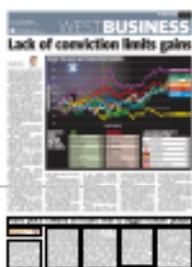




press clip



Plans place Tawana as future rival to bigger lithium players



SPINIFEX

Stuart McKinnon

For a WA-based lithium player scheduled to be in production before the end of March, it might be said that Tawana Resources has snuck under the radar.

Whether it is the lower cost, smaller scale and limited mine-life of its Bald Hill project near Kambalda or because it is in a joint venture with Singapore's Alliance Mineral Assets Limited, Tawana has not attracted anywhere near the headlines of rival emerging lithium producers such as Pilbara Minerals and Altura Mining.

But with a near doubling of its share price since the beginning of October to 46¢ yesterday and Canaccord Genuity initiating coverage of the stock last month with a price target of 60¢, it seems the Mark Calderwood-led company might be bringing its light out from under a bushel.

Its rising profile was highlighted last week when a 13.5 million block of Tawana shares held by Toronto-listed Teranga Gold Corporation was placed

seamlessly with North American institutions in a cross trade that was several times oversubscribed.

Tawana's Bald Hill is a brown-fields project, having previously been operated by Haddington Resources, which mined it for tantalum between 2001 and 2005.

The joint venture partners have had to spend only \$42 million building a 1.2Mtpa dense media separation circuit adjacent to the existing tantalum processing plant to bring the project back into production.

The Bald Hill mine will produce 155,000tpa of spodumene concentrate (lithium) and 260,000lbpa of tantalum pentoxide over an initial 3.6 years.

Two Chinese offtake partners will take all of the mine's lithium production and Tawana is expected to announce soon an offtake deal for its tantalum concentrate, the price of which has been on the march recently with the 30 per cent product trading around \$US90/lb.

The joint-venture partners are also planning a low capex fines circuit to treat stockpiled ore, which is expected to lift production to 200,000tpa by

early 2019.

And Tawana has indicated it is looking to increase Bald Hill's mine life to at least seven years with an aggressive drilling program under way before what is expected to be a significant upgrade to its existing 12.8Mt resource in the new year.

Besides its 791sqkm landholding at Bald Hill, Tawana also has a 721sqkm footprint at the adjacent Cowan lithium project as well as pending exploration tenements 6km west of the Mt Marion lithium project.

It may be starting small, but Tawana has big plans for its future.