

## **NAUTILUS MINERALS INC.**

### **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

*(US dollars)*

The following Management Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") has been prepared as at August 10, 2015 for the period ended June 30, 2015.

The MD&A of Nautilus Minerals Inc. (the "Company", "NMI" or "Nautilus") should be read in conjunction with the Company's unaudited condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the three months ended June 30, 2015, and related notes thereto (the "Second Quarter 2015 Financial Statements") which have been prepared in accordance with IAS 34, Interim Financial Reporting. This MD&A should also be read in conjunction with the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes thereto (the "2014 Financial Statements"), and the related annual management's discussion and analysis and the Annual Information Form on file with the Canadian provincial and territorial securities regulatory authorities.

This MD&A includes references to United States dollars, Canadian dollars, Papua New Guinea kina, United Kingdom pounds sterling and euros. All dollar amounts referenced, unless otherwise indicated, are expressed in United States dollars and the Canadian dollars are referred to as C\$, Papua New Guinea kina are referred to as PGK, United Kingdom pounds sterling are referred to as £ and euros are referred to as €

### **CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This document includes "forward-looking statements" which include all statements other than statements of historical fact.

Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements with respect to the future price of copper, gold and other metals; the estimation of mineral resources; the realization of mineral resource estimates; plans for establishing or expanding mineral resource estimates on the Company's projects; the timing and amount of estimated future production; the construction and delivery of the Production Support Vessel ("PSV"); the fulfillment of the obligations under the Tongling sales agreement and the timing and sustainability of such arrangements; costs of production; capital expenditures; costs and timing of the development of the Company's seafloor production system; the Company's seafloor massive sulphide ("SMS") prospects (including Solwara 1) and new deposits; success of exploration and development activities; permitting time lines; currency fluctuations; requirements for additional capital; government regulation of exploration operations; the Company's financial position; business strategy; plans and objectives of management for future operations; the design and performance of the PSV and Seafloor Production Tools ("SPTs"); and the procurement of the PSV. In certain cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as "plans", "expects" or "does not expect", "is expected", "budget", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates" or "does not anticipate", or "believes", or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will be taken", "occur" or "be achieved". Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and

other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Such factors include, among others, the risk of failure to obtain required equity or debt funding; the risk that material assumptions listed in the paragraph below will not be borne out; changes in project parameters as plans continue to be refined; any additional permitting or licensing requirements associated with any modifications to the scope of the Solwara 1 Project; future prices of copper, gold and other metals being lower than expected; the over-arching risk that the Company will not commence production of mineralized material; possible variations in resources, grade or recovery rates; the risk of failure to conclude the investigation into the cyber-attack, the inability to reach agreement with Marine Assets Corporation (“MAC”) as to the deposit under the vessel charter agreement, the insolvency of MAC or the applicable shipyard and other events which may cause a delay to the delivery of the PSV; the risk that the obligations under the Tongling sales agreement are not fulfilled; late delivery of the PSV and SPTs or other equipment; variations in the cost of the PSV and SPTs or other equipment; variations in exchange rates; the failure to obtain regulatory approval for financings; changes in the cost of fuel and other inflationary factors; failure of plant, equipment or processes to operate as anticipated; accidents, labour disputes and other risks of the mining industry; delays in obtaining governmental approvals or financing or in the completion of development or construction activities.

Such forward-looking statements are current only as at the date of this MD&A and are based on numerous material assumptions (that management believes were reasonable at the time they are made) regarding the Company's present and future business strategies and the environment in which the Company will operate in the future, including the Company's continued compliance with regulatory requirements, the proposed mine plan and the estimated cost and availability of funding for the continued exploration of the Company's tenements. The Company has also assumed that market fundamentals will result in sustained copper and gold demand and prices; that the proposed development of its mineral projects will be viable operationally and economically and proceed as expected; and that any additional financing needed will be available on reasonable terms. With respect to the arrangement with MAC, the Company is assuming that the parties will observe their obligations, that the investigation into the cyber-attack will reach a timely conclusion and that MAC and the Company can agree how to proceed in relation to the payment of the deposit under the vessel charter agreement.

## **OUR BUSINESS**

### **Overview**

Nautilus is a seafloor resource exploration company and the first publicly listed company to commercially explore the ocean floor for copper, gold, silver and zinc rich seafloor massive sulphide deposits and for manganese, nickel, copper and cobalt nodule deposits. The Company's main focus is to create shareholder value by demonstrating the seafloor production system and establishing a pipeline of development projects to maximize the value of mineral licenses and exploration applications that Nautilus holds in various locations in the Pacific Ocean.

