



# Snowfield scoping points to US\$3.4 billion mine

CAPITAL costs for development of a major mine at Silver Standard Resources Inc's Snowfield polymetallic project in British Columbia have been estimated at US\$3.4 billion by an independent scoping study.

The preliminary economic assessment by consultant Wardrop designed an open-pit operation capable of average annual production of about 607,000oz of gold, 26,200t of copper, 1.5Moz of silver and 2,000t of molybdenum.

The mining inventory captured by the open-pit design, based on resources set out in the table, was estimated at 966Mt at a forecast mill-feed grades of 0.64g/t Au, 1.67g/t Ag, 0.105% Cu and 0.009% Mo, for 20Moz of gold, 51.9Moz of silver, 1Mt of copper

and 892,000t of molybdenum.

Processing rates were designed at 120,000t/d, and the resource was estimated to be capable of supporting a 23-year operation.

The processing plant would produce a gold-silver doré and separate copper-gold-silver and molybdenum concentrates.

Gold recoveries were forecast at 44.6% to concentrate and 22.3% to doré, copper recovery was estimated at 56.9% to

| Category  | Tonnage (Mt) | Au (g/t) | Ag (g/t) | Cu (%) | Mo (ppm) |
|-----------|--------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Measured  | 136.9        | 0.94     | 1.7      | 0.11   | 99       |
| Indicated | 724.8        | 0.67     | 1.9      | 0.12   | 91       |
| Inferred  | 948.9        | 0.33     | 1.4      | 0.07   | 92       |

Using a cut-off grade of 0.35g/t gold-equivalent

Snowfield is next to Seabridge Gold's KSM project

concentrate. Silver recoveries were estimated at 47.6% to concentrate and 18.0% to doré, and molybdenum recovery was estimated at 50%.

Capital costs were estimated at US\$3,378 million, and total operating costs were estimated at US\$8.52/t milled.

Metallurgical testing has indicated that there is potential for significant rhenium recovery. The impact of this, and also that of the inclusion of the adjacent Brucejack gold-silver deposit, on the project will be examined by an

update to the scoping study, which is in progress and scheduled to be completed during the December quarter this year.

Brucejack was recently estimated to contain 9.9Mt at 2.06 g/t Au and 75.0g/t Ag (measured), 110.7Mt at 0.95g/t Au and 11.7g/t Ag (indicated) and 198.0Mt at 0.76g/t Au and 11.2g/t Ag (inferred), using a gold-equivalent cut-off grade of 0.35g/t.

Snowfield is next to Seabridge Gold Inc's US\$3.37 billion KSM project.

**Snowfield assays (Oct 30, 2009)**  
Read more: [www.mining-journal.com/184105](http://www.mining-journal.com/184105)

## MRG backs IGE at Rönnskäcken

MITCHELL River Group, a nickel-focused management team, has signed an agreement to help develop the Rönnskäcken project in Sweden, held by IGE Resources AB's subsidiary LGE Nordic.

A recent scoping study for Rönnskäcken forecast production of 17,000t/y of nickel and 420t/y of cobalt in 60,000t/y of concentrates over a 13-year life, at an average cash operating cost of US\$5.55/lb nickel and capital costs estimated at US\$807 million life-of-mine.

A prefeasibility study was expected to cost US\$14 million and was scheduled for 2011.

Under the terms of the agreement, MRG would provide extra expertise and technical resources to help the development in return for an option to acquire a 10% interest in the project.

The partnership is for 18 months, and could be extended beyond 2011. IGE said over the past ten years MRG has established Sally Malay Mining (now Panoramic Resources Ltd), Albidon Ltd and Mirabela Nickel Ltd.

Rönnskäcken to go to prefeasibility (Nov 13, 2009)  
Read more: [www.mining-journal.com/186116](http://www.mining-journal.com/186116)

[www.mining-journal.com](http://www.mining-journal.com)

## Sundance raises Mbalam estimate with Nabeba

AN INITIAL inferred resource estimate for the Nabeba iron-ore deposit has increased direct-shipping-grade material at the Mbalam project in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo for 85%-owner Sundance Resources Ltd.

