

TriAusMin starts Woodlawn drilling campaign

by Greg Barns

Situated 200 km south west of Sydney, Australia, sits TriAusMin Ltd.'s [TOR-TSX; TRO-ASX] polymetallic Woodlawn Project. A drilling program, commencing in February this year, will be keenly watched by investors as the company looks to firm up mineralization at depth.

The Woodlawn Project is based at the site of a former mine which was a very solid producer for many years and only ceased operations in 1998 when base metals prices were at depressed levels. The Woodlawn Mine processed 13.8 million tonnes at a grade of 9.1% zinc, 3.6% lead, 1.6% copper, 74 grams silver/tonne and 0.52 grams gold/tonne.

TriAusMin's project consists of two potential operations. The Woodlawn Tailings Retreatment Project has reserves of 250,000 tonnes of zinc at a grade of 2.2%; 147,000 tonnes of lead at a grade of 1.3%; 55,000 tonnes of copper at 0.5%; 101,000 ounces of gold at 0.3 grams/tonne; and 11.2 million ounces of silver at 31grams/tonne. Total reserves sit at 11.2 million tonnes. This project has a mine life of 7.5 years and is expected to produce at a rate of 1.5 million tonnes a year utilizing standard sulfide flotation processing. 2012 is a critical year for the project with the TriAusMin board deciding on development and then looking to project financing. With an 18-month construction period, production is expected to commence at the end of 2013 to early 2014.

Then there is the Woodlawn Underground Project which has measured and indicated resources of 8.6 million tonnes of 10.3% zinc, 4.0% lead, 1.8% copper, 84 grams silver/tonne and 0.5 grams gold/tonne, and inferred resources of 1.5 million tonnes at grades of 9.6%

zinc, 4.1% lead, 1.7% copper, 87 grams silver/tonne and 0.6 grams gold/tonne.

TriAusMin believes that the underground project has significant potential. It was mined for 20 years and high-grade copper/zinc/lead has been intersected below the old mine workings. The company announced, on February 9 this year, that it would "undertake a series of diamond drill holes targeting the plunge extensions" and that this exploration program "represents the culmination of an intensive period of data analysis and re-interpretation of the structural setting and the characteristics of the mineralization resulting in the identification of clear target zones along the interpreted down-plunge direction of the lenses. This will provide down-dip intercepts with a distance of up to 200 to 300 metres beyond the limit of the previous mining activity," TriAusMin's announcement said.

Good results showing high-grade mineralization will fortify the company view that it has another mine on its hands at Woodlawn. The market will watch TriAusMin's drilling results closely over the next few months.

One significant advantage TriAusMin has at its Woodlawn Project is a supportive community. Many mining and exploration companies close to major cities in Australia are finding that a coalition of farming and green interests is circling trying to prevent mining development. Given the area the Woodlawn Project is located – a farming and lifestyle community – it is a testament to the company that it has worked hard to ensure strong community support

TriAusMin's other focus this year is on the Lewis Ponds property, located near Newcrest's Cadia Mine and Newmont's



Drilling operations at TriAusMin's Woodlawn Project, located 200 km southwest of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Photo courtesy TriAusMin Ltd.

McPhilamy's Project in the famous Lachlan Fold Belt region of New South Wales. The Lewis Ponds Project is polymetallic and has a 6.6 million-tonne resource. TriAusMin thinks the project has open pit potential given it has mineralized zones remaining open along strike and at depth. TriAusMin expects to undertake a scoping study in the first half of this year to assess development potential of the project. ■