



## Board Appointments LSE – December 2009

### **Mining**

**Anglo American**  
**Baobab Resources**  
**Central African Gold**  
**Highland Gold Mining**  
**Kryso Resources**  
**Minerva IRL**  
**Noventa**  
**Ovoca Gold**  
**Platmin**  
**Western Coal**  
**Xstrata**

#### **Anglo American 11 December 2009**

Anglo American plc ("Anglo American" or "the Group") announces the appointment to its Board of Ray O'Rourke as a non-executive director, with immediate effect.

Ray O'Rourke is the founder, Chairman and Chief Executive of Laing O'Rourke, Europe's largest privately owned construction company, employing 30,000 people across Europe, the Middle East and Australia. Since the acquisition of John Laing Construction in 2001, Laing O'Rourke has delivered a fivefold increase in revenue to £4.2 billion in 2008, driven primarily by broadening the focus of the company from building and contracting to include fully integrated construction project management services to its global clients.

Sir John Parker, Chairman of Anglo American, said: "I am delighted to welcome Ray O'Rourke to the Anglo American Board. Ray has a proven track record in delivering complex and large scale projects around the world, mobilising large numbers of people with great success and applying leading project management practices. His entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to safety, engineering, innovation and the development of people will add considerable strength to our Board."

#### **Baobab Resources 8 December 2009**

Baobab Resources Plc ("Baobab" or the "Company") (AIM:BAO) announces the appointment of Mr Ben James as Managing Director, effective 8 December 2009.

Mr James has been employed by Baobab as Exploration Manager from July 2006 until April 2008 and as Technical Director from April 2008 to the current date. His role has been focused principally on the advancement of the Company's projects in Mozambique and this focus will continue with the strengthening of the technical support in that country.

Baobab also announces the retirement of Mr Brett Townsend from the Board of Directors with immediate effect. The Company would like to thank Mr Townsend for his contribution prior to and since admission of the Company to AIM. He will remain as a consultant on various corporate matters.

Mr Townsend commented: "I have worked closely with Ben James over the last three years in our executive management roles with the Company. I believe Ben has the experience and the skills to make an excellent Managing Director to take Baobab to its future successes and I look forward to working with him and Baobab in my future consulting role."

Chairman Jeremy Dowler commented: "I would like to thank Brett for his commitment to the Company during his tenure as a Director and more recently as Managing Director and am pleased that he will continue to contribute in his consultancy role."

### **Central African Gold Plc 11 December 2009**

Central African Gold Plc, the AIM quoted gold mining and exploration company, announces that Roy Lander, CAG's Chairman, has stepped down from the Board with immediate effect, for personal reasons.

Accordingly, the Company's CEO, Roy Pitchford, will assume the role of acting Chairman and CEO whilst the Company continues the process to recruit a full time Chairman. A further announcement on this matter will be made in due course.

Additionally, Bryce Fort has been appointed to the board of CAG ('the Board') as a non-executive Director, with immediate effect, replacing Navid Burney as ECP's representative on the Board.

Mr Fort is a Managing Director and a founding partner of Emerging Capital Partners which spun out of Emerging Markets Partnership in 2005. Emerging Capital Partners manages six funds totalling over US\$1.6 billion and is a leading private equity company focussed exclusively on Africa. Mr Fort is responsible for identifying, analysing, and recommending investments, performing due diligence and leading transaction teams and is also involved with operations and strategies related to the management company. Previously he worked for Deutsche Bank AG's European Healthcare Corporate Finance Group which executed mergers and acquisitions, equity and debt financings for pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies.

Roy Pitchford, Chief Executive of the Company said, "I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Company, to thank Roy Lander for his services to CAG and support he has provided to the Board, particularly during CAG's recent difficulties, and wish him well in his future endeavours. I would also

like to welcome Bryce Fort to the Board and believe he will provide valuable assistance to CAG, particularly in view of his extensive investment experience in Africa."

### **Highland Gold Mining Limited 10 December 2009**

Highland Gold Mining Limited ("Highland"), the AIM quoted Russian gold producer, announces, with effect from 9 December 2009, the appointment of Mr Jacques McMullen to the Board of Directors. Mr McMullen currently holds the position of Senior Vice President, Special Projects at Barrick Gold Corporation of Canada ("Barrick"), and is based at Barrick's head office in Toronto and will serve as a non-executive director.

Jacques McMullen (53) graduated in 1977 from Laval University (Quebec, Canada) with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering; subsequently, he completed a Master's Degree in Mineral Processing. He joined Barrick in 1994 as a result of Barrick's acquisition of LAC Minerals. With over thirty years of industrial experience, he has held numerous operating and corporate positions which have involved him internationally with cross-functional expertise applied to operations, feasibility studies, evaluations, project development and start-ups.

The appointment follows the agreement with Highland, through which Barrick, whose participation in Highland is 20.3%, have the right to appoint two directors to the Board of Highland. The other director serving on the Board of Highland is Nicholas Nikolakakis.

The Board has considered the independence of the directors on the Board and has determined that Mr McMullen, cannot be regarded as independent as he is connected to Barrick, a substantial shareholder.

The Board of Highland and J.P. Morgan Cazenove, as the Nominated Adviser, have reviewed and accepted the nomination and the Directors are pleased to welcome Mr McMullen to the Board.

### **Kryso Resources plc 8 December 2009**

Kryso Resources plc (AIM: KYS) the gold exploration and development company that is advancing its Pakrut gold project in Tajikistan through a bankable feasibility study (BFS), is pleased to announce that pursuant to the subscription for shares in Kryso by ALTUS Resource Capital Limited ('ALTUS') announced on September 14 2009, Steven James Poulton has been appointed a Non-Executive Director of the Company with effect from 7 December 2009.

Steven, aged 34, is a founder director and CEO of Altus Strategies Limited and a director of ALTUS Asset Management Limited, the investment manager of ALTUS. He holds an honours degree in geology from Southampton University and a master's degree in mining geology from the Camborne School of Mines. He is a fellow of the Geological Society of London, a fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and a member of the Association of Mining Analysts.

In 2002 Steven co-founded Ariana Resources plc, a gold mining and exploration company listed on AIM, and served as its Chief Executive between 2004 and 2007. In 2004 he founded African Aura Resources Limited, which listed on the TSX-V in 2008. In 2009 African Aura Resources Limited merged with Mano River Resources Inc. to create African Aura Mining Inc., which is listed on AIM and the TSX-V and of which Steven is a director. He is also a director of Stellar Diamonds Limited, a subsidiary of African Aura Mining Inc. Trevor Davenport, Non-Executive Chairman and acting Managing Director of Kryso, comments:

'We are pleased to welcome Steven to the board following the investment in Kryso made by ALTUS earlier this year. I have no doubt that he has an important contribution to make as we progress the Pakrut gold project towards production.'

### **Minera IRL Limited 21 December 2009**

Minera IRL Limited ("Minera IRL" or the "Company") is pleased to announce today's appointment of Kenneth Judge to the board as a Non-Executive Director.

Courtney Chamberlain, Executive Chairman of Minera IRL commented:

"I am pleased to welcome Ken Judge to the Board. His extensive corporate experience in the mining industry will provide valuable assistance to the Minera IRL Board. The successful acquisition of Hidefield Gold plc (of which Ken Judge was the Executive Chairman), provides Minera IRL with a well established advanced project in the exciting Santa Cruz gold region of Argentina and diversifies our project portfolio further within Latin America."

Mr Judge has extensive business management experience having held a number of public company directorships and more recently having been engaged in the establishment or corporate restructure of technology, mining and oil and gas companies in Australia, the UK, US, Brazil, Argentina, Canada and the Philippines.

### **NOVENTA LIMITED 17 December 2009**

Further to the announcement made on 20 November 2009, the Board of Noventa is pleased to announce the appointment of Daniel Cassiano-Silva as Chief Financial Officer of Noventa with effect from 1 January 2010. Mr Cassiano-Silva is being appointed as a director of all subsidiaries including Highland African Mining Company Limitada, Noventa's Mozambican principal operating subsidiary, but will not be appointed to the Board of Noventa Ltd at this time. He will be based at the Operational HQ in Maputo, Mozambique and will also be responsible for Human Resources and IT.

Mr Cassiano-Silva joins Noventa from Deloitte & Touche LLP, where he held the position of Senior Audit Manager, and most recently having been on secondment to the Company. He is a Chartered Accountant and bi-lingual in English and Portuguese (the national language of Mozambique, the site of the Company's Operational Headquarter and mining assets). His role at Deloitte & Touche involved working closely with a number of AIM quoted companies.

Martin Hinxman has resigned from the Board of the Company with effect from today, and will leave his position as CFO on 31 December 2009. Mr Hinxman will be retained as a consultant for a transition period to assist Mr Cassiano-Silva.

Commenting, Eric Kohn TD, Chairman of Noventa Ltd said:

"We are delighted to welcome Daniel as our new CFO. He has already during his period of secondment proved to be a valuable addition to the team, and we are confident that he will excel in his new role. Following the relocation of the Company's Operational Headquarters to Maputo, Mozambique, Daniel's Portuguese language skills will be invaluable in developing our relationships with the Mozambican Government and business community. The Board would like to express its thanks for all his hard work and best wishes for the future to Martin Hinxman the current CFO."

### **Ovoca Gold plc 02 December 2009**

Ovoca is pleased to announce that Tim McCutcheon has been named CEO effective immediately. Tim has been a director of Ovoca since January 2009. Mikhail Mogutov, will step down as CEO and become Executive Chairman, while the current Chairman Leonid Skoptsov will retain his position on the Board as a non-executive director.

Tim has lived and worked in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States since 1994. Prior to working in Ovoca, Tim worked in multiple financial institutions such as Bear Stearns, Aton Capital and Pioneer Investments as an award-winning metals and mining sector analyst and as an investment banker. Tim was one of the first analysts in Russia to write about its gold mining sector and he has advised numerous international gold mining companies on M&A, business development, and Russian business practices.

Tim has a BA and MBA from Columbia University, New York, USA. He lives in Moscow, Russia and speaks fluent Russian.

Mr McCutcheon commented "Given the recent surge in the gold price and increasing interest in the gold mining sector from investors globally, I believe now is a particularly fortuitous time to lead a gold mining company. It is clear that investors have been patient with the Company as it has re-grouped after the sale of Goltsovoye. I intend to reward shareholders for their patience by focusing on long term, sustainable shareholder value. I look forward to advancing Ovoca and putting its human and capital resources to work."

Mr Mogutov comments "I am pleased that we were able to attract someone of Tim's calibre to lead Ovoca. Tim is set to quickly form a wider management team, look to acquire new assets and to vigorously advance the company. It has been almost a year since Ovoca sold its core asset Goltsovoye. The Company has cash and technical expertise, and with Tim's appointment we now have a leader to tie everything together to make a vibrant, successful company. I will take over my previous position as Chairman and would like to thank Mr Skoptsov for his work in that capacity."

**Platmin Limited 02 December 2009**

Platmin Limited ("Platmin" or "the Company"; TSX/AIM: PPN; JSE: PLN) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Tom Dale to the Company's Board of Directors and as Chief Executive Officer effective 1 December 2009.

Mr Dale has had a long and successful career in the South African mining industry, and has held various senior positions, including Managing Director of Gencor's gold division and of Gold Fields Limited. Subsequently he was CEO of Mopani Copper Mines in Zambia and thereafter CEO of Sallies Limited. He holds a BSc (Honours) Mining Engineering degree (University of Newcastle Upon Tyne) and an MBA (University of Witwatersrand).

**Western Coal 07 December 2009**

The Board of Directors of Western Coal Corp (TSX: WTN, WTN.WT and WTN.DB and AIM: WTN) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Owen Ryan (51) to the Board of Directors effective immediately.

Mr Ryan is currently a partner of Scarab Capital Partners, which is a FSA (UK Financial Services Authority) registered company that offers mining investment and corporate finance advisory services. Prior to starting Scarab Capital, Mr Ryan was Head of Group Business Development with Anglo American for six years. Mr Ryan holds a Civil Engineering degree and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree. After applying his civil engineering degree with various companies, Mr Ryan progressed through the research ranks to eventually become Executive Director, Head of Global Mining Research and Sales at UBS Warburg before joining Anglo American.

Mr John Byrne, Chairman of Western Coal Corp., comments, "On behalf of the Board, we are very pleased to add Owen's qualities and talents to the Board. His extensive finance experience, particularly in business development, will be valuable to the growth of the Company."

**Xstrata 14 December 2009**

Dr Con Fauconnier has been invited to join the Xstrata plc Board as an independent non-executive director and will be proposed by the Board for election by shareholders at the annual general meeting on 5 May 2010. Dr Fauconnier has agreed to act as an independent external consultant to the Board with effect from 1 February 2010 until the annual general meeting.

Dr Fauconnier worked for Anglo American Corporation, Gencor and JCI Limited prior to joining Iscor in 1995 as General Manager Business Development. He joined the Board of Iscor Ltd in 1997 and became Managing Director of Iscor Mining in 1999, before being appointed as Chief Executive of Kumba Resources Limited in 2001. In 2006, Eyesizwe Mining and the non-iron ore assets of Kumba Resources merged to form Exxaro Resources Limited, with Dr Fauconnier serving as chief executive officer of the newly formed company until his retirement in August 2007. He currently serves as an independent non-executive director on the boards of Namakwa Diamonds Ltd, a London-listed integrated diamond producer and Merafe Resources Ltd, a JSE-listed ferrochrome producer. He is also an Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology of the University of Pretoria and a Fellow of the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS).

Dr Fauconnier served on the Executive Council of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa until November 2006 and was President from 2003 to 2005. He is a registered professional engineer and a Fellow of the South African Institute of Mining & Metallurgy, the Institute of Directors of Southern Africa and the South African Academy of Engineering and a Trustee of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), South Africa.

Willy Strothotte, Xstrata plc Chairman, said;

"We are delighted that Con Fauconnier has accepted our invitation to join the Board, subject to shareholders' approval. With his impressive background, outstanding reputation in South African mining, and academic credentials, the Board is confident that Con Fauconnier will make a significant contribution to Xstrata. On behalf of the Board I look forward to working with Con to achieve Xstrata's strategy of growth and diversification in pursuit of shareholder value."

## **About Opus**

### **Executive Search**

Opus Executive Partners have established an international reputation for excellence in Executive Search, advising companies on the appointment of Chairmen, Presidents, CEOs, CFOs, COOs, and Senior Vice Presidents in Exploration, Corporate Development, Production, Corporate Affairs and Engineering. We excel at identifying, assessing and attracting senior management talent to our clients. Achieving results quickly, skillfully and effectively have made us the partner of choice.

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