

ASX/MEDIA RELEASE (5 Pages)

(ASX: PLS)

30 October 2012

PILBARA (PLS) TO ACQUIRE MAJOR COPPER/GOLD PROJECT IN PNG

ACQUISITION GIVES PILBARA A STRONG FOOTPRINT IN WORLD CLASS MINERAL PROVINCE

HIGHLIGHTS

- Extensive land position of ~4,900 km² in the heart of PNG's Orogenic Copper Belt which hosts some of the world's largest gold and copper-gold ore bodies. Surrounded by some of the world's biggest mining companies; the southern tenement is located approximately 15 kilometres north of Barrick's massive 32Moz Porgera Gold Mine.
- Historic drill results at the Malamaunda Project include 21m at 5.7g/t Au, from 34 metres down-hole.
- Extensive data resources accumulated by previous explorers who have spent an estimated \$20 million over the last 15 years.
- Large, high-grade epithermal gold and multiple porphyry copper-gold targets already identified in this highly prospective zone of tectonic deformation and intrusions.
- Advanced, drill-ready projects in one of the most prospective and under explored geological regions of the PNG Highlands.
- Landowner Agreement in place.
- Early gold production potential at Tamo Placer Project.
- Experienced management team with a proven track record in gold and mineral exploration.
- Pilbara will continue exploration of the West Pilbara Project utilising Sturt's Western Australian based exploration team.

AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE STURT RESOURCES

Pilbara Minerals Limited (ASX: PLS) has agreed to acquire Sturt Resources Limited (Sturt) who have a portfolio of large-scale gold and copper-gold projects in the world-class Highlands region of Papua New Guinea. Sturt is an unlisted public company founded by **Neil Biddle** (MAusIMM) (Non Executive Director TNG Ltd (ASX: TNG), former technical director Sherwin Iron Ltd (ASX: SHD) and managed by **John Young**, MAusIMM (former CEO Marinica Energy (ASX: MEY) and Thor Mining Plc (ASX: THR).

The acquisition, which is subject to due diligence and shareholder approval, will reposition Pilbara as a leading minerals explorer and developer in one of the most prospective and under-explored geological regions of the PNG Highlands, with a focus on discovering and developing world-class epithermal gold and porphyry copper-gold deposits.



KEY TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

Under the agreement, Pilbara will acquire 100% of the share capital of Sturt for a consideration of 162,000,000 ordinary shares in PLS subject to the following Conditions Precedent:

- Shareholder approval by both Pilbara and Sturt members;
- Regulatory approvals if required;
- Due Diligence, legal and financial; and
- Pilbara raising a minimum of \$800,000.

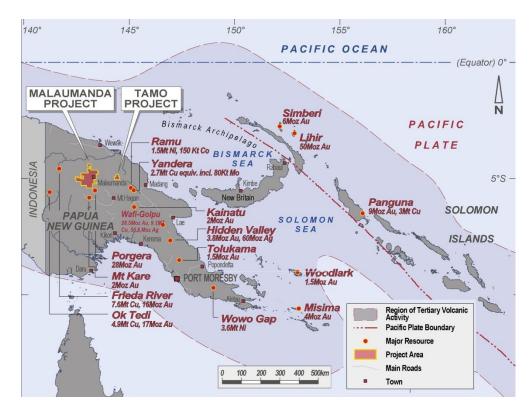
Two Sturt directors and two Pilbara directors will form the board of Pilbara and all of the shares issued to Sturt in consideration for the transaction will be subject to an ASX mandated escrow for 12 months.

DETAILS OF THE ACQUISITION

Sturt through its PNG-registered subsidiaries holds the title to and/or rights to acquire exploration titles covering almost 4,900 km² in the heart of PNG's Orogenic Copper-Gold Belt which hosts some of the world's largest gold and gold copper ore bodies. World-class mines in this region include Ok Tedi (>10Moz Au, +3Mt Cu), Porgera (>32Moz Au) and Frieda River (>15Moz Au, +17Mt Cu). Australian company Marengo Mining is developing the nearby Yandera Copper-Molybdenum Project.

