

Adex Mining fast tracks Canadian venture -

Lindsey Hobbs interviewed Kabir Ahmed, CEO of Adex Mining Inc. on the company's fast track development of Mount Pleasant

Canadian mining junior Adex Mining Inc. is one of the companies currently developing tin and other resources on the back of the world surge in demand for non-ferrous metals. Adex's flagship project is its Mount Pleasant Mine property in Charlotte County, New Brunswick, Canada.

Mount Pleasant is a polymetallic property with a long history of exploration and development. Although tin mineralization was first discovered on the property in 1937, it was a tungsten-molybdenum deposit that was mined there by Billiton Exploration Canada Ltd. between 1982 and 1985 when falling prices led to them closing their operation. The property passed through the ownership of a number of parties before being acquired by Adex in 1995 who commissioned a feasibility study by Aker Kvaerner Metals in 1997.

In addition to the tungsten-molybdenum resource on the property's Fire Tower Zone, this study identified a total resource of 3.6 million tonnes of 0.80% tin, 107ppm indium, 0.87% zinc and 0.19% copper at the North and Deep Tin zones. Adex believes it to be not only North America's largest tin deposit but the world's largest known reserve deposit of indium. Adex kept the property in care and maintenance at that time because of the prevailing low world metal prices, but reactivated the project in 2007 with the rising non-ferrous market.

The company recently completed its 47-hole 2008 exploration drilling program at Mount Pleasant. Phase 1 of the program consisted of 16 definition and twin holes taken from both the tungsten-molybdenum and tin-indium zones of the property





Adex conveyors from administration building

(eight holes were drilled at each zone). Adex has received laboratory results from Phase 1, and reports that these results were either consistent with or better than expected. The results are being used in the preparation of updated resource estimates and a Canadian National Instrument 43-101 ("NI 43-101")-compliant Technical Report on the property commissioned by the company from Toronto-based Watts, Griffis and McOuat.

A Phase 2 drill program, designed to expand the size of the mineral resources at the NZ, has also been completed and analytical results from the second phase are pending.

Interviewed by TIN World, Adex President and CEO Kabir Ahmed explained that Adex would then commence a scoping-level economic assessment for the North Zone which, if positive, will be moved on to a definitive feasibility study. A similar scoping study has already been commissioned for the Fire Tower Zone which hosts the tungsten-molybdenum mineralization and is the site of the 1980s Billiton mine. It contains an NI 43-101-compliant inferred resource of 13,074,438 tonnes at 0.35% tungsten oxide (WO3) and 0.21% molybdenum disulphide (MoS2).

"Reports for the two zones are being done in parallel", said Ahmed, "in order to keep the mineral resource estimates of the two zones separate".

The North Zone report is expected in mid-October and the company has adopted a fast-track approach to moving the project towards feasibility.

Adex tailings dam

Ahmed went on to explain that the existing infrastructure at Mount Pleasant from that 1980s operation was one of the factors that made a fast-track approach to development possible. The site already has a tailings dam, which the company is in the process of upgrading, well-preserved buildings and processing equipment, and easy access.

Saint John, Canada's second largest port, is approximately 80 kilometres from the property and is ice free year-round. New Brunswick's provincial capital, Fredericton, is 60 kilometres north of Mount Pleasant and both cities have commercial airports. Mount Pleasant is also just 65 kilometres from the United States border and is accessible via all-weather roads from Fredericton, Saint John and St. George.

Electricity is provided by the New Brunswick transmission grid, while water for the mine is supplied from a pump house located on the nearby Piskahegan River to a storage reservoir on the hillside above the mill. "All of the infrastructure is still in place," said Ahmed, "Not only is the capital cost of start-up lower, the time-frame is so much shorter, especially as regards regulatory approvals. Our tailings dam for instance still has its permit. The whole operation is also, of course, in a very politically stable part of the world."

Kabir Ahmed sees real potential for the mine within a short time frame and although the tungsten-molybdenum deposit is probably the first in line for development based on the historical operations, it is with the tin-indium deposits that lies the blue-sky potential, especially if economically viable deposits are found near surface.



Winter drilling program at Mount Pleasant

Progress at Van Dieman Scotia project

Significant progress in implementing a revised mine development plan has been made at Van Dieman's Scotia alluvial tin-sapphire project in Tasmania.

Following Board changes earlier this year and a detailed review of the Scotia project, the resulting operational update announced on 16 May 2008, summarised various recommendations and a revised mine development plan to optimise mining and simplify ore transport methods at Scotia. This was necessary as it had been identified during construction of the Scotia project that the processing plant, equipment and mining methods originally adopted were inappropriate due to the alluvial wash and much of the overburden being water saturated. In addition, it was announced that a drilling programme would be planned with the objective of confirming historical Tasmanian Mines Department drill and assay data on which the Scotia resource is currently based.

Progress has been encouraging with the programme to progressively dewater and strip the overburden well underway, and planning to deliver ore to the primary process plants in a slurry form well in hand. Modifications have also been made to the primary process plant as it was originally designed to receive dry feed. Van Dieman now expects production at Scotia to commence in December 2008, with ramp up to full production in January 2009.

Although the modifications to the plant and mining activities have yet to be completed or become fully operational, the Company expects that there will be material benefits to both the Scotia and Endurance Projects that will result in reduced capital and operating costs.

Commissioning of half of the primary processing plant is expected to take place during October and November, with modifications to the second half of the plant to commence in October and final commissioning of the full plant in November and December.

On 6 August 2008, the Tasmanian Government regulatory authorities gave approval to proceed with the modified mining method. They will monitor progress via normal reporting and inspection procedures. The two principal government agencies involved have been very supportive, and the Company will work closely with them as the mine plan progresses and is further refined.