



NEWS NUGGETS

Compiled by Shane Lasley

Willow Creek Mine on fast track

Miranda Gold Corp. March 3 said Gold Torrent plans to fast-track the Coleman gold deposit at the Willow Creek property into production in 24-30 months. Initial production estimates are for 21,000 ounces of gold annually from the mining and milling of 150 tons per day at the Southcentral Alaska project. Gold Torrent, which anticipates that gravity methods can achieve greater than 80 percent gold recovery, believes that the lack of chemicals should expedite permitting. A new resource estimate for the Coleman deposit is anticipated within two months. Miranda said a feasibility study scheduled for completion by mid-year will provide shareholders of both companies with insight into the financial parameters of mining Coleman. In addition to activities associated with mine planning and permitting, Gold Torrent will investigate the possible rehabilitation of the Enserch tunnel to access the Lucky Shot vein system for production and drilling. According to an agreement with Miranda, Gold Torrent will fund US\$10 million of expenditures to incrementally earn a 70 percent joint venture interest in Willow Creek.

Dowa OKs US\$5 million for Palmer

Constantine Metal Resources Ltd. March 3 said that Dowa Metals & Mining Co., Ltd. has approved a 2015 budget of US\$5 million for the continued exploration of the Palmer project in Southeast Alaska. Dowa, which has the option to earn 49 percent in Palmer by investing US\$22 million, had spent roughly US\$10 million at the project through the end of 2014. This year's drilling will focus on extending volcanogenic massive sulfide mineralization encountered at the South Wall zone in 2014, including the 89 meters of 0.8 percent copper and 5.0 percent zinc intersected in hole CMR14-65.

Booth fills executive void at Redstar

Redstar Gold Corp. Feb. 25 reported that Ken Booth has resumed the role of interim president and CEO, replacing Toby Mayo who is leaving the company. Booth began his career as a geologist and later embarked on a career in banking and investment banking. He has served as the CEO of several public companies and is currently a director of two exploration companies. Booth is a director of Redstar and served as interim CEO of the company from March to September 2014.

RARE EARTHS

Refining rare earths

Ucore pioneers new method of separating REEs into high purity salts

By SHANE LASLEY

Mining News

Ucore Rare Metals Inc. has reached another milestone in its quest to separate rare earths into the individual elements needed in high-tech devices.

In testing molecular recognition technology, a proprietary method of separating rare earths developed by Utah-based IBC Advanced Technologies, the rare earths found at Ucore's Bokan Mountain project in Southeast Alaska have been segregated as individual salts exceeding 99 percent purity.

"MRT offers a means of separating REEs to high purity in a rapid and cost effective manner, and with an exceptional level of selectivity and precision," said Ucore President and CEO Jim McKenzie.



JIM MCKENZIE

The avant-garde technology could turn the company into a front-runner in economic and environmentally sound rare earth separation worldwide.

"It's very gratifying to see the fruition of this work and achieve such a high level of success. It is exciting to think of the business opportunities this can create for Ucore and for Alaska," said Ucore COO Ken Collison.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, says opportunities offered by MRT could touch numerous industrial sectors across the United States.

"This breakthrough represents advanced American technology being used to address a uniquely American challenge. Securing the most critical specialty metals is essential to fuel our nation's technology engines," said Hatch. "Rare earths such as dysprosium, terbium, and neodymium are increasingly important to U.S. military, trans-

"In my opinion, Ucore now has the opportunity to both extract and purify heavy REEs completely within the U.S. This is a remarkable win for American technology independence from China."

—Jack Lifton, principal co-founder, Technology Metals Research

portation, medical, and super-computing applications as we compete across the globe."

Three-step process

The MRT process is designed to bind selectively with ions based on multiple parameters such as size, chemistry, and geometry. Conventional technologies such as ion exchange, solvent extraction and precipitation generally recognize differences between ions based only on a single parameter.

MRT can separate tightly interlocked rare earths into individual salts in three steps, an achievement that took up to dozens of phases using forerunner technologies.

The basic idea behind the MRT process is that certain resins, known as SuperLig® resins, grab ions based on a number of traits. The technology has already been proven in mining, especially for applications in platinum group metal recovery and removing bismuth impurities from copper.

In creating a REE separation process for Ucore, IBC created resins specifically to bind to the parameters of ions associated with rare earths.

Using a pregnant leach solution prepared from material taken from the Dotson Ridge deposit at Bokan, IBC developed a three-step process for creating nearly pure rare earths.

In the first step, scandium and cerium were extracted. The remaining rare earth elements were then separated into two groups roughly defined as

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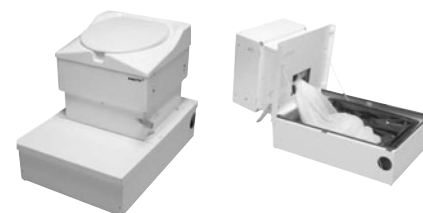
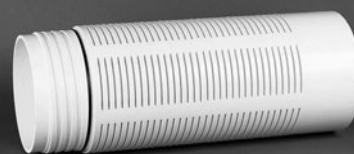
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