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BLACKSTONE INTERSECTS MASSIVE SULFIDE NICKEL AT BAN CHANG

- Blackstone has **intersected massive nickel sulfide in two maiden drill holes at the Ban Chang Prospect**, part of its Ta Khoa Nickel-PGE Project, Vietnam (*Refer to Figures 1,2,3 and 4*);
- **Maiden drill holes were 200m apart and along strike** within a 1.2km-long massive sulfide target zone defined by high priority electromagnetic (EM) plates;
- Blackstone's drilling has **intersected massive sulfide within a few metres of the modelled EM plate,** providing confidence and proof of concept that EM will be an important tool to unlock the world-class magmatic nickel sulfide geology throughout the Ta Khoa nickel sulfide district;
- Blackstone's second drill rig is testing high priority EM targets generated from 25 MSV prospects already identified within the Project including, King Snake, Ban Khoa, Ban Chang, and Ban Khang;
- Blackstone is targeting MSV prospects analogous to the previously mined Ban Phuc MSV, where previous owners successfully mined 975kt of high grade ore at average grades of 2.4% Ni & 1.0% Cu from an average vein width of 1.3m, for 3.5 years between 2013 and 2016, producing 20.7kt Ni, 10.1kt Cu and 0.67kt Co;
- Drilling continues at the King Cobra Discovery zone (KCZ) at depth;
- A Scoping Study focused on **downstream processing to produce nickel sulfate** for the lithium-ion battery industry and **maiden resource on track** for completion in Q3, CY20;
- Downstream processing potential supported by \$6.8 million investment from EcoPro Co Limited, the world's second largest nickel-rich cathode materials manufacturer, completed in April 2020.

Blackstone Minerals' Managing Director Scott Williamson commented:

"It's exciting to be targeting massive sulfide veins and achieving intersections within a few metres of the modelled EM plates – this is a great sign for the future of the Ta Khoa Nickel-PGE project. With the advantage of an in-house geophysics team, we are extremely well positioned to unlock this world-class geology and understand the full potential of our flagship asset.

"Our second drill rig will continue to drill high priority EM plates and look to delineate potential high-grade massive sulfide orebodies, akin to the successful Ban Phuc nickel mine, which was mined economically during some of the lowest nickel prices seen in the past decade. Our main drill rig continues to drill the King Cobra discovery zone at depth."

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Blackstone Minerals Limited **(ASX code: BSX)** is pleased to announce it has intersected massive sulfide in two maiden drill holes at Ban Chang, part of its Ta Khoa Nickel-PGE project, Vietnam. Blackstone's two maiden drill holes were drilled more than 200m apart and along strike within a 1.2km-long massive sulfide target zone defined by high priority electromagnetic (EM) plates.

Drillhole BC20-01 intersected **1.05m MSV** from 58.5m & **0.5m of sulfide veinlets** from 59.5m (*Refer to Figure 6*) while BC20-02 intersected **1.2m MSV** from 87.0m (*Refer to Figure 7*). The drilling is part of an ongoing campaign to target regional massive sulfide veins (MSV) as Blackstone aims to build its resource inventory at Ta Khoa.

Blackstone's second drill rig will continue to follow the in-house geophysics team throughout the Ta Khoa nickel sulfide district, testing high priority EM targets generated from 25 MSV prospects including King Snake, Ban Khoa, Ban Chang, and Ban Khang.



Figure 1: Blackstone's maiden Ban Chang drillhole BC20-01 intersects massive sulfide

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Figure 2: Blackstone's maiden Ban Chang drillhole BC20-02 intersects massive sulfide

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Figure 3: Blackstone's maiden Ban Chang drillhole BC20-01 intersects 1.05m MSV from 58.5m & 0.5m of sulfide veinlets from 59.5m



Figure 4: Blackstone's maiden Ban Chang drillhole BC20-02 intersects 1.2m MSV from 87.0m

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Figure 5: Ban Chang MSV target showing over a 1.2km long of EM plates with maiden drillholes BC20-01 & BC20-02 intersecting MSV and sulfide veinlets (refer to tables 1 and 2)

Ban Chang

The Ban Chang prospect is located 2.5km south-east of the processing facility and the Ban Phuc deposit, adjacent to the Chim Van – Co Muong fault system. The prospect geology consists of a tremolitic dyke swarm within phyllites, sericite schists and quartzites of the Devonian Ban Cai Formation. The known mineralisation style is mainly veins and lenses of massive sulfide, as well as disseminated sulfides (DSS) hosted within tremolite dykes. The dyke swarm is approximately 900m long and varies between 5m and 60m wide (*see Figure 5*). The dykes and massive sulfide are interpreted to be hosted within a splay (and subsidiary structures) off the major regional Chim Van – Co Muong fault system.

