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## Metals Exploration releases positive study for Runruno Gold-Moly Project Development

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Metals Exploration's conviction to focus attention on the multi-million ounce Runruno gold-molybdenum project in the Philippines, continued to be vindicated, after the Company reported the results of a scoping/pre-feasibility study into the project.

Metals Exploration has an 85% interest in the project, with an option to increase to 100%. Runruno currently hosts a JORC compliant inferred, indicated and measured resource of 31 million tonnes grading 2 grams per tonne gold and 0.05% molybdenum, or 2 million ounces of gold and 34.4 million pounds of molybdenum.

The study was based on an open pit operation using a combination of conventional recovery techniques and biological leaching process 'BIOX' to produce gold doré and molybdenum.

The study estimated that Runruno could produce 183,000 ounces of gold and 1.7 million pounds of molybdenum per annum for an initial mine life of nine years. Key metrics included a strip ratio of 5.9:1, capital cost of US\$208 million (including \$22.8 million contingency) and anticipated cash operating cost of only US\$285/ounce once molybdenum credits are applied, based on a price of US\$20/pound. Without the molybdenum credits, the cash operating cost is US\$462/ounce.

The mine would process approximately 3 million tonnes per annum of ore (25.5 million tonnes over 9 years) with an average gold grade of 2.09 grams per tonne and a recovery of 90.6%, and a molybdenum grade of 0.056% and 45% recovery.

Power will be supplied via a dedicated line from the Magat Hydro-electric Dam located 80 kilometres to the north. Based on the current studies, project development is anticipated to take up to 24 months, however, Metal's Exploration hinted that 6 months could be removed from this timescale.

Looking ahead, Jonathan Beardsworth, CEO, stated that the company would continue to work on the metallurgy of the molybdenum, and would carry out additional drilling to test the north-east boundary of the current proposed mine pit for additional mineralisation which could in turn have a significant beneficial impact on the mine life and strip ratio.



Jonathan Beardsworth, CEO of Metals Exploration, said:

“These study results confirm the transition of Runruno from an exploration project to a mine-in-waiting. The detail of the study is impressive, benefiting as it does from input from over 40 external agencies; it is pleasing that the results have so closely mirrored the results of the much less extensive Concept Study released earlier this year.

“Forecast cash operating costs of US\$463/oz on a gold-only basis are around the current industry average. \*Factoring in molybdenum credits reduces anticipated costs to US\$285/oz , which would put Runruno in the bottom quartile of the cost curve.\*

“Moly testwork continues to progress well and, while not as advanced as the gold, we continue to receive encouraging results.