The Company's principal project is the Solwara 1 Project in the Bismarck Sea. The Solwara 1 Project and the Company's other projects are described in detail in the Company's Annual Information Form, available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Nautilus' seafloor production system has the potential to open a new frontier of resource development as land-based mineral deposits continue to be depleted. Nautilus plans to become the world's first seafloor producer of copper and gold.

## **2015 Q2 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- Solwara 1 Project advanced
- Production Support Vessel construction advanced
- Recommencement of exploration programs
- Earth Economics' independent Environmental and Social Benchmarking Analysis released
- Nautilus and State Nominee agree to extend option exercise date
- Change in the Board of Directors

### **Solwara 1 Project advanced**

During the second quarter of 2015, the Company continued to advance the Solwara 1 Project and in particular, the three key equipment contracts.

#### **Project Build Progressed**

Progress on the development of the Seafloor Production Tools continued to advance. Commissioning of the Auxiliary Cutter, Bulk Cutter and Collecting Machine continued at Soil Machine Dynamics premises in Newcastle, England with delivery of the three machines, following factory acceptance testing expected by Q4 2015.

General Marine Contractors in Houston continued with fabrication of the riser system during the quarter; all materials are on site, with completion expected by Q4 2015.

GE Hydril has transferred stored project material back into their assembly shop. Assembly will continue through to year end with factory acceptance testing planned for the first half of 2016.

The Company has resumed discussions with contractors it had previously engaged to complete work packages related to the Riser and Lift System, to allow work that had been undertaken under contracts that were terminated in 2012 to recommence during the third quarter of 2015.

#### **Community Activities**

The Company continued with the 2015 Community Engagement Program along the West Coast of New Ireland Province, PNG throughout Q2 2015.

Based on the successful 2014 Water and Sanitation Pilot Program, Nautilus, working with the New Ireland Provincial Government, has developed a detailed plan to continue the program. The plan will see 27 schools located nearest to the Solwara 1 Project site host the program over the next 12 months. Each school will receive health and hygiene training, along with new facilities which will provide students and teachers with a reliable supply of fresh water and access to

sanitation facilities. So far this year, three schools, Komalu Primary, Komalu Elementary and Kolagunan Elementary have received the program.

In an effort to better understand the needs of the communities located close to the Solwara 1 site, the Company conducted a community needs assessment along the West Coast of New Ireland Province. A team of Nautilus employees, consultants and community workers completed the field work component of this study in April 2015. The data captured will be presented to the New Ireland Provincial Government and will help finalise the Corporate Social Responsibility Strategic Plan for the Solwara 1 Project.

Throughout the quarter the Company worked alongside the New Ireland Health Department to complete a baseline study into the current standard of healthcare provided along the West Coast of New Ireland Province. Nautilus engaged an expert consultant, Abt JTA, to lead the program. A team of Nautilus employees, Abt JTA employees and Provincial and District government representatives completed a three week field work program in early June 2015, during which the team spoke with all people within the Coastal Area of Benefit. The final report will be the basis of a workshop to be held with all key stakeholders.

A requirement of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Company and the New Ireland Provincial Government is for the Company to build a minimum of three bridges along the West Coast of New Ireland Province. Cardno (PNG) Ltd, a consultancy specialising in the delivery of sustainable projects and community programs, has been engaged by the Company and is currently on the ground completing topographical surveys and geotechnical and hydrological investigations. In addition, Cardno will also be completing preliminary bridge designs.

Supporting education in New Ireland Province, the Company partnered with the Papua New Guinean National Library to purchase library books for Primary and Secondary schools. The partnership saw Nautilus purchase PGK15,000 worth of books from the Library which will be split across six schools. The Library contributed an additional PGK2,000 worth of books for each school.

#### **Production Support Vessel construction advanced**

Vessel basic design continues, with the submission of drawings to the classification society underway. This will ensure the PSV is being designed, built and maintained in accordance with class rules which will allow the vessel to be classified on completion. The shipyard is continuing with the procurement of materials and equipment with a view to commencing steel cutting as planned in Q4 2015.

The orders for all major long lead items are in place.

#### **Recommendation of exploration programs**

Under a contract signed in Q1 2015 with Gardline CGG Pte Ltd, the MV Duke vessel commenced a 43 day exploration program for Nautilus, within the Company's 100% owned exploration licenses in the Solomon Islands. The exploration program is ongoing with the primary objective being the discovery of further mineralised systems to support the Company's aggregation business model.