The Ban Chang west zone is a 420m long zone of interpreted bifurcating MSV lenses. This zone strikes NW-SE and dips moderately to the SW. The Central Zone is consistent in strike and dip with the West Zone, defined by a weathered gossan which is 200m long and up to 1.4m wide, containing 0.18- 0.27% Ni and 1.29-1.38% Cu. The prospect area was historically mapped and trench sampled (19 trenches) by Vietnamese geologists in the 1960-63 period. Channel samples included 3.9m at 1.07% Ni and 0.95% Cu, including 1.1m at 1.62% Ni and 1.48% Cu. Drill hole BCLK 4 intersected a zone of 1.7m at 1.89% Ni and 0.91% Cu from 62.9m. Drill hole BLK 2 intersected a 1m wide massive sulfide vein within schist grading 2.65% Ni and 1.07% Cu from 58.5m down hole. Blackstone has completed an extensive EM survey at Ban Chang and generated a 1.2km long massive sulfide target which is currently being drill tested.

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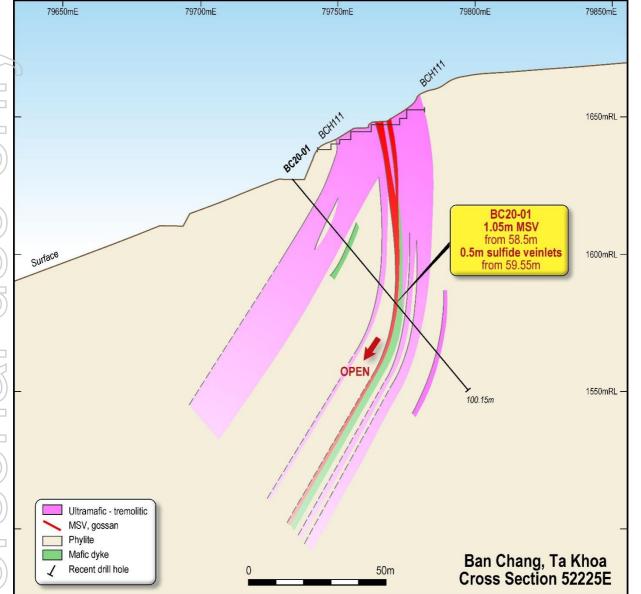


Figure 6: Ban Chang Cross Section 52225E showing maiden drillhole BC20-01 (refer to tables 1 and 2)

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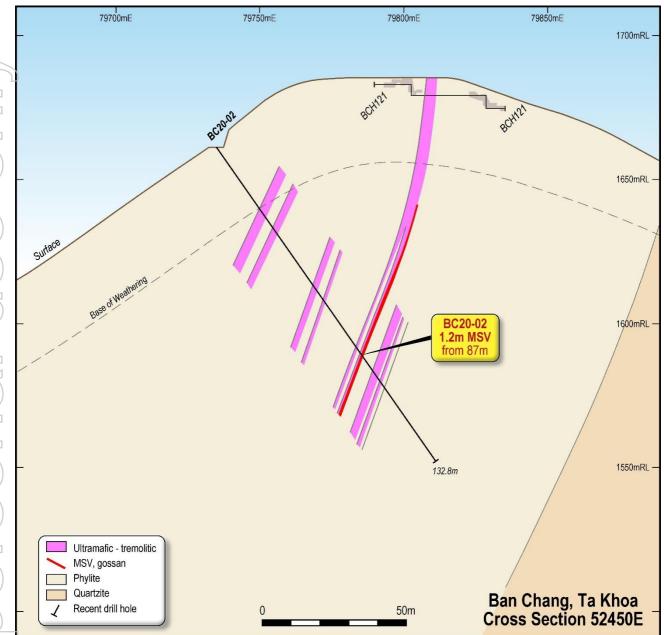


Figure 7: Ban Chang Cross Section 52450E showing maiden drillhole BC20-02 (refer to tables 1 and 2)

Blackstone's Ta Khoa Nickel–PGE project has a combination of large DSS nickel targets and 25 other prospects, including multiple high-grade MSV targets of the style that were mined at Ban Phuc from an average vein width of 1.3m. The Ban Phuc Nickel mine operated for 3.5 years between 2013 and 2016, producing 20.7kt Ni, 10.1kt Cu and 0.67kt Co, before closing when the defined mineable reserves were depleted. The high-grade Ban Phuc MSV is located less than 50m to the south of the Ban Phuc DSS deposit and remains underexplored at depths below the base of previous mining. Many other MSV targets are within potential trucking distance of the existing 450ktpa Ban Phuc processing facility that was built to international standards and has been on care and maintenance since 2016.