The new resource of 200Mt at 63.1% Fe for Nabeba in the Republic of Congo has contributed to an estimated total 415Mt of direct-shipping material in indicated and inferred resources for the project including the Mbarga, South Mbarga and Metzimevin deposits in Cameroon.

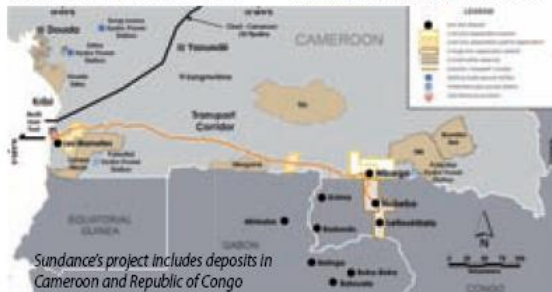
Sundance is considering a 35Mt/y operation for at least 25 years, beginning with direct-shipping operation for at least the first ten years, then itabirite

concentrate and pellet production for at least 15 years from a resource estimated at 2,300Mt at 38% Fe.

The company intends to concentrate on raising project financing, having outlined sufficient resources to support its plans.

A feasibility study for development of direct-shipping material to produce a premium sinter fines product is scheduled for completion this year. The material is expected to contain more than 62.5% Fe, less than 5.5% SiO<sub>2</sub>, less than 2.5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 0.08% P and a loss-on-ignition of 2.4%.

**Update at Mbalam (Apr 23)**  
Read more: [www.mining-journal.com/213302](http://www.mining-journal.com/213302)



Sundance's project includes deposits in Cameroon and Republic of Congo

### MORE FROM AZUMAH

Continued drilling at Azumah Resources Ltd's Wa gold project in Ghana has confirmed new mineralisation outside of the resource envelopes at the known deposits. The company's managing director, Stephen Stone, said the drilling programme is expected to reach 100,000m during 2010.

| Hole    | From (m) | Intercept (m) | Au (g/t) |
|---------|----------|---------------|----------|
| AJRC084 | 7        | 3             | 30.19    |
| and     | 32       | 2             | 81.35    |
| KRC202  | 45       | 8             | 1.91     |
| KRC205  | 60       | 5             | 1.59     |
| BRC121  | 58       | 6             | 8.98     |
| and     | 90       | 5             | 2.98     |

Read more: [www.mining-journal.com/211368](http://www.mining-journal.com/211368)

### MING APPROVAL

Rambler Metals and Mining plc has received the final environmental approval for its Ming copper-gold project from the Newfoundland and Labrador government. The Ming project is on the Baie Verte Peninsula of Newfoundland. Rambler's president and chief executive, George Ogilvie, said the company would be able to begin development after completion of a feasibility study, scheduled for the current quarter. The company said the environmental approval would allow it to apply for regulatory permits and licences to begin construction of the mine, mill and port needed.

Read more: [www.mining-journal.com/212207](http://www.mining-journal.com/212207)

### ALTAR INTERCEPTS

The first results from Peregrine Metals Ltd's 2010 drilling programme at the Altar porphyry copper-gold deposit in San Juan, Argentina, have indicated the presence of long intervals of mineralisation in the chalcocite-covellite zone.

| Hole   | From (m) | Intercept (m) | Cu (%) |
|--------|----------|---------------|--------|
| ALD-69 | 168.0    | 589.6         | 0.44   |
| ALD-73 | 122.0    | 245.0         | 0.70   |
| ALD-76 | 200.0    | 214.0         | 1.04   |
| incl   | 200.0    | 112.0         | 1.54   |

Read more: [www.mining-journal.com/93572](http://www.mining-journal.com/93572)

### CALANDRIAS RESULTS

Mariana Resources Ltd has intersected further wide zones of mineralisation at its Calandrias gold-silver property in southern Argentina. The holes tested the Calandria Sur prospect, which the company regarded as having bulk-mining potential.

| Hole  | From (m) | Intercept (m) | Au (g/t) | Ag (g/t) |
|-------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|
| CSD24 | 12.5     | 102.0         | 1.4      | 21       |
| CSD25 | 74       | 68            | 2.4      | 24       |
| CSD36 | 62       | 16            | 2.3      | 100      |
| CSD39 | 3        | 106           | 1.6      | 27       |

Read more: [www.mining-journal.com/215477](http://www.mining-journal.com/215477)