The flagship asset is the **Malaumanda Gold and Copper Project**, which comprises one Exploration Licence and three Exploration Licence Applications covering an area of 4,600 km² in the heart of the resource-rich Orogenic Copper-Gold Belt. The southern boundary of the Malaumanda tenements lies approximately 15 kilometres north of Barrick's massive Porgera Gold Mine and some 120 kilometres along strike from the Frieda River copper-gold deposit.

The other key project within the portfolio is the Tamo Placer Gold Project, which offers near-term, low-cost production and cash flow potential.



Location of Malaumanda and Tamo Projects

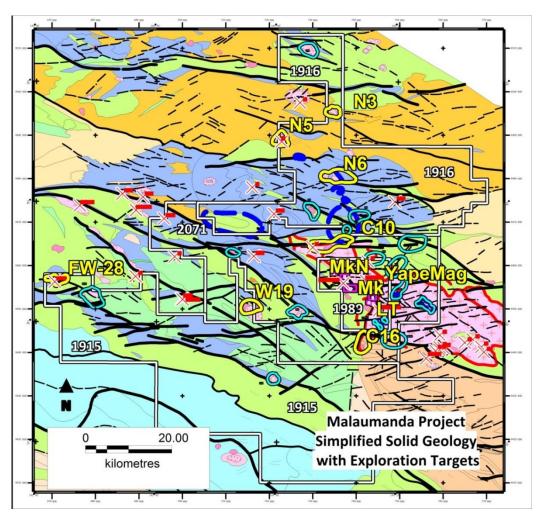


MALAUMANDA PROJECT

Malaumanda has a 25-year exploration history with a large high-grade epithermal gold system identified from historic drilling encompassing three major vein systems. Sturt has acquired the **extensive data resources** accumulated by previous explorers who have spent an estimated \$20 million over the last 15 years. Numerous geochemical gold/copper anomalies and geophysical targets including both epithermal and porphyry targets have now been identified within the tenement areas.

Some of the historic trench and diamond drilling results from Malaumanda are summarized below:

Trench results include:	Diamond Drill results include:	
8m at 8.55 g/t Au	21m at 5.7 g/t Au, from 34 to 55m down hole	
3m at11.1 g/t Au	14m at 4.3 g/t Au, from 32to 46m down hole,	
7m at 11 g/t Au	10.8m at 4.5 g/t Au, from 59.5m to 70.3m down hole	
4.4m at 15 g/t Au	10m at 5.7 g/t Au from 34m to 44m, down hole	



Simplified solid geology interpretation showing identified targets

PRIORITY TARGETS

Work over the last 12 months has identified several new targets on the Malaumanda Central tenement (EL 1989) and regionally, 10 priority targets with potential for defining significant porphyry-copper/gold systems.

This targeting work will be enhanced by a recently completed regional interpretation of the aeromagnetics by Southern Geoscience Corporation.



	•
	D
	F
	ſ
\bigcirc	ſ
\bigcirc	
	ſ
	١
20	ſ
00	5
	l
	١
adi	
60	
	Ę
(\bigcirc)	e
$\widetilde{(0)}$	
615	
\bigcirc	
77	
(\bigcirc)	
Пп	
	I

TARGETS	FEATURES At northern faulted margin of the Karawari Batholith; magnetite alteration, K radiometric anomalies, Cu, Zn prospects	
C-10: Yokopos - Porphyry Cu-Au Target		
C-16: Intrusive contact/ skarn style Target	Enhanced K in structural zone at southern margin of intrusive; major EW fault/ NNE fault intersection, magnetic low	
FW-28: Porphyry Cu-Au Target	Granitoid intrusion into ultramafic sheet; EW fractures, clear magnetic expression, Cu-Au mineralisation	
N-3: Porphyry Cu-Au Target	Magnetic feature in WNW structural zone; mapped intrusive, coincident topographic high, radiometric expression (mainly Th)	
N-5: Porphyry Cu-Au Target	Exposed granitic intrusion; Cu mineralisation, K enhancement, magnetic anomaly	
N-6: Porphyry Cu-Au Target	Complex magnetic expression; EW fracture, local small magnetic 'dipole', Th radiometric anomalies.	
W-19: Porphyry Cu-Au Target	Magnetic and radiometric complex in NW structural corridor; magnetically 'flat zone' with two 'satellite' K 'highs' at margin	
Mk and MkN (Milikap/Milikap North): Intrusive vein style structural Au Targets	Previous trenching and drilling (including 20.8m at 5.58g/t Au from 34.4m downhole) at Milikap and at Koiti (trenching: up to 10m at 9.75g/t Au)	
LT (LodonTops): Intrusive vein style structural Au-Cu Target	Previous trenching and drilling on 310 structure has significant Au intersections (including 21m at 5.7g/t Au from 34m downhole) over 1km strike	
Yape Mag: Porphyry Cu-Au Target	Previous ground geochemistry outlines large area of anomalous Cu/Au and Mo, magnetic low	

