-24.6	11.74	207.9
incl	20.8-24.6	25.35	306.2
T-116	11.0-22.1	19.84	312.6
incl	15.5-20.9	40.08	540.2

Silver Standard defined the drilling targets after a three-month mapping and prospecting effort, covering around 60% of the 225 km² property. The company reports that a number of additional mineralised zones were found which it regards as worth following up.

Silver Standard has an option to acquire a 40% interest in Manantial Espejo, through acquiring half of Triton Mining Corp.'s 80% interest. Triton is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hawk Mining Inc. Silver Standard must pay Triton US\$1.54 million in cash and complete exploration worth US\$4.5 million by the end of 2000. The other 20% of the property is held by Barrick Gold Corp., which must, on completion of a feasibility study, either sell its interest to Triton, or increase it to 40%.

Pacrim acquires Cofradia option

Vancouver-based Pacific Rim Mining Corp. (Pacrim) has obtained an option to acquire a 100% interest in the Cofradia gold property in Peru, immediately north of Pacrim's La Espina property. The area is located around 300 km southeast of Lima. The Cofradia property covers 76 km², and Pacrim describes it as an "undrilled high-sulphidation epithermal prospect". The gold-bearing part of the epithermal system covers a 2.5 km x 1 km area, characterised by silicification and argillic alteration. A porous volcanoclastic unit of over 50 m thickness occurs in the area, and is regarded by Pacrim geologists as being the key feature of the property. They consider the rock type to be an excellent host rock for epithermal mineralisation.

Pacrim will start exploration immediately, with ground magnetic geophysics, soil sampling geochemistry, mapping and drill-target delineation. A drilling programme is anticipated to start in March.

Pacrim may buy SMRL La Capilla, thereby gaining a 100% interest in the Cofradia property, by spending US\$500,000 on exploration, including 3,000 m of drilling, within a year of regulatory acceptance of the option agreement. Pacrim must also pay a total of US\$25.5 million in cash within 18 months of regulatory acceptance of the option agreement.

Western's Kutarta results

The 1998 drilling programme at Western Metals Ltd's Kutarta polymetallic property has returned further intersections of zinc, lead and silver mineralisation (*MJ*, July 17,

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