Blackstone is evaluating near-mine MSV and other potential DSS targets to continue drill testing during the 2020 season, with the concept of identifying high-grade and further disseminated mineralisation for

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either an early restart of the Ban Phuc mining operation, or the potential to blend higher grade MSV mineralisation with the larger tonnage DSS mineralisation for processing.

Blackstone believes that the Ta Khoa project represents a true district scale Nickel-PGE sulfide opportunity of a calibre rarely controlled by a junior company. The project also has significant infrastructure advantages that include the existing 450ktpa processing facility, abundant low cost hydroelectric power, a skilled low-cost labour force, and is located in a country that has become an Asian hub for electronics and battery manufacturing with a growing demand for nickel sulfate for lithium-ion battery manufacturing.

Ta Khoa Nickel-PGE Project – Next Steps



Blackstone Minerals aims to deliver a maiden resource in Q3, focused initially on the DSS at Ban Phuc, and continues to investigate the potential to restart the existing Ban Phuc concentrator through focused exploration on both MSV and DSS deposits.

Blackstone has commenced a scoping study on the downstream processing facility at Ta Khoa, also to be announced in Q3, which will provide details for joint venture partners to formalise the next stage of investment.

Blackstone has commenced metallurgical testing on the Ban Phuc DSS deposit with an aim to develop a flow sheet for a product suitable for the lithium-ion battery industry. In addition, Blackstone Minerals will investigate the potential to develop downstream processing infrastructure in Vietnam to produce a downstream nickel and cobalt product to supply Asia's growing lithium-ion battery industry.

The Ta Khoa Nickel-PGE Project in northern Vietnam includes an existing modern nickel mine which has been under care and maintenance since 2016 due to falling nickel prices. Existing infrastructure includes an internationally designed 450ktpa processing plant. Previous project owners focused mining and exploration efforts primarily on the MSV at Ban Phuc. Blackstone plans to explore both MSV and DSS targets throughout the project, initially within a 5km radius of the existing processing facility. Blackstone Minerals will conduct further geophysics on the MSV and DSS targets and continue its maiden drilling campaign. Online readers can click <u>here</u> for footage taken from our Ta Khoa Nickel-PGE Project.

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About Blackstone

Blackstone Minerals Limited **(ASX code: BSX)** is developing the district scale Ta Khoa Project in Northern Vietnam where the company is drilling out the large-scale Ban Phuc Nickel-PGE deposit. The Ta Khoa Nickel-PGE Project has existing modern mine infrastructure built to International Standards including a 450ktpa processing plant and permitted mine facilities. Blackstone also owns a large land holding at the Gold Bridge project within the BC porphyry belt in British Columbia, Canada with large scale drill targets prospective for high grade gold-cobaltcopper mineralisation. In Australia, Blackstone is exploring for nickel and gold in the Eastern Goldfields and gold in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Blackstone has a board and management team with a proven track record of mineral discovery and corporate success.

Competent Person Statement

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results and Exploration Targets is based on information compiled by Mr Andrew Radonjic, a Non-Executive Director and Technical Consultant of the company, who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Andrew Radonjic has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposits under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Andrew Radonjic consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

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Table 1

Locations for new Ban Chang drill holes with massive sulfides. Surveys by Leica 1203+ total station system.

Hole	East UTM Zone 48N WGS84	North UTM Zone 48N WGS84	RL UTM 48N WGS84	Azimuth UTM	Plunge	End of hole (m)
BC20-01	432265	2341875	631	022	-50	100.15
BC20-02	432475	2341790	670	022	-55	132.8

Table 2

Visually estimated sulfide abundances for BC20-01 and BC20-02. The presence of Ni and Cu has been confirmed by portable XRF and in accordance with other massive sulfide mineralised zones within the Ta Khoa Project is expected to comprise mainly pyrrhotite, pentlandite and chalcopyrite.

1	Hole	From m	To m	Interval m	Description	Visually estimated sulfide %
)	BC20-01	58.5	59.55	1.05	vein of massive pyrrhotite and Ni sulfide with minor chalcopyrite	80
1	BC20-02	86.4	87	0.6	tremolitic ultramafic dyke with pyrrhotite + chalcopyrite stringers	5
)	BC20-02	87	88.2	1.2	vein of massive pyrrhotite and Ni sulfide with minor chalcopyrite	95

In relation to the disclosure of visual mineralisation, the Company cautions that visual estimates of sulfide mineral abundance should never be considered a proxy or substitute for a laboratory analysis. Assay results are required to determine the widths and grade of the visible mineralisation reported in preliminary geological logging. The company will update the market when laboratory analytical results become available.

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Appendix One

JORC Code, 2012 Edition | 'Table 1' Report Section 1 Sampling Techniques and Data (Criteria in this section apply to all succeeding sections).

Criteria JORC Code explanation Commentary Sampling techniques Visual sulfide estimates are presented for two Nature and quality of sampling (e.g. cut channels, NO2 diameter diamond core drill holes for a random chips, or specific specialised industry standard measurement tools appropriate to the total of c. 233 m of drilling. minerals under investigation, such as down hole Drilling and sampling were supervised by a gamma sondes, or handheld XRF instruments, etc). suitably qualified Ban Phuc Nickel These examples should not be taken as limiting the Mines geologist. broad meaning of sampling. The visual estimates were made by a suitably Measures taken to ensure sample representivity and qualified geologist and presence of Ni and the appropriate calibration of any measurement Co confirmed by spot analyses using tools or systems used. a Niton portable XRF device. Aspects of the determination of mineralisation that Photographs of the sulfide mineralisation are are Material to the Public Report. In cases where included in this report. 'industry standard' work has been done this would Sampling of the drill core for assay by be relatively simple (e.g. 'reverse circulation drilling commercial laboratory is in progress. was used to obtain 1 m samples from which 3 kg was pulverised to produce a 30 g charge for fire assay'). In other cases more explanation may be required, such as where there is coarse gold that has inherent sampling problems. Unusual commodities or mineralisation types (e.g. submarine nodules) may warrant disclosure of detailed information. Drilling techniques The drilling was of NQ2 (48 mm) diameter and • Drill type (e.g. core, reverse circulation, open-hole hammer, rotary air blast, auger, Bangka, sonic, etc) was conducted by Ban Phuc Nickel Mines using and details (e.g. core diameter, triple or standard GX-1TD diamond coring rig. tube, depth of diamond tails, face-sampling bit or The holes were orientation surveyed using other type, whether core is oriented and if so, by a Deviflex non-magnetic survey tool. what method, etc). Drill sample recovery • Method of recording and assessing core and chip Recoveries were calculated by Ban Phuc Nickel sample recoveries and results assessed. Mines personnel by measuring recovered core length vs downhole interval length. Measures taken to maximise sample recovery and ensure representative nature of the samples. Drill core recovery through the reported sulfide mineralised zones is c. Whether a relationship exists between sample 100% recovery and grade and whether sample bias may have occurred due to preferential loss/gain of Assays are pending. fine/coarse material. Logging • Whether core and chip samples have been All 233m of core from BC20-01 and BC20-02 geologically and geotechnically logged to a level of was logged by a suitably qualified detail to support appropriate Mineral Resource Ban Phuc Nickel Mines geologist. estimation, mining studies and metallurgical studies. Sulfide mineral abundances were visually • Whether logging is qualitative or quantitative in . estimated. nature. Core (or costean, channel, etc.) photography. The detail of geological logging is considered The total length and percentage of the relevant sufficient for mineral exploration. intersections logged. Sub-sampling techniques and • If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, The presence of Ni and Cu in the sample preparation half or all core taken. logged sulfide zones was confirmed by nondestructive spot analyses using a Niton portable . If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary XRF device. Factory calibration settings were split, etc. and whether sampled wet or dry. used. For all sample types, the nature, quality and Sampling of the logged sulfide zones for assay by . appropriateness of the sample preparation commercial laboratory is currently in progress. technique. Quality control procedures adopted for all subsampling stages to maximise representivity of samples.

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Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary		
D	 Measures taken to ensure that the sampling is representative of the in-situ material collected, including for instance results for field duplicate/second-half sampling. Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled. 			
Quality of assay data and laboratory tests	 The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total. For geophysical tools, spectrometers, handheld XRF instruments, etc, the parameters used in determining the analysis including instrument make and model, reading times, calibrations factors applied and their derivation, etc. Nature of quality control procedures adopted (e.g. standards, blanks, duplicates, external laboratory checks) and whether acceptable levels of accuracy (i.e. lack of bias) and precision have been established. 	Sampling of the logged sulfide zones for assay commercial laboratory is currently in progress		
Verification of sampling and assaying	 The verification of significant intersections by either independent or alternative company personnel. The use of twinned holes. Documentation of primary data, data entry procedures, data verification, data storage (physical and electronic) protocols. Discuss any adjustment to assay data. 	 The use of twinned holes is not applicable at the stage. Primary data is stored and documented in industry standard ways. Sampling of the logged sulfide zones for assay commercial laboratory is currently in progress. 		
Location of data points	 Accuracy and quality of surveys used to locate drill holes (collar and down-hole surveys), trenches, mine workings and other locations used in Mineral Resource estimation. Specification of the grid system used. Quality and adequacy of topographic control. 	 Drill hole collar locations were determined by Leica 1203+ total station survey to centimetre accuracy. All co-ordinates were recorded in Ban Phuc Mine Grid and UTM Zone 48N WGSE grid and coordinate system. Topographic control is provided by a precisio: Ban Phuc Nickel Mines Digital Terrain Model. 		
Data spacing and distribution	 Data spacing for reporting of Exploration Results. Whether the data-spacing and distribution is sufficient to establish the degree of geological and grade continuity appropriate for the Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve estimation procedure(s) and classifications applied. Whether sample compositing has been applied. 	 BC20-01 and BC20-02 were drilled to test Fix. Loop EM plates recently identified at the Ban Chang prospect approx. 2.5 km southeast of th Ban Phuc Ni sulfide deposit and plant. Drilling was conducted on the Ban Phuc Mine Grid. Current drill spacing at the Ban Chang prospect is of reconnaissance nature and in ne way sufficient to define Mineral Resources. The visibly mineralised zones are being samp for assay at a commercial assay laboratory. 		
Orientation of data in relation to geological structure	 Whether the orientation of sampling achieves unbiased sampling of possible structures and the extent to which this is known, considering the deposit type. If the relationship between the drilling orientation and the orientation of key mineralised structures is considered to have introduced a sampling bias, this should be assessed and reported if material. 	 The reported drill holes are suitably orientate to test the target EM plate models. Structural orientations determined from orientated drill core indicate that the reported sulfide intervals are close to true thickness. Relevant cross sections are included in this release. 		
Sample security	• The measures taken to ensure sample security.	 The chain of custody for the drill core from th drill rig to dispatch to assay laboratory is managed by Ban Phuc Nickel Min personnel. The visibly mineralised zones are being sampled for assay at a commercial assay laboratory. The level of security is considered appropriate. 		

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Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary		
Audits or reviews	• The results of any audits or reviews of sampling techniques and data.	 The presence of Ni and Cu in the logged sulfide zones was confirmed by Niton portable XRF device. Sampling of the logged sulfide zones for assay by commercial laboratory is currently in progress. 		
		 Further drilling is planned to define the shape and extent of the mineralised zone. 		

Section 2 Reporting of Exploration Results

(Criteria listed in the preceding section also apply to this section)

Criteria	Explanation	Commentary
Mineral tenement and land tenure status	 Type, reference name/number, location and ownership including agreements or material issues with third parties such as joint ventures, partnerships overriding royalties, native title interests, historical sites, wilderness or national park and environmental settings. The security of the tenure held at the time of reporting along with any known impediments to obtaining a licence to operate in the area. 	 The drilling is located within the Ta Khoa Concession and is covered by the Foreign Investment Licence, 522 G/P, which Ban Phuc Nickel Mines Joint Venture Enterprise (BPNMJVE) was granted on January 29th, 1993. An Exploration Licence issued by the Ministry or Natural Resources and Environment covering 34.8 km2 within the Ta Khoa Concession is currently in force.
Exploration done by other parties	Acknowledgment and appraisal of exploration by other parties.	• The first significant work on the Ban Phuc nickel deposit and various adjacent deposits including Ban Chang was by the Vietnamese Geological Survey in the 1959- 1963 period. The next significant activity was the Asian Mineral Resources period spanning 1996-2018, including the Ban Phuc massive sulfide vein mining period from 2013 to 2016. The project, plant and infrastructure has been on care and maintenance since 2016.
Geology	Deposit type, geological setting and style of mineralisation.	 The late Permian Ta Khoa nickel-copper- sulfide deposits and prospects are excellent examples of the globally well-known and economically exploited magmatic nickel – copper sulfide deposits. The identified nickel and copper sulfide mineralisation within the project include disseminated, net texture and massive sulfide types. The disseminated and net textured mineralisation occurs within dunite adcumulate intrusions, while the massive sulfide veins typically occur in the adjacent metasedimentary wallrocks and usually associated with narrow ultramafic dykes. For more detail of the deposit and regional geology see Mapleson and Grguric N43-101 Technical Report on the Ta Khoa (Ni Cu Co PGE) Prospects Son La Province, Vietnam available from System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval (www.sedar.com) for Asian Minerals Resources Limited. A recent summary of the geology of the Ban Phuc intrusion can be found in Wang et al 2018, A synthesis of magmatic Ni-Cu- (PGE) sulfide deposits in the ~260 Ma Emeishan large igneous province, SW China and northern Vietnam, Journal of Asian Earth Sciences 154.
Drill hole Information	• A summary of all information material to the understanding of the exploration results including a	• The reported drill hole coordinates, depths, orientations, hole lengths and significant

