



21 December 2010

ASSAY VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR MUMBWA JV PROJECT DEFINED

Blackthorn Resources Limited (ASX: BTR) ("the Company" or "Blackthorn Resources") wishes to provide the following update regarding recent issues reported in the announcement made by the Company on 13 December 2010 relating to uncertainty in gold assay grades from Phase 4 exploration drill hole MUM0008BD.

The Company is pleased to advise that agreement has been reached with BHP Billiton, the manager of the Mumbwa Joint Venture, regarding the process required to verify the accuracy of assay results for the 9 holes reported to date from Phase 4.

This process has been designed with independent input and Competent Person approval. The aim of the process is to verify that results reported are reliable and that the laboratory concerned can be depended upon to provide accurate assays for the remaining 6 holes that have been drilled at Mumbwa in 2010.

The verification process agreed to involves a number of stages beginning with a detailed Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) review.

Stage One

BHP Billiton has engaged the services of an independent QA/QC expert to review the results reported for the period from 4 August to 10 December, i.e. all samples from the first 9 holes reported during Phase 4, not just MUM0008BD.

Both BHP Billiton and SGS have separate internal QA/QC processes. The data generated from both these processes have been sent to the independent person conducting the review. The intent of this is to see if there are any obvious differences between the BHP Billiton and SGS QA/QC systems.

If QA/QC shows a variance that is greater than industry leading practice, then BHP Billiton and the independent person will investigate further. This measure is statistically acceptable and in accordance with the requirements of the 2004 JORC code.

Stage Two

If a variance within the data exceeds the expected tolerance levels, this will trigger a full re-assay for both Au and base metals in the area where the deviation exists.

Stage Three

In the event that the re-assays (that may or may not be done in Stage two above) show variances that suggest an error in the process, a full re-assay of all results reported during 2010 will be undertaken.

Independent “Umpire” Check Assays

In addition to the process described above, it has been decided that 400 randomly selected sample pulps will be sent to an independent “umpire” laboratory for “check assays”. These samples will be drawn from all holes completed, representing approximately 10% of all samples done in 2010. The check assays will be for gold and the full spectrum of other elements including base metals.

Timing

This process has now commenced and is expected to be completed by the beginning February 2011. Results from the remaining 6 holes drilled in Phase 4 that have not yet been reported will not be finalised until the verification process has confirmed that the sampling and analysis process can be relied upon for accurate assay results.

Managing Director Scott Lowe said:

“While of course we are disappointed and concerned that this situation arose in the first place, we are now satisfied that a robust process is being undertaken to correct problems in the sampling and analysis process and to restore confidence. We are confident that BHP Billiton is committed to ensuring a reliable process for sampling, analysis and reporting drilling results as soon as possible.”

ATTRIBUTION

The information in this report which relates to Exploration Results at the Mumbwa JV Project in Zambia has been reviewed and approved for release by Mr Michael J Robertson, MSc, Pr.Sci.Nat., MSAIMM who has 20 years experience in mineral exploration, and who is a full-time employee of the MSA Group, and has sufficient experience in relation to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves". Mr Robertson has consented to inclusion of this information in the form and context in which it appears.

Should you require further information please contact:

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PRESS RELEASE