

Trials and tribulations of a Legend

Like Odysseus or Homer, all good legends begin with a hero setting off on a challenging journey into unknown terrain – a scenario applicable to Legend Mining Ltd's exploration expedition into Cameroon.

At the flagship Ngovayang project – which covers an area roughly the same size as Perth to Pinjarra, some 30km wide – the local team from Camina (90% Legend-owned company) have to bulldoze tracks and cut drill pads into the dense forest that covers the terrain.

With four, man-powered drill rigs on site leased from South African driller GeoSearch, the 2011 exploration has been testing multiple, prospective iron ore drill targets across the greater Ngovayang area.

It is still early days, but the company said the latest results from the flagship iron project were encouraging, and would keep exploration spirits buoyed.

Core from two diamond holes sunk into the Melombo North target have returned intercepts of 91.2m @ 23.1% iron at **NMELD002** and 105.4m @ 29.5% iron at hole **NMELD007**. These results were previously reported with substantially lower grades (94.8m @ 17.6% iron and 58.4m @ 22.8% iron respectively).

Last year's exploration budget totalled \$3 million, which this year has been boosted to \$5 million, for a total exploration spend of around \$8 million for the two years Legend has been on the ground in Cameroon. This amount covers basically everything, according to managing director Mark Wilson: aeromag surveys, bulldozing and logistics, wages, assaying, drilling and head office overheads at Camina.

Wilson told **Paydirt** that 2011's focus was on real grass roots initial stage exploration, and the market should not get hung up on the iron grades intercepted so far.

"The really important thing to remember is all of this drilling is essentially reconnaissance drilling; 400m spaced holes. If it doesn't fit within 400m, it is too small for us," Wilson said.

"The initial thoughts were to do the reconnaissance geology and very quickly we found out that the only way we were going to get good information was drilling.

"What we are really trying to do is put



Legend Mining managing director Mark Wilson (far right) with the exploration team of Camina SV, the company's wholly owned subsidiary, at the Ngovayang project, Cameroon



Numerous iron targets have been identified through initial aeromagnetics and regional mapping

together the basic stratigraphy and geology of each of these anomalies so that we get an understanding. Hopefully in our project review that we will do at the end of September we will select one of the areas that we have drilled already to do some resource work on. That is the process."

Reconnaissance drilling will finish up at Melombo East before the wet season begins in September. Legend will resume next year and test the potential of the remaining southern targets.

"These drill results confirm the large scale and high-quality potential of the Ngovayang project, particularly when you consider the high grade (+70% iron) and low-impurity magnetite concentrate we reported earlier this year.

"We have only drill tested Eseka, Melombo North and Melombo West so far, and our objective of ranking as many targets as possible this year with drilling activity is on track."

Diamond drilling has moved on to Melombo East following seven holes at Melombo West. Initial XRF hand-held analyser results have indicated iron grades in the range of 17-23%, which the company said is comparable to previous drill holes at Eseka and Melombo North, indicating similar potential.

If 2011 has been about reconnaissance and regional targets, Wilson

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hopes resource work can be the focus for 2012.

"There is going to have to be a lot of contribution from geophysics and geology, and I want to hear a pretty clear message that it is worth doing that sort of drill out, because it is a very expensive exercise to drill something out if it's not a meaningful resource."

While it may not be a full-scale drill out, Wilson said resource work would begin in January.

Discovering the presence of high-grade, low-impurity DSO magnetite within a drill intercept would be a game-changer for Legend. While the results returned so far from the reconnaissance drilling are not bad, the DSO

material Legend has found on its tenements concentrates to a high-grade concentrate of 70.8% at 120 micron with low impurities.

"We haven't drilled any DSO potential material yet, but there is evidence of it on the tenements.

"The 30% material is not DSO. But all around the tenement we have found float samples of this +60% magnetite. That is the stuff that is almost pure magnetite – I think I have got a rock in my office that is 69.5%, and the chemical limit to the percentage of iron in magnetite is about 71.5%.

"We have found it in Eseka, and we have found other samples of it in an outcrop at Melombo East. Melombo East is the first

place where geologists have found significant outcrop where they have been able to map it, and there are some indications that it could be a higher-grade material as well. We're just looking forward to putting some holes in it and finding out what it could be."

If results test the outcropping region early, resource work could begin at Melombo East next year. Bulldozers will be back on to Ngovayang in mid-December, but drilling won't resume until after the Christmas break in January.

– Luke Sizer

Cameroonian Companions

Of all the exciting aspects of his Cameroon iron ore play managing director Mark Wilson likes to talk about, the personnel side is one he feels passionately about.

"I think the important thing to be aware of with Legend Mining Ltd is, if you go to Cameroon, you don't see Legend, what you see is Camina SV, which we own 90% of. My management team in Cameroon is a mirror image of what we have got here.

"We supply an expat who is the exploration manager, and then employ Cameroon geologists as the exploration team. It's all down to them, because I have found one of the great-

est bonuses is the human resources that are just sitting on the street waiting for you in Cameroon."

Wilson said the Cameroon workforce displays such an appetite for work and a thirst for knowledge that conditions such as climate and terrain can be easily dealt with.

"We go over there and we find the terrain and the climate very trying; for these guys it has been their backyard. They bound up and down these hills like they haven't been anywhere. They are very fit, and they are used to everything that they encounter, whether it is the terrain, the weather, or any of the local inhabitants – animal or tribes people – of the forest."

A local chief's son has taken on the role of community relations officer for Legend and Camina, proving himself an asset to the exploration team as they make their way through the dense rainforest across Ngovayang.

"Our community relations person is one of the superstars of our team because he is out there paving the way for this activity with the local tribes people so that nobody gets upset when white people start walking through the forest or a bulldozer or four-wheel drive appears."

Without the amazing people on board, the project wouldn't be nearly as exciting or hold so much potential, Wilson said.



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