## **Earth Economics' independent Environmental and Social Benchmarking Analysis released**

On June 1, 2015 the Company announced that an independent Environmental and Social Benchmarking Analysis (the "Report"), based on natural capital accounting, on Nautilus' Solwara 1 project had been released by Earth Economics. The Report concluded that the Solwara 1 project has the potential to significantly reduce social and environmental impacts commonly associated with large surface terrestrial copper mines.

Earth Economics was commissioned by Nautilus to conduct an independent, objective environmental and social benchmarking analysis comparing the proposed deep seabed Solwara 1 project with terrestrial copper mines. Solwara 1 is expected to be the world's first commercial high-grade seafloor copper-gold mine project. The Report was released on May 31, 2015. Earth Economics was selected for conducting the research because it is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to research and economic, environmental and social solutions and it houses the most comprehensive database of natural capital valuation studies in the world.

Specifically, the Report compared the social and environmental impacts of the proposed Solwara 1 project with three terrestrial mines: Bingham Canyon (Utah, USA), Prominent Hill (South Australia, Australia) and Intag (a proposed mine in Intag Province, Ecuador).

### **Key findings of the Report included:**

- World demand for copper continues to rise, with increasing global economic development, expanding renewable energy supplies (wind, hydro, wave geothermal, tidal power) and growing copper plumbing, electronics and communications sectors.
- Recycling is likely limited to around 35% of the supply of copper.
- Copper ore grades are declining.
- Environmental and social impacts of copper mining are rising.
- There is an urgent need to meet world copper demand while reducing waste by products, fresh water use and contamination, damaging impacts to communities, mine footprints and CO2 emissions from copper mining.
- Seafloor mining has the potential to minimize the impact of copper mining by producing more copper with fewer natural capital inputs, fewer damaging outputs and a smaller area of impact.
- The proposed Solwara 1 project when compared to the terrestrial mines, entails far less environmental and social impact and less short and long-term risks.
- Terrestrial mines have significant impacts. Measured on the basis of impacts per ton of copper, the Solwara 1 project would outperform terrestrial mines:
  - People will not be displaced by the proposed Solwara 1 project
  - There will be no impact to food production
  - There will be no impact to surface or groundwater fresh water supplies
  - There will be no significant risk of disaster (e.g. mine tailing slide into communities)
  - There will be no impact to pollination, soil formation, erosion, historic and cultural values
- The monetary damages (measured in terms of USD/year) resulting from terrestrial mines is estimated to be significantly more than that of the proposed Solwara 1 project (4 to 13 times per ton of copper produced for the three mines used in the comparison).
- The long-term mining liabilities for freshwater contamination, tailings and overburden failures that threaten downstream communities do not exist in Solwara 1.

### **Nautilus and the State Nominee agree to extend option exercise date**

On June 11, 2015 the Company announced that it had agreed to extend by six months the exercise date of the options granted to its joint venture partner in the Solwara 1 Project.

On December 11, 2014, the Company and the nominee of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Eda Kopa (Solwara) Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Petromin PNG Holdings Limited) (“State Nominee”) formed a joint venture in respect of the Solwara 1 Project. Under the terms of that joint venture, the State Nominee took an initial 15% interest which is fully funded, with the option to take up to a further 15% interest within 12 months upon paying certain amounts pursuant to a formula described in the agreement. The option was exercisable in three 5% lots within 6, 9 and 12 months respectively from the date the joint venture was formed. If the State Nominee does not exercise any of the 5% options within the relevant time period then that option and any subsequent options are deemed to have lapsed.

To facilitate further discussion between the Company and the State Nominee, the Company has agreed to extend the exercise date of the three 5% options by six months respectively.

### **Change in the Board of Directors**

On May 6, 2015 the Company announced changes to its board of directors with the appointment of Mr Tariq Al Barwani and the resignation of Mr Usama Al Barwani due to increasing responsibilities within the MB Group.

Mr Tariq Al Barwani is a director and shareholder of MB Holding Company LLC. and the Chief Executive Officer of Mawarid Mining LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of MB Holding Company, which was established to explore and develop mining opportunities in Oman and internationally. Mawarid Mining’s Oman Copper business operates several open pit copper mines and processes ore at its copper concentrate facility in the Al Batinah region of Oman. Mr Tariq Al Barwani has a Bachelor of Science in Geology from Imperial College, United Kingdom and a Masters in Business Administration specializing in strategy and leadership from McGill University in Canada.

