

LATIN AMERICA



Project financing for Borborema is close to being completed



Big River dreams on the way

An opening ceremony for Big River Gold Ltd's Borborema gold project in north-eastern Brazil was hosted last month and attended by dignitaries including Governor Prof Maria Fátima de Bezerra as well as the deputy governor and local mayor.

A DFS for development and construction of Stage 1 of the Borborema open pit indicated a mine life of 10 years producing 729,000oz gold.

C1 cash costs of \$US642/oz and AISC of \$US839/oz were guided.

Once in operation the project will employ 375 people (directly and indirectly), with any additional services and contractors to be pulled from the local area.

Furthermore, about 65% of the \$US105 million construction costs will be garnered from within Brazil and \$US2.7 million spent on wages each year. It is expected that the \$US46 million spent on annual operating costs will be done within the region.

Big River is looking to have project financing completed in Q2 with construction to start in Q3.

Arakaka cracks six ounce gold

Just as Alicanto Minerals Ltd was signing off on the option to acquire the Oxberg and Naverberg VMS projects within the Bergslagen mining district, southern Sweden, it was also lapping up drilling results from Arakaka.

Drilling at Arakaka, north-west Guyana, is being funded by Nord Gold SE with almost 10,500m of shallow diamond drilling for 51 holes completed on the Arakaka Main Trend.

Highlights from initial results included 9.05m @ 7.43 g/t gold from 260.75m (including 0.5m @ 202.4 g/t gold from 263.8m), 6m @ 11.15 g/t from 69m (including 0.5m @ 111.89 g/t from 71.5m), 0.54m @ 160.13 g/t gold from 239.8m, 6.5m @ 5.44 g/t from

142.2m (including 0.6m @ 47.44 g/t from 143.5m), 0.55m @ 21.44 g/t from 93.45m, 0.75m @ 10.17 g/t from 92.67m.

It is the first time diamond drilling has been targeted on the Arakaka Main Trend, with Alicanto and Nord Gold kicking on with planning phase two drilling to start this year.

Berenguela in discussion for Valor/SSR

Valor Resources Ltd was in discussions with SSR Mining Ltd regarding an extension to the cash instalment of \$US1.8 million, due to the latter.

Valor was expected to make the payment under acquisition terms for the Berenguela copper-silver project in Peru to SSR on February 11, with the next cash instalment likely to be extended to February 29.

Earlier, Rio Tinto Ltd had informed Valor that it would not pursue JV participation in Berenguela.

"It is the expectation of Valor and SSR that an agreement will be reached for SSR to accept a transfer of the shares in the entities which hold the Berenguela project from Valor to SSR [or nominee] on terms where the consideration for the transfer is the discharge of Valor's obligations under the share sale and purchase agreement, including the outstanding debt of \$US10.8 million and relevant security interests," Valor stated in an announcement.

Meanwhile, the company will continue to maintain 5,900ha of tenements in Peru through its wholly owned subsidiary, Kiwanda SAC.

Titan to flex in Ecuador and Peru

The path is becoming clearer for Titan Minerals Ltd to emerge as a Latin American-focused gold player.

It was announced last month that Titan had received overwhelming support for its takeover of TSX-V company Core Gold.

Titan had secured over 90% of Core shares by mid-February and plans to acquire the remaining shares it does not own via a second-step transaction.

Core – currently the largest gold producer in Ecuador – has the underground Zaruma mine and complimentary Portovelo processing plant nearby, while it also holds ground in the country's south mainly on the Peruvian Andean copper-belt.

Core's assets will sit well in Titan's portfolio which includes a copper and gold business in southern Peru, where commissioning of the Vista gold plant is under way.

Titan also controls the highly prospective Torrecillas gold project, while it can acquire an 85% interest in Las Antas, which is within trucking distance of Vista.

Los Cerros cashes in

Los Cerros Ltd, formerly Metminco, has completed the sale of the Mollacas project, Chile, for \$1.3 million.

Cash from the non-core asset provides a timely cash injection for Los Cerros, which raised \$2.1 million in a placement in early February.

The company is now well poised to start drilling at the Quinchia gold project in Colombia.

"In Q2 we are planning to follow up what are arguably some of the strongest gold porphyry intercepts by ASX explorers in recent years given plus-300m width, near surface gold mineralisation intercepts at both Tesorito and Chuscal prospects," Los Cerros managing director Jason Stirbinskis said in a statement.

Quinchia is in the mid-Cauca gold-copper belt of Colombia, where Los Cerros has a gold resource of 877,000oz at the Miraflores deposit.

Tesorito and Chuscal prospects are within 2kms of the proposed development site for the Miraflores deposit.

Caucharí-Olaroz on track for 2021

Lithium Americas Corp has entered into definitive agreements with Ganfeng Lithium Co. Ltd in respect to their Minera Exar S.A. JV company.

Minera Exar fully owns the Caucharí-Olaroz lithium project in Jujuy, Argentina, which is scheduled for production in early 2021.

Ganfeng Lithium has increased its interest in Minera Exar to 51% from 50% for cash consideration of \$US16 million, with Lithium Americas retaining 49%.

The JV partners remain committed to the 2020 funding schedule, including investment of up to \$US400 million.