

Metals Exploration PLC

Runruno Concept Study Completed Ausenco appointed as Engineering Contractor

15 April 2008

Metals Exploration PLC ('Metals Ex' or 'the Company') (AIM: MTL), the natural resources exploration and development company with assets in the Pacific Rim region, is pleased to announce the results of its Concept Study into the economic viability of its 100% controlled Runruno gold-molybdenum (Au-Mo) project located in the Philippines.

The Company is also pleased to report the appointment of Ausenco, an Australian based engineering and project management company, to the Scoping Study team.

Highlights:

- *190,000 – 210,000 ozs/year gold production planned*
- *Additional 1.8m - 2.1m lbs/year by-product Mo production targeted*
- *Project is robust on a stand alone gold development basis*
- *Capital cost of US\$160m – US\$210m (includes Mo circuit)*
- *Gross average annual cash costs of US\$350 - US\$400 per oz Au (falling to US\$190 - US\$320 per oz Au net of Mo credits at US\$15/lb)*
- *Internationally renowned engineering firm Ausenco appointed to assist in completion of Scoping Study by mid-2008*

The Company recently completed Stage 1, or Concept Study stage, of the Runruno detailed Scoping Study.

The Concept Study has been prepared by the Company using its own resources but with input from a number of external consultants; and has been undertaken by contrasting and comparing the sub-elements of a number of similar mine and processing operations to design a conceptual development and operations model for Runruno. To refine this model further, many of the elements have been checked against the local Philippine operating environment and the model adjusted accordingly.

By its nature the output of the Concept Study can only be considered as a guide to a possible development at Runruno. However, it provides an important framework on which the Company can base the full Scoping Study, which is being undertaken to a greater level of detail and using external consultants and which will provide the basis for the Company to commit the Project to a full feasibility study.

The Scoping Study, involving a technical and economic assessment of the viability of developing a mining and processing operation at Runruno, is designed to consider the available development options for the Project, and to estimate possible capital and operating costs and production rates for a mine and processing operation based on the March 2008 mineral resource estimate (Announced 4 March 2008).

Concept Study

The Company is encouraged to report that the results of the Concept Study indicate that the Runruno Project appears robust on a stand alone gold development basis.

A summary of the results of the Concept Study is provided below. The Study has considered two scenarios:

- The first for a stand alone gold development recovering no molybdenum by-product;
- The second for a gold operation recovering a molybdenum by-product.

The Study has been prepared in this manner to reflect the status of the current metallurgical testwork programmes into both gold and molybdenum recoveries. Two alternative gold processing routes have already been successfully identified. Work to recover a molybdenum product is still ongoing. (Announced 8 April 2008).

It is the Company's belief, based on the positive results of the most recent molybdenum testwork, that a molybdenum circuit is likely to be identified. However, this remains to be demonstrated. Significantly, a circuit to recover molybdenum will be a modular addition to the primary gold processing circuit, and work to identify such a process will not delay the overall progress of the gold project.

Appointment of Ausenco

The Company is pleased to announce that Ausenco has been appointed to the Runruno Scoping Study and is responsible for undertaking the design of a process flow sheet and preparing a capital and operating cost estimate for the processing plant. Ausenco has detailed experience of all aspects of the likely process routes and has extensive Asian experience which includes current Philippine experience. Ausenco commenced work last week with a visit to site at Runruno.

Jonathan Beardsworth, Chief Executive Officer of Metals Ex, commented:

"The results of the Runruno Concept Study crystallise the transformation the Company has made in the last few months from pure explorer to explorer/developer.

"We already knew that we have 2.1 Mozs Au at Runruno, of which 775,000 ozs are currently in the JORC Indicated category. We also knew from previous metallurgical testwork that we can recover approximately 90% of the gold, and have recently received encouraging results from the molybdenum testwork.

"This Concept Study draws together all the elements that go in to creating a project and demonstrates that, even on a stand alone gold basis, the Project is robust in any realistic forward looking gold price environment. Importantly, we are increasingly confident of being able to deliver a saleable moly product which, if it occurs, will strengthen the Project economics still further.

"The Concept Study report will now form the basis for the completion of the more detailed Scoping Study, due at the end of July this year. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Ausenco to assist in its preparation and view it as a considerable endorsement of our project that a company of the quality and reputation of Ausenco has agreed to work with us at Runruno."

Summary of Concept Study Results

	Gold Only Project		Gold Project with Molybdenum by product					
	Resource Category	Tonnes (million)	Gold		Molybdenum			
Geological Resource Estimate (March 2008)			g/t	Ozs (000)	%	lbs (million)		
	Indicated	10.0	2.40	775	0.084	18.6		
	Inferred	17.0	2.41	1,320	0.048	18.0		
	TOTAL	27.0	2.41	2,100	0.062	36.6		
Average dilution	10%		10%					
Resource loss	10%		10%					
Mining cut off grade	0.5 g/t Au		0.5 g/t Au					
Annual mining rate ore	3,000,000 tonnes		3,000,000 tonnes					
Total annual mining rate (ore + waste)	22,500,000 – 27,000,000 tonnes		22,500,000 – 27,000,000 tonnes					
Average strip ratio	6.5-7.0:1		6.5-7.0:1					
Annual treatment rate	3,000,000 tonnes		3,000,000 tonnes					
Average head grade	2.20 – 2.40 g/t Au, 0% Mo		2.20 – 2.40 g/t Au, 0.058-0.062 % Mo					
Average recovery rate	88-92% gold 0% Mo		88-92% gold 40-50% Mo					
Annual production rate	190,000 – 210,000 ozs gold		190,000 – 210,000 ozs gold 1,800,000 – 2,100,000 lb Mo					
Average annual operating cost	US\$65 – 85 million		US\$68 – 87 million					
Average cost per ounce of gold net of Mo (USD 30 / lb)	US\$350 – 400 per oz		US\$40-235 per oz					
Average cost per ounce of gold net of Mo (USD 15 / lb)	US\$350 – 400 per oz		US\$190-320 per oz					
Total Capital Cost: Represented by:	US\$150 – 200 million		US\$160 – 210 million					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Mine * • Processing • Owners Costs 	21%	5%	64%	11%	20%	4%	66%	10%
Development timetable	16 – 20 months		16 – 20 months					

* Mine operating and capital cost has been estimated on an owner operated leased fleet basis.

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FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENT

By its nature the output of the Concept Study can only be considered as a guide to a possible development at Runruno. However, it provides an important framework on which the Company can base the full Scoping Study, which is being undertaken to a greater level of detail and using external consultants and which will provide the basis for the Company to commit the Project to a full feasibility study.

QUALIFIED/COMPETENT PERSONS

Gary Powell (a Director of the Company) has been involved in the mining and exploration industry for more than 23 years. He has a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in geology and is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Australasian Institute of Geoscientists. He has compiled, read and approved the technical disclosure in this regulatory announcement.

The information in the table to which this statement is attached that relates to Exploration Results, Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled and reported by Mr Ian Holzberger, who is a technical consultant to the Company and Project Director for the development of the Runruno Project. Mr Holzberger has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves' (JORC Code). Mr Ian Holzberger consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

About Ausenco:

Ausenco is an award winning provider of innovative and high quality engineering and project management services to the global resource industry. From studies through to full project execution, operations and maintenance, Ausenco's range of services covers all aspects of project development. Ausenco has a proven track record for innovative process design using the latest technology and innovation to improve processes and performance. Ausenco is headquartered in Brisbane Australia and maintains design and construction offices in

Australia, Asia including China and the Philippines, Africa and North and South America.
For further information about Ausenco, visit their website www.ausenco.com.