### **RISK FACTORS**

Nautilus’ ability to generate revenues and achieve a return on shareholders’ investment must be considered in light of the early stage nature of the Solwara 1 deposit and seafloor resource production in general. The Company is subject to many of the risks common to early stage enterprises, including personnel limitations, financial risks, metals prices, permitting and other regulatory approvals, the need to raise capital, resource shortages, lack of revenues, equipment failures and potential disputes with, or delays or other failures caused by third party contractors or joint venture partners. Substantial expenditures are required to discover and establish sufficient resources and to develop the mining and processing facilities and infrastructure at any site chosen for mining. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to raise sufficient financing to facilitate this development. The Company’s existing funds are not sufficient to bring the Solwara 1 Project into production and there can be no assurance that additional sources of finance will be available to the Company. Other factors that influence the Company’s ability to succeed

are more fully described in the Company's 2014 Annual Information Form available on [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com), under the heading "Risk Factors". See also the factors discussed under "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward Looking Statements" above.

### **SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY RESULTS (unaudited)**

The following table sets out selected unaudited quarterly financial information of Nautilus and is derived from unaudited quarterly condensed consolidated interim financial statements prepared by management and expressed in US dollars in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") applicable to interim financial reports.

|                                  |          | 2013   |        | 2014   |        |        |        | 2015   |        |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                  |          | Q3     | Q4     | Q1     | Q2     | Q3     | Q4     | Q1     | Q2     |
| Revenue                          | \$'M     | Nil    | Nil    | Nil    | Nil    | Nil    | Nil    | Nil    | Nil    |
| Loss for the period              | \$'M     | (5.2)  | (6.2)  | (3.5)  | (3.7)  | (4.6)  | (2.0)  | (4.1)  | (7.5)  |
| Basic and diluted loss per share | \$/share | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.02) |

As Nautilus is currently a pre-production entity engaging in exploration activities there is a significant amount of variability in the quarterly expenditure of the Company depending on the timing of contract milestones and exploration campaigns. Below is a summary of the more significant fluctuations in results, excluding those resulting from foreign exchange movements:

#### *Q1 2014*

The loss for the period reflected a reduction of \$0.6 million in professional fee expenditure following the completion of the hearing of the arbitration with the State in Q4 2013.

#### *Q4 2014*

The loss for the period reflected two significant offsetting amounts that were realised during the quarter.

During the quarter other income of \$15.0 million (2013 – \$0.6 million) was recognised on the establishment of the Solwara 1 JV, with \$12.1 million received treated as a recovery of previously expensed exploration expenditure and a \$2.7 million capital charge also received as a result of the delays in payment during the period of the dispute with the State.

This was offset by a \$10.0 million expense resulting from the Company and MAC being the victims of a cyber attack by an unknown third party.

#### *Q2 2015*

The loss for the period reflected a significant increase in exploration expenditure to \$3.3 million dollars for the quarter as the Company works to progress exploration work in the Solomon Islands and Tonga.

## **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS – FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

The following discussion provides an analysis of the financial results of Nautilus:

### **Loss for the period**

For the three months ended June 30, 2015, the Company recorded a loss of \$7.5 million (\$0.02 loss per share) compared to a loss of \$3.7 million (\$0.01 loss per share) for the same period in 2014. The primary variances were as follows:

#### *Exploration*

Exploration expense increased to \$3.3 million (2014 - \$0.6 million), with the increase a direct result of increased exploration activity during the quarter. The current quarter included \$1.4 million for an ongoing exploration campaign in the Solomon Islands conducting bathymetry mapping and plume hunting activities, environmental baseline studies in the Bismarck Sea cost \$0.1 million, and preliminary costs of \$0.8 million in relation to the CCZ resource evaluation work to be conducted in Q3 2015. The increase of \$0.2 million for salary and wages is a combination of increased permanent staff from the corresponding period last year and additional contract labour to assist with the aforementioned ongoing programs for the quarter.

