

Jericho results merit boost as regional targets crumble

THE OZ Minerals/Minotaur Exploration Eloise joint venture has defined a 3.3km-long copper-gold system based on a fresh round of drilling that suggests Jericho could potentially host a world-class orebody, making



Drilling at Jericho has been promising.

Haydn Black

Editor

The pair has been kicking up the rocks Jericho, within the Cloncurry region, since last year as the first real explorers to take a look at the area with drilling, apart from some past shallow drilling that would not explain the electromagnetic conductors mapped by Minotaur.

Minotaur used open-file aeromagnetic data and ground gravity data to model its targets - Jericho,

Arlington, Defiance, Yukon and St Louis - leading into last year's drilling, where it successfully tested the first of three conductors along the Jericho system.

Extension drilling now suggests the system is strongly mineralised.

Hits have been returned such as 24m at 0.26% copper and 0.03 grams per tonne gold from 206m; 44m at 1.05% copper and 0.22gpt gold from 159m, including 17m at 2.3% copper and

0.5gpt gold; and 50.5m at 0.51% copper and 0.14gpt gold from 344.5m, including 9m at 1.43% copper and 0.5gpt gold.

Despite the fact Jericho is still only lightly drilled, with six holes this year into the J1 conductor, the partners have agreed to extend the program from 5000m to by 6700m based on the tenor of intersections.

The mineralisation has been noted to depths of almost 450m on the limited drilling, and the modelled conductors have a substantial vertical extent between 300-1000m.

Minotaur said the drilling remained widely-spaced but supported the joint venture's view of an expansive copper-gold system.

Testing of S2 South and J3 ongoing, and the rig will return to pursue additional drilling at J1 at the end of the current drilling in the hopes of locating ore-grade lodes in the drilling gaps that are 150-800m wide.

The drilling of the regional EM targets has also been completed, with all four conductive responses ascribed to sulphide mineralisation that, for Arlington, Yukon and St Louis, is mostly pyrrhotite with only trace chalcopyrite the partners expect to see no significant copper from assays.

Defiance shows some encouragement with weak, but persistent, chalcopyrite mineralisation intermittently over more than 200m down-hole, and while the grades are likely to be below the host rock sequence is strongly altered - indicative of widespread hydrothermal activity.

Given Defiance is around 1km long, with a single drillhole punched into it, Minotaur said it remained "an intriguing target".

OZ, which spent A\$5 million to earn 51%, is now spending an additional \$5 million to move to 70% in the Eloise JV.

Shares in Minotaur shares surged some 9% to 7c, while OZ was steady at \$10.31.