

MINING FLASHNOTE

VAST Resources (VAST AIM)

08 April 2019

Stock Data

Share Price:	0.155p
Market Cap (M):	£11.6
EV (M):	£55.8

Price Chart



52 Week Range

0.125p	0.155p	0.69p
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Company Summary

Vast Resources was originally a Zimbabwean focused company called African Consolidated Resources. The opportunity to acquire some base metal assets in Romania changed the focus of the company and caused it to change its name to Vast Resources.

MAIN SHAREHOLDERS HOLDING

Hargreaves Lansdown PLC	11.9%
Interactive Investor Trading	8.5%
Lloyds Banking Group	7.8%
Barclays Bank	4.31%

Source: Vast Resources & Bloomberg

Peter Rose

Tel: +44 (0)20 3463 5034

Peter.Rose@brandonhillcapital.com

www.brandonhillcapital.com

Vast Announces the Proposed Sale of its Remaining 25.01% interest in the Pickstone-Peerless Gold Mine

Event

Vast Resource ("Vast") has announced that a letter from the Chairman of the Company (the 'Letter') including a Notice of General Meeting has been posted to Shareholders late on 5 April 2019. The principal matter dealt with in the Letter is the proposed sale by the Company of its 50.01% interest in Ronquil Enterprises (pvt) Ltd through which the Company holds its Zimbabwe gold assets, being the remaining 25.01% economic interest in the Pickstone Peerless Gold Mine and associated assets (principally the Eureka Gold Mine). A sale contract has been concluded subject to the approval of Shareholders which approval is required as the Proposed Sale falls within Rule 15 of the AIM Rules relating to fundamental changes of business.

Comment

Vast also plans to change its year end from the 31 March to 30 April. The reason for this change of date is that assuming that the 3 resolutions:

- To approve the transaction
- subject to the passing of Resolution 1, to change the Accounting Reference Date of the Company to 30 April so that the next financial statements of the Company will be made up to 30 April 2019
- to extend the exercise period of the Warrants from 30 June 2019 to 31 December 2019

are passed. The reason for the change in the year end is that it will allow time for the balance sheet to be de-consolidated. The impact of this will be to remove approximately US\$38M of the existing debt.

At the last reporting date, the 2019 interim results released on the twenty fourth of December, for the six months ending 30 September 2018, Vast had a total of US\$44.93M of debt and long term creditors.

This will reduce the leverage from around 45% to approximately 12.5%, and enable Vast to borrow some more money to fund the development of Baita Plai and Heritage Diamond Concessions in Zimbabwe. However, Vast's track record of operating in Romania profitably leaves much to be desired and could potentially make further borrowing difficult.

There are currently 521,197,123 warrants giving the right to subscribe for shares in the Company at 0.5p per share. The Warrants expire on 30 June 2019, and since the Company's share price is at the date of this letter below 0.5p the Warrants will have no value failing a substantial increase in the share price of the Company by 30 June 2019. Subject to approval by Shareholders, the Board would like to create goodwill to long-term Shareholders by extending the exercise period of the Warrants to 31 December 2019 so as to give the Shareholders who took part in the Placings and the Open Offer an increased possibility to benefit from the exercise of the Warrants. Additionally, this will provide the possibility of up £2.6M of additional funding for the Company's working capital requirements.

The Transaction

The Company has concluded a contract with, as parties, Southern African Trade Finance Ltd (SATF), a company registered in the British Virgin Islands, as the purchaser, and SSGI: and a second contract with, as parties, SATF, SSGI and Canape Investments (pvt) Ltd (Canape) the Company's wholly owned Zimbabwean subsidiary, the combined effect of which is to assign the Groups 50.01% interest in Ronquil to SATF. SSGI is a party to the contract as a Confirming Party as it has a security interest pursuant to the SSGI Loan, and also is the parent company of the owner of the other 49.99% interest in Ronquil; but otherwise has no material interest in or benefit from the Transaction. The key terms of the combined contracts are as follows:

- The consideration from SATF is US\$2.5M payable outside Zimbabwe plus *RTGS\$2.5M (being US\$1M) payable in Zimbabwe.
- The US\$2.5M payable externally will be applied in part repayment of US\$2.5M of the SSGI Loan.
- The RTGS\$2.5M payable in Zimbabwe will be retained by SSGI as security until the SSGI Loan is repaid in full but if remitted from Zimbabwe may be applied in further repayment of the SSGI Loan.
- SSGI has assigned back to the Company a loan due from Canape of US\$3,168,059 value dated at 31 December 2016. This loan was equitably assigned to SSGI as part of a larger transaction pursuant to the agreements with SSGI announced on 30 January 2017 in connection with the acquisition by SSGI and its subsidiary of a 49.99% interest in Ronquil.
- As a condition precedent that the Transaction must be approved by the Company's Shareholders at a General Meeting no later than 23 April 2019.

After completion of the Transaction, Canape will have no material assets apart from RTGS\$2.5M which will remain charged to SSGI until the SSGI Loan is fully repaid. It will owe on loan account US\$18,012,050 to the Company and US\$11,669,995 due to SSGI, all value dated 31 December 2016 (together the Historic Loans). Neither principal nor interest is payable on the Historic Loans unless and until Canape has the ability to pay. If repaid they must be repaid pro rata save that the first RTGS\$2.5M may be repaid to the Company in priority.

In practical terms, there is no likelihood that the Historic Loans or interest thereon will ever become payable, however the liability to SSGI will remain on the Company's consolidated Balance Sheet whilst Canape remains a subsidiary of the Company. In order to resolve this matter on the Company's Balance Sheet, the Company is proposing that after the Transaction is completed the shares of Canape will be transferred to a trust under independent control for the benefit of Zimbabwe staff thus enabling Canape to be deconsolidated. As a result, the Historic Loan of \$11,669,995 will no longer appear as a liability on the Company's Balance Sheet.

What Can Go Wrong

BHC understands that the exchange rate between the US\$ and the RTGS\$ has slipped from the 2.5 mentioned in the press release to around 3 today. Not being privy to the finer points of the transaction, we do not know the impact of this.

Secondly, it should be noted that SSGI has a charge over Vast's 50.1% interest in Ronquil and SSGI's charge also extends to certain of the Romanian assets although the exact details are not specified.

Why Keep the Heritage Concession

In relation to the Heritage Concession Vast have been led to understand that we should be successful in making application that the area of the concession be included in a Special Economic Zone. Such a designation will give the operation enhanced ability to receive and retain diamond revenues outside Zimbabwe and in addition will give exemption for customs duties on imports.

Research Disclosures

Peter Rose

Peter has 33 years' experience in equities as a resources analyst; he has been at Brandon Hill Capital for 12 years, after having spent 11 years with Deutsche Bank in Australia. Prior to this he spent 2 years with Prudential Bache and 6 years with James Capel. Peter's industry experience includes 16 years as a metallurgist, 3 years with De Beers in South Africa and 9 years in the uranium industry, six of which were spent at the Ranger Uranium mine. Peter holds a BSc degree in Applied Mineral Science from Leeds University UK and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of South Africa. Peter is also a member of the Institute of Materials, Mining & Metallurgy and a chartered engineer.

Tel: +44 (0)20 3463 5034

Peter.Rose@brandonhillcapital.com

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Research disclosure as of 08 April 2019

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Vast Resources (VAST AIM)	1, 7, 8, 9

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Brandon Hill Contact List

International Sales

Oliver Stansfield

Tel: +44 20 3463 5061

Email: oliver.stansfield@brandonhillcapital.com

Corporate Finance & Broking

Jonathan Evans

Tel: +44 20 3463 5016

Email: jonathan.evans@brandonhillcapital.com

Wei Jiao

Tel: +44 20 3463 5019

Email: wei.jiao@brandonhillcapital.com

Research

Peter Rose

Tel: +44 20 3463 5034

Email: peter.rose@brandonhillcapital.com

Enzo Aliaj

Tel: +44 20 3463 5026

Email: enzo.aliaj@brandonhillcapital.com