|                                      | <b>Nodule Exploration<br/>Three months ended<br/>June 30,</b> |                | <b>SMS Exploration<br/>Three months ended<br/>June 30,</b> |                | <b>Total Exploration<br/>Three months ended<br/>June 30,</b> |                |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|
|                                      | <b>2015</b>   | <b>2014</b>    | <b>2015</b>  | <b>2014</b>    | <b>2015</b>  | <b>2014</b>    |
| General and administration           | -   | -              | 9,101  | -              | 9,101  | -              |
| Geological services                  | 855,420   | 30,719         | 1,607,852  | 7,149          | 2,463,272  | 37,868         |
| Mineral property fees                | -   | 10,000         | 4,165  | 112,476        | 4,165  | 122,476        |
| Professional services                | 96,707  | 65,450         | 101,897  | 39,539         | 198,604  | 104,989        |
| Travel                               | 28,386  | 3,134          | 105,833  | 9,154          | 134,219  | 12,288         |
| Salary and wages                     | 125,175   | 51,458         | 348,241  | 272,544        | 473,416  | 324,002        |
| <b>Total exploration expenditure</b> | <b>1,105,688</b>  | <b>160,761</b> | <b>2,177,089</b>   | <b>440,862</b> | <b>3,282,777</b>   | <b>601,623</b> |

#### *General & Administration*

General & Administration expenditure increased to \$3.1 million (2014 - \$2.7 million). Professional fees included \$0.3 million related to network monitoring and investigation of the cyber attack that occurred in Q4 2014. Depreciation expense has increased with depreciation of new IT hardware and infrastructure commencing during the quarter.

|   | <b>Three months ended<br/>June 30, 2015</b> | <b>Three months ended<br/>June 30, 2014</b> |
|---|---|---|
| Office and general                                  | 849,558                                     | 724,479                                     |
| Professional services                               | 439,816                                     | 234,369                                     |
| Salary and wages                                    | 1,039,127                                   | 1,054,208                                   |
| Shareholder related costs                           | 94,164                                      | 170,040                                     |
| Travel  | 270,501                                     | 269,795                                     |
| Depreciation  | 371,616                                     | 286,199                                     |
| <b>Total general and administration expenditure</b> | <b>3,064,782</b>                            | <b>2,739,090</b>                            |

#### *Corporate Social Responsibility*

Corporate Social Responsibility expense increased to \$0.3 million (2014 - \$0.2 million), with increased costs for community engagement during the current period.



#### *Technology*

Technology expense was consistent at \$0.1 million (2014 - \$0.1 million) for the quarter.

#### *Development*

Development expenses decreased to \$0.3 million (2014 - \$0.4 million) with the corresponding period for 2014 including \$0.2 million paid to consultants that assisted to secure a vessel contract.

#### *Foreign exchange*

A foreign exchange loss of \$0.5 million was recorded during the quarter (2014 – \$0.3 million gain). The foreign exchange loss consists of realized gains and losses on actual cash transactions during the period and unrealized gains and losses on cash denominated in different currencies at the period end. The Company holds a “basket of currencies” to act as a natural hedge against its expected cash outflows and can therefore experience unrealized fluctuations at period end when cash balances are converted to US dollars for reporting purposes, as experienced during the current quarter.

#### *Interest income*

Interest income earned on cash and cash equivalents held during the period was \$0.04 million (2014 - \$0.04 million). The Company maintains its cash and cash equivalents with banks with an S&P rating of A+ or better.

#### *Other income*

Other income of \$0.1 million was consistent (2014 – \$0.1 million), with the current year including management fee income charged to the joint venture.

#### *Operating Losses*

Overall, Nautilus’ operating loss increased to \$7.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015, compared to \$3.8 million for the corresponding period in 2014. When adjusting the current period operating loss for the respective foreign currency exchange movements, the actual operating loss was \$7.1 million (2014 \$4.0 million), with the major impact coming from the \$2.7 million of increased exploration expenditure in relation to the various campaigns currently being undertaken.

### **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS – FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

The following discussion provides an analysis of the financial results of Nautilus:

#### **Loss for the period**

For the six months ended June 30, 2015, the Company recorded a loss of \$11.6 million (\$0.03 loss per share) compared to a loss of \$7.1 million (\$0.02 loss per share) for the same period in 2014. The primary variances were as follows:

#### *Exploration*

Exploration expense increased to \$3.8 million (2014 - \$1.0 million) for the six months ended June 30, 2015, as a direct result of increased exploration activity for the year to date. The current period included \$1.4 million for an ongoing exploration campaign in the Solomon Islands conducting bathymetry mapping and plume hunting activities, environmental baseline studies in the Bismarck Sea cost \$0.1 million, and preliminary costs of \$0.8 million in relation to the CCZ

resource evaluation work to be conducted in Q3 2015. The increase of \$0.2 million for salary and wages is a combination of increased permanent staff from the corresponding period last year and additional contract labour to assist with the aforementioned ongoing programs for the period.

|                                      | <b>Nodule Exploration</b> |                | <b>SMS Exploration</b>  |                | <b>Total Exploration</b> |                  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
|                                      | <b>Six months ended</b>   |                | <b>Six months ended</b> |                | <b>Six months ended</b>  |                  |
|                                      | <b>June 30,</b>           |                | <b>June 30,</b>         |                | <b>June 30,</b>          |                  |
|                                      | <b>2015</b>               | <b>2014</b>    | <b>2015</b>             | <b>2014</b>    | <b>2015</b>              | <b>2014</b>      |
| General and administration           | -                         | -              | 18,312                  | -              | 18,312                   | -                |
| Geological services                  | 856,590                   | 38,892         | 1,620,775               | 8,934          | 2,477,365                | 47,826           |
| Mineral property fees                | 47,000                    | 57,000         | 6,147                   | 122,476        | 53,147                   | 179,476          |
| Professional services                | 120,229                   | 96,897         | 120,042                 | 22,911         | 240,271                  | 119,808          |
| Travel                               | 46,213                    | 3,134          | 136,491                 | 14,945         | 182,704                  | 18,079           |
| Salary and wages                     | 184,695                   | 152,080        | 680,775                 | 515,734        | 865,470                  | 667,814          |
| <b>Total exploration expenditure</b> | <b>1,254,727</b>          | <b>348,003</b> | <b>2,582,542</b>        | <b>685,000</b> | <b>3,837,269</b>         | <b>1,033,003</b> |

#### *General & Administration*

General & Administration expenditure increased to \$6.4 million (2014 - \$5.2 million). There was an increase in professional service fees of \$0.9 million for network monitoring and investigation of the cyber attack that occurred in Q4 2014. Salary and wages expense was impacted by the annual salary review and increased stock based compensation expense for the current period, while the corresponding period in 2014 was impacted by the reversal of \$0.1 million of stock based compensation expense following the forfeiture of previously issued options. Depreciation expense increased with depreciation of new IT hardware and infrastructure commencing during the quarter.

|   | <b>Six months ended</b> | <b>Six months ended</b> |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|   | <b>June 30, 2015</b>    | <b>June 30, 2014</b>    |
| Office and general                                  | 1,484,049               | 1,368,824               |
| Professional services                               | 1,415,702               | 596,948                 |
| Salary and wages                                    | 2,103,574               | 1,916,785               |
| Shareholder related costs                           | 290,692                 | 302,347                 |
| Travel  | 453,029                 | 443,760                 |
| Depreciation  | 655,547                 | 575,454                 |
| <b>Total general and administration expenditure</b> | <b>6,402,593</b>        | <b>5,204,118</b>        |

#### *Corporate Social Responsibility*

Corporate Social Responsibility expense increased to \$0.5 million (2014 - \$0.3 million) for the six months ended June 30, 2015, with increased costs for community engagement during the current period.

#### *Technology*

Technology expense was consistent at \$0.2 million (2014 - \$0.2 million) for the six months ended June 30, 2015.

#### *Development*

Development expenses decreased to \$0.6 million (2014 - \$0.8 million) for the six months ended June 30, 2015 with the corresponding period for 2014 including \$0.3 million paid to consultants that assisted to secure a vessel contract.

#### *Foreign exchange*

A foreign exchange loss of \$0.3 million was recorded during the six months ended June 30, 2015 (2014 – \$0.2 million gain). The foreign exchange loss consists of realized gains and losses on actual cash transactions during the period and unrealized gains and losses on cash denominated in different currencies at the period end. The Company holds a “basket of currencies” to act as a natural hedge against its expected cash outflows and can therefore experience unrealized fluctuations at period end when cash balances are converted to US dollars for reporting purposes, as experienced during the current period.

#### *Interest income*

Interest income earned on cash and cash equivalents held during the six months ended June 30, 2015 was \$0.1 million (2014 - \$0.1 million). The Company maintains its cash and cash equivalents with banks with an S&P rating of A+ or better.

#### *Other income*

Other income of \$0.2 million was consistent (2014 – \$0.1 million) for the six months ended June 30, 2015, with the current year including management fee income charged to the joint venture.

#### *Operating Losses*

Overall, Nautilus’ operating loss increased to \$11.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015, compared to \$7.4 million for the corresponding period in 2014. When adjusting the current period operating loss for the respective foreign currency exchange movements, the actual operating loss was \$11.6 million (2014 \$7.5 million), with the major impact coming from the \$2.7 million of increased exploration expenditure in relation to the various campaigns currently being undertaken and the \$0.9 million of professional service fees in relation to network monitoring and investigation of the cyber attack that occurred in Q4 2014.

#### ***Cash flows***

##### *Operating activities*

Cash used in operating activities was \$8.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$7.0 million for the corresponding period in 2014, largely reflecting the increase in exploration expenditures in the period.

##### *Investing activities*

Cash used in investing activities was \$24.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to an inflow of \$2.7 million for the corresponding period in 2014. The current year was impacted by the \$8.5 million prepaid in relation to the charterers’ guarantee, while the prior year included \$7.0 million cash inflow for the recovery of exploration and evaluation assets relating to the arrangement with the State Nominee.

##### *Financing activities*

Cash flow from financing activities was nil for the six months ended June 30, 2015, and the corresponding period 2014.

### **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

The Company’s financial objective is to ensure that it has sufficient liquidity in the form of cash and/or debt capacity to finance its ongoing requirements to support the Company’s strategy of

becoming the first company to commercially extract copper, gold, silver and zinc from the seafloor.

### ***Key financial measures***

The Company uses the following key financial measures to assess its financial condition and liquidity:

|                           | <b>June 30,<br/>2015</b> | <b>June 30,<br/>2014</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Working Capital           | \$57.5 million           | \$29.1 million           |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$84.6 million           | \$36.5 million           |

Under the Company's Investment Policy, cash cannot be invested for more than 90 days and must be held on deposit with banks with an S&P credit rating of A+ or better.

### ***Outlook and capital requirements***

The Company's known contractual obligations at June 30, 2015, are quantified in the table below:

|   | <b>June 30,<br/>2015<br/>\$</b> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b><i>Non-cancellable commitments</i></b>     |                                 |
| Not later than 1 year                         | 1,529,276                       |
| Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years  | 748,931                         |
| Later than 2 years and not later than 3 years | 567,584                         |
| Later than 3 years and not later than 4 years | 73,206,234                      |
| Later than 4 years and not later than 5 years | 73,206,234                      |
| Later than 5 years                            | 218,055,412                     |
| <b>Total Commitments</b>                      | <b><u>367,313,671</u></b>       |

The non-cancellable commitments as at June 30, 2015 include the payments to be made under the charter party arrangement with MAC for the PSV with a commencement date no later than January 1, 2018.

The Company is involved in mineral exploration which is a high risk activity and relies on results from each exploration program to determine if areas justify any further exploration and the extent and method of appropriate exploration to be conducted.

The Company has no source of revenue and has significant cash requirements to be able to meet its administrative overhead and maintain its property interests. In order to be able to resume the construction contracts and advance the development of its mineral property interests, the Company will be required to raise additional funding. Until that time, certain discretionary expenditures may be deferred and measures to reduce operating costs will be taken in order to preserve working capital.

Nautilus expects that cash and cash equivalents will be sufficient to pay for capital expenditure commitments and general and administrative costs for the next 12 months. Depending upon future events, the rate of expenditures and other general and administrative costs could increase or

decrease. The Company continues to evaluate a range of alternative options available to it to access capital to fund future expenditures.

Nautilus' opinion concerning liquidity and its ability to avail itself in the future of the financing options mentioned above are based on currently available information. To the extent that this information proves to be inaccurate, future availability of financing may be adversely affected.

Factors that could affect the availability of funding include Nautilus' performance (as measured by various factors including the progress and results of its exploration work), the state of international debt and equity markets, investor perceptions and expectations of past and future performance, the global financial climate, metal and commodity prices, political events in the south Pacific, obtaining operating approvals from the PNG government for the Solwara 1 Project, drilling and metallurgical testing results on the Company's tenements, ongoing results from environmental studies, engineering studies and detailed design of equipment.

#### ***Foreign currency exchange rate risk***

The Company's operations are located in several different countries, including Canada, Australia, PNG, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Fiji and New Zealand and require equipment to be purchased from several different countries. Nautilus has entered into key contracts in United States dollars and British pounds sterling. Future profitability could be affected by fluctuations in foreign currencies. The Company has not entered into any foreign currency contracts or other derivatives to establish a foreign currency protection program but may consider such actions in the future.

Foreign exchange risk is mitigated by the Company maintaining its cash in a "basket" of currencies that reflect its current and expected cash outflows. As at June 30, 2015 the Company held its cash in the following currencies:

| <b>Currency<br/>Denomination</b> | <b>% of total cash in<br/>US\$ terms held</b> |
|----------------------------------|---|
| USD                              | 78  |
| GBP                              | 13  |
| CAD                              | 2   |
| AUD                              | 5   |
| EUR                              | 2   |
|                                  | <hr/>   |
|                                  | 100   |
|                                  | <hr/>   |

#### ***Interest rate risk***

The Company holds cash and cash equivalents which earn interest at variable rates as determined by financial institutions. As at June 30, 2015, with other variables unchanged, a 0.1% increase (decrease) in the interest rate would have no significant effect on comprehensive loss.

#### ***Credit risk***

The Company places its cash only with banks with an S&P credit rating of A+ or better.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying value of cash and cash equivalents and other receivables.

### ***Liquidity risk***

The Company manages liquidity by maintaining adequate cash and short-term investment balances. In addition, the Company regularly monitors and reviews both actual and forecasted cash flows.

The Company has no source of revenue and has significant cash requirements to be able to meet its administrative overhead and maintain its property interests. In order to be able to resume the construction contracts and advance the development of its mineral property interests, the Company will be required to raise additional funding. Until that time, certain discretionary expenditures may be deferred and measures to reduce operating costs will be taken in order to preserve working capital. Given the measures taken by the Company to minimize expenditures leading up to signing the PNG Equity Agreement with the State and the measures that will continue to be taken, the Company's exposure to liquidity risk is currently considered to be low.

### **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS**

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity of IFRS requires the use of judgements and estimates that affect the amount reported and disclosed in the consolidated financial statements and related notes. These judgements and estimates are based on management's knowledge of the relevant facts and circumstances, having regard to previous experience, but actual results may differ materially from the amounts included in the financial statements. Information about such judgements and estimation is contained in the accounting policies and notes to the financial statements, and the key areas are summarized below.

The area of judgment that has the most significant effect on the amounts recognized in these consolidated financial statements is the review of asset carrying values and impairment assessment.

#### ***Review of asset carrying values and impairment assessment***

Property, plant and equipment and exploration and evaluation assets are considered for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amounts may not be recoverable. If an indicator is identified, the asset's recoverable amount is calculated and compared to the carrying amount. For the purpose of measuring recoverable amounts, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash-generating units or "CGUs"). The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to dispose and value in use (being the present value of the expected future cash flows of the relevant asset or CGU). An impairment loss is recognized for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

The determination of fair value less costs to sell and value in use requires management to make estimates and assumptions about expected production, sales volumes, commodity prices, mineral resources, operating costs and future capital expenditures. The estimates and assumptions are subject to risk and uncertainty; hence, there is the possibility that changes in circumstances will alter these assumptions, which may impact the recoverable amount of the assets.

In considering whether any impairment indicators occurred in respect of the Company's long lived assets as at June 30, 2015, management took into account a number of factors such as metal prices, projected costs to operate equipment, availability and costs of finance, cost and state of

completion of subsea equipment construction, exploration successes in other areas, the existence and terms of binding off-take agreements and the Company's market capitalization compared to its net asset value.

Management has concluded that there are no impairment indicators relating to the Company's long-lived assets as at June 30, 2015.

### **FUTURE ACCOUNTING CHANGES**

A number of new standards and amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after July 1, 2014. The Company has reviewed the disclosure requirements of changes in IFRS 8 'Operating Segments', IFRS 9 'Financial Instruments: Classification and Measurement' (effective January 1, 2018) and IFRS 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosure' (effective January 1, 2018), however this does not currently require any changes to disclosures within the financial statements of the Company.

There are no other International Financial Reporting Standards that are not yet effective that would be expected to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

### **OUTSTANDING SHARE DATA**

The following is a summary of the Company's outstanding share data as of August 10, 2015.

#### ***Common shares***

A total of 445,702,865 common shares are outstanding including 11,685,000 restricted shares.

#### ***Restricted shares***

A total of 11,685,000 restricted shares are issued and outstanding under the Company's share loan plan, with loan expiry dates ranging from October 2015 through to July 2018. The weighted average issue price for the restricted shares is C\$0.52.

#### ***Stock Options***

A total of 6,745,000 stock options are issued and outstanding, with expiry dates ranging from October 2015 through to July 2018. The weighted average exercise price for all stock options is C\$0.49. All stock options entitle the holders to purchase common shares of the Company.

### **INTERNAL CONTROLS**

#### ***Internal control over financial reporting***

There have been no material changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting since the year ended December 31, 2014 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, internal control over financial reporting.

## **ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Additional information regarding Nautilus Minerals Inc., including its Annual Information Form, is available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on the Company's website [www.nautilusminerals.com](http://www.nautilusminerals.com).