

Exploration

Mauritanian diamond partnership

A partnership has been formed between Canada's Dia Met Minerals Ltd and Australia's Ashton Mining Ltd to explore for and develop diamond deposits in Mauritania. A joint press release notes that the joint venture will work in an area underlain by the Archaean Reguibat shield, and will cover around 214,000 km² of diamond exploration permits, with a further 20,000 km² under application. Ashton has been active in Mauritania since 1995. It has identified kimberlite indicator minerals in the Reguibat shield area, and has flown geophysical surveys over prospective areas.

Under the terms of the agreement, Dia Met will commit to spending at least US\$2.5 million on exploration before March 31, 2000, and may acquire up to 49% of Ashton's equity in the project by spending up to US\$10 million by March 2003. Some of the tenements involved are subject to a 10% interest held by the Mauritanian Government. Ashton will be the operator of the joint venture, but whilst Dia Met is solely responsible for funding the exploration and development, it will gain the controlling vote.

Kanegele results

Canada's Pangea Goldfields Inc. has received results from reverse-circulation (RC) drilling at the Kanegele gold property in Tanzania. The seven-hole, 1,180 m, RC programme was completed as a follow-up to rotary air-blast drilling completed last year, which indicated

three zones of gold mineralisation. Better results from the RC drilling are as follows:

Hole	Interval (m)	Au (g/t)
KRC-48	18-118	1.27
incl	68-76	2.76
KRC-49	59-69	1.23
KRD-50	21-120	0.67

The mineralisation intercepted is associated with carbonate alteration and shear zones. Another mineralised zone at Kanegele is characterised by several closely-spaced lenses of disseminated mineralisation within a shear corridor cutting across banded iron formations. The 24 km² Kanegele property is a 70:30 joint venture between Pangea and Explorations Minières du Nord (Montreal). Pangea is the operator of the joint venture, but Minières du Nord has the right to increase its interest to 50%.

Rubicon farms out Red Lake East

Vancouver-based Rubicon Minerals Corp. and Royal Roads Corp. have agreed a deal under the terms of which Royal Roads can earn a 51% interest in part of Rubicon's Red Lake East gold property in Ontario. The property comprises 116 claims, about 10% of Rubicon's total land holdings in the area (*MJ*, April 30, p.312), and is located about 6 km from the Campbell (Placer Dome) and Red Lake (Goldcorp Inc.) mines. Rubicon reports that the property is underlain by a major regional fold closure at one end of the Red Lake greenstone belt.

Royal Roads can earn its interest by spending C\$400,000 before April 30, 2002, and issuing a total of 100,000 shares to Rubicon over a three-year period. Royal Roads can

earn a further 9% interest by spending an additional C\$400,000 on the property, and by issuing a further 100,000 shares to Rubicon. Royal Roads is currently formulating an exploration programme for this summer.

Ghanaian discovery confirmed for Dominion

A gold discovery at the Homasi and Akrokeri concessions late last year (*MJ*, December 4, 1998, p.450) has been confirmed by Dominion Mining Ltd's 100% subsidiary, Shea Gold Ltd. Shea conducted a 16-hole reverse-circulation (RC) drilling programme at the properties, designed to infill the initial 4 km-long mineralised zone delineated by wide-spaced drilling investigating a geochemical anomaly. The company has reassayed the original 4 m samples as 1 m resamples, and reports that the grades indicated generally confirm previous results. Better results from the infill drilling are as follows:

Hole	Interval (m)	Au (g/t)
99HMRC71	40-54	7.31
99HMRC75	20-46	4.03
99HMRC85	40-56	3.18
99HMRC91	50-72	1.72

The drilling covered the central 2.2 km, with more detailed drilling within a 600 m-long zone. The majority of the drilling has been in the oxide zone, but Dominion reports that a limited amount of deep drilling indicates that gold mineralisation is associated with pyrite and arsenopyrite within sheared metasediments. Dominion has also conducted a drilling programme on the Akrokeri concession, and reports that assay results indicate similar gold grades and mineralised widths to those at Homasi.

Dominion has the right to earn a 51% interest in Akrokeri from Birim Goldfields Inc., by spending US\$500,000 over two years, and a further 49% interest by paying Birim US\$1.5 million, and granting a 1% net smelter return on gold production.

Quaterra options Abitibi Extension

Vancouver-based Quaterra Resources Inc. has been granted the right to earn a 50% interest in Eastmain Resources Inc.'s polymetallic Abitibi Extension property in northern Ontario. Quaterra reports that the Abitibi Extension property is underlain by an unexplored western extension of the Abitibi greenstone belt, mined for many years for copper and zinc. In 1997, Eastmain acquired data from 25,000 line-kilometres of airborne magnetic and 3,775 line-kilometres of airborne electromagnetic geophysical surveys

flown by BHP, after the latter initiated a regional exploration programme in 1995. Quaterra reports that the surveys identified over 50 high-priority conductors, within favourable geological settings.

Quaterra can earn its interest by spending C\$1.53 million over a four-year period, and issuing 300,000 shares to Eastmain, or the cash equivalent of C\$0.15/share. Quaterra must spend at least C\$300,000, with Eastmain acting as the project operator. The companies have started a C\$450,000 exploration programme comprising ground geophysical surveys to confirm location, strength and orientation of the electromagnetic targets.

Freeport upgrades garnet sands

Canada's Freeport Resources Inc. (FRI) has resampled the beach sands found at its Hutton property in Labrador. The company reported results of earlier tests this year (*MJ*, January 22, p.37) and, in order to evaluate the mineralogy of the discovery at the Kanga East claims, FRI made a representative composite from three samples spread across the Beach South area of the tenement. The sample, which amounted to about 25 kg, indicates a high proportion of combined heavy minerals (over 91% by weight), with almandine garnet comprising the majority at around 79% by weight. The balance comprises titanium minerals: 5% ilmenite; 7% haematite/ilmenite and 1% rutile. FRI reports that the composition of the almandine garnet is 28.6% Fe₂O₃, 21.5% Al₂O₃, 8.06% MgO and 4.9% CaO, comparable to the composition of the garnets in beach sands from Australia and India. The company's report earlier this year put the grades of garnet at Beach South at 55%.

Aguas Teñidas results - Correction

In the article last week referring to Navan Resources' latest results at its Aguas Teñidas polymetallic property in Spain (*MJ*, April 30, p.312), a revised resource estimate for the deposit was reported of 2.52 Mt. This should have referred to a re-evaluation of the first 220 m of strike. Navan's original estimate for the deposit, at a 5% zinc cut-off grade, indicated that the full 1,400 m of strike contained 9.65 Mt averaging 11.8% zinc equivalent. The recent underground infill drilling over 220 m of strike indicates, therefore, not only that the deposit could be larger than anticipated previously, but also that the grade - 12.6% zinc equivalent over 220 m - could be higher. We apologise for misleading readers. If the metal values indicated by the drilling prove consistent throughout the whole length of the orebody, Navan considers that the contained zinc metal would be double its original estimates of around 770,000 t.



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