LANDOWNER AGREEMENTS

The Malaumanda Project has a functioning and well-organised landowner group with a 20% stake in the main granted licence (EL 1989) and a commitment to seeing a quality resource development in the area. This is expected to smooth the path to development and considerably de-risk and reduce the costs of the project.



LOGISTICS

The altitude of the Malaumanda Project is low enough to be easily serviced by fixed-wing planes and normal duty helicopters. In addition, Malaumanda has a functioning airstrip suitable for Twin Otter size aircraft and which has recently been upgraded with Sturt's assistance.

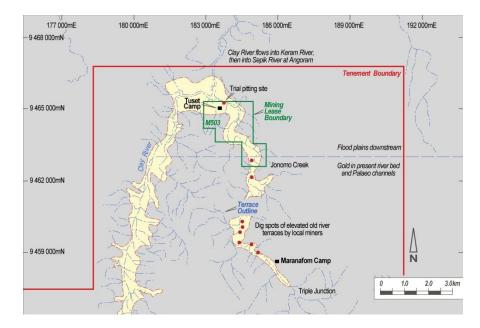
The proposed resource definition drilling program can be completed mostly with man-portable drills, eliminating the major costs of helicopter-supported work typical of other projects in the PNG Highlands. At Malamaunda there is an existing exploration camp and facilities constructed by previous explorers.



TAMO PLACER GOLD PROJECT

The Tamo Placer Gold Project consists of a Mining Licence and a surrounding Exploration Licence (EL 1453) covering approximately 250 km², in which Sturt can earn an interest of up to 70%.

The Tamo Project has modern camp facilities, excavating equipment and an alluvial gold recovery plant on site. Intermittent past production has yielded 10,000oz of alluvial gold, much of it very coarse. Pilot test work over palaeo-channels and placers discovered nuggets (0.1 gm to >30gms) over a 7 kilometre stretch of the Tupuka River. There is potential to significantly increase resources in the adjacent and as yet untested Clay River.



EXPERIENCED EXPLORATION TEAM

The acquisition of Sturt will provide Pilbara Minerals with an experienced team of operators and geologists who, together with Pilbara's existing Directors, will execute the exploration programs.

WEST PILBARA PROJECT

Pilbara will utilise Sturt's Western Australian based exploration team to step up exploration at the 100% owned West Pilbara Project.

Sturt's geologists are presently reviewing the West Pilbara data and a revised exploration proposal will be announced on completion.

Company Corporate Advisor		<u>Media</u>
Gavan Farley	Gerard Farley	Robert Williams
Executive Director	Empire Securities Group	FCR- Sydney
+61 420-520-300	+61 408 999 889	+61 2 8264 1003/+61 468 999 369
gfarley@pilbaraminerals.com.au	gerard@empiresecuritiesgroup.com	r.williams@fcr.com.au

The information herein that relates to Exploration Results is based on information compiled by Robert G Adamson B.Sc, M.Sc. (Hons Geol), MAIMM, CP (Geo). Mr Adamson is the principal of Robert G Adamson Consultants which provides certain consultancy services to and is a Director of Pilbara Minerals Limited. Mr Adamson has more than five years experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit being reported and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the December 2004 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Minerals Resources and Ore Reserves' (the JORC Code). This public report is issued with the prior written consent of the Competent Person as to the form and context in which it appears.