

OTC Markets Group

From OTC markets, global headquarters in lower Manhattan, you are listening to the OTCQB podcast, featuring the innovators, entrepreneurs behind the companies that trade on the venture market.

OTC Markets Group

Joining us today is Simon Clarke, the CEO and director of Apollo Gold and Silver that trades on our OTCQB Venture Market under the ticker, APGOF. Apollo is a global exploration and development company with a primary focus of exploring world class gold deposits and Peru and Chile with a committed team to create shareholder value. Simon, thanks so much for joining us today.

Simon Clarke

It's a pleasure. I'm very pleased to be here.

OTC Markets Group

Simon, give us a little background about your experience in the mining industry as well as the management team at hollow.

Simon Clarke

Absolutely. So I, I mean, we have a, we have a strong team. Um, I know everyone always says that. Um, but I think we've put together a great, uh, board and, uh, and a strong management team and I'll, I'll cover two or three of the key individuals. Um, for myself. My, my background was a re originally, uh, corporate law. I studied and trained in Scotland and then London switched into investment banking during the nineties with a big focus on the resource side and then came to Vancouver in 2000. Um, at that time, a lot of my focus was actually on the energy side initially. Um, but approximately 10, 10 years ago, that really switched over to the mining side. And I've been involved in a number of mining projects since then. Um, the last project I was involved in was a cobalt play where I was the, uh, CEO and president of a company called M two cobalt.

Simon Clarke

Um, we set it up, uh, late 2016 and took it public through 2017 and then 2018. And we were able to marry some very strong, um, partners on the investment side with some really intriguing cobalt exploration assets in east Africa. Um, so I ran that until mid 2019 when we were acquired a larger Australian company, also focused on battery metals called mining. Um, so they took over, um, M two cobalt at that point. Um, and I remained as part of that, that deal. I, I had a, a 12 month transition, which finished in June of this year. Um, when that finished, I, uh, I moved back and joined the partners that I'd been working with before and who had helped fund, uh, M two

Podcast

cobalt, uh, primarily Andy barring. Who's our chairman on, uh, on Apollo Gold. Um, Andy has been involved in the mining business for 30 years, very well respected.

Simon Clarke

He's what I would call a, a company builder has built some very successful companies, helped me, uh, put together M two cobalt, but has, has also built a millennial lithium, um, and recently, uh, re-energized and rebuilt American lithium, which has a, roughly a 200, uh, million market cap now, and also, um, built up a company called prime mining. Uh, he was original CEO of that. And then, um, uh, has, has to bring in a top class management team involving, uh, Dan Coots, who, who ran Ivanhoe, um, for Robert Friedland, um, uh, Murray John who's, the chairman, and is a well known name in the gold sector. Um, and, and so they now are first class board. Their assets are in, um, are in Mexico. And Andy really brought me back into his group in, uh, in, uh, may, June of, of this year to take on the next big project, which, uh, which is Apollo Gold.

Simon Clarke

Um, it, I would be remiss if I didn't also mention our VP of exploration Dean Bera. I've worked with Dean for several years, uh, and not only in east Africa, but in, in other projects. And Dean, uh, Dean has 25 years experience of exploration around the globe, a lot focused on gold and precious metals and has worked, uh, um, in the L Indio belt actually near where our Chilean that are, uh, previously, um, but has explored across, uh, across, uh, Chile, south America, Africa, and the globe. So Dean's a guy I've worked with lots. I have a lot of trust in and has a strong ability to assess and really help us target key projects. So, you know, again, we have a deep team, uh, I would, uh, highlight the three that I did there as, as, as real key drivers for the company.

OTC Markets Group

Tell us about your project portfolio at Latin America.

Simon Clarke

Yeah, so we, uh, I mean, when we launched, um, