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Antipa Minerals lands IGO farm-in deal for Paterson Province prospect

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Premium



Antipa Minerals executive chairman Stephen Power. Credit: Danella Bevis/The West Australian

East Pilbara explorer Antipa Minerals has struck its third exploration farm-in deal with a bigger, cashed-up player over its coveted landholding in the Paterson Province.

IGO will spend \$30m on exploration over 6.5 years on 1563sqkm of Antipa's 100 per cent-owned tenements in the remote area, with \$4m to be spent in the first 2.5 years.

The deal will give Antipa free-carry to the completion of a feasibility study should an economic resource be discovered on the ground.

IGO will also invest \$3.27m in Antipa at 2.75¢ a share to take a 4.9 per cent stake in the explorer.

Another of Antipa's farm-in partners, Newcrest Mining, will in turn subscribe for \$358,909 in shares in the explorer on identical terms to maintain its stake at 9.9 per cent.

Newcrest struck a \$60m exploration farm-in deal with Antipa in February over its 2180sqkm Wilki project, which surrounds the gold miner's existing Telfer operation and lies immediately to the west and north of its Havieron discovery.

The arrangement also involved Newcrest injecting \$3.9 million in Antipa for a 9.9 per cent stake.

Antipa will assume management for the IGO exploration farm-in with work to begin soon.

The explorer also has a farm-in deal with mining giant Rio Tinto over its 1300sqkm Calibre project adjacent to its Winu discovery.

Citadel lies just 5km east of Winu but the focus of Rio's exploration is 45km away at the Calibre deposit, which already hosts a known resource of 1.3 million ounces of gold and 69,500 tonne of copper.

Following completion of IGO and Newcrest share placements, Antipa said it would have more than \$9m in cash at bank and would be well-funded to continue exploration and development activities on its own highly prospective ground.

Aside from its farm-in, Antipa retains 100 per cent ownership of 144sqkm of highly prospective ground in the Paterson Province, including its Minyari-WACA deposit which hosts 723,300oz of gold, 26,400t of copper and 233,000oz silver.

Antipa executive chairman Stephen Power said the transaction provided further validation of the company's efforts to build a strategic landholding in the Paterson Province at a time when the region's geological potential wasn't as keenly appreciated as it was today.

“We now have three large and highly successful mining companies working to unlock value on our extensive Paterson Province portfolio,” he said.

Shares in Antipa were up 0.2¢, or 7.7 per cent, to 2.8¢ at 12.45pm.