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Criteria	Explanation	Commentary
	 tabulation of the following information for all Material drill holes: easting and northing of the drill hole collar; elevation or RL (Reduced Level – elevation above sea level in metres) of the drill hole collar; dip and azimuth of the hole down hole length and interception depth; hole length. If the exclusion of this information is justified on the basis that the information is not Material and this exclusion does not detract from the understanding of the report, the Competent Person should clearly explain why this is the case. 	 visually estimated abundances of sulfide are given in Tables 1 and 2. For the Company's best understanding of previous owners drilling please refer to previous Blackstone Minerals announcements to the ASX and additionally available from http://blackstoneminerals.com.au
Data aggregation methods	 In reporting Exploration Results, weighting averaging techniques, maximum and/or minimum grade truncations (e.g. cutting of high grades) and cut-off grades are usually Material and should be stated. Where aggregate intercepts incorporate short lengths of high-grade results and longer lengths of low-grade results, the procedure used for such aggregation should be stated and some typical examples of such aggregations should be shown in detail. The assumptions used for any reporting of metal equivalent values should be clearly stated. 	 At this stage only visually estimated abundance of the significant sulfide zones are being reported (Table 2). Samples are being prepared for submission to commercial assay laboratory. Assays are not yet available.
Relationship between mineralisation widths and intercept lengths	 These relationships are particularly important in the reporting of Exploration Results. If the geometry of the mineralisation with respect to the drill hole angle is known, its nature should be reported. If it is not known and only the down hole lengths are reported, there should be a clear statement to this effect (e.g. 'down hole length, true width not known'). 	 All intervals reported in Table 2 are down hole. Structural orientations determined from orientated drill core indicate that the reported sulfide intervals are close to true thickness. Down hole thicknesses are estimated to represent >90% of the true thicknesses. Appropriate drill sections are included in the body of this release.
Diagrams Balanced reporting	 Appropriate maps and sections (with scales) and tabulations of intercepts should be included for any significant discovery being reported These should include, but not be limited to a plan view of drill hole collar locations and appropriate sectional views. Where comprehensive reporting of all Exploration 	 Appropriate exploration plan and sections are included in the body of this release. Visual estimates of Ni and Cu sulfide are given
D	Results is not practicable, representative reporting of both low and high grades and/or widths should be practiced, to avoid misleading reporting of Exploration Results.	 in Table 2. Assays are not yet available.
Other substantive exploration data	 Other exploration data, if meaningful and material, should be reported including (but not limited to): geological observations; geophysical survey results; geochemical survey results; bulk samples – size and method of treatment; metallurgical test results; bulk density, groundwater, geotechnical and rock characteristics; potential deleterious or contaminating substances. 	 Appropriate exploration plans and sections are included in the body of this release. For the Company's understanding of previous owners exploration and drilling at the Ban Chang prospect please refer to Blackstone Minerals' announcement of 29 May 2020 and 8 May 2019 to the ASX and additionally available from http://blackstoneminerals.com.au
Further work	 The nature and scale of planned further work (e.g. tests for lateral extensions or depth extensions or large-scale step-out drilling). Diagrams clearly highlighting the areas of possible extensions, including the main geological interpretations and future drilling areas, provided this information is not commercially sensitive. 	 Blackstone Minerals proposes to conduct further drilling and associated activities to better define and extend the identified mineralised zones. An appropriate exploration plan is included in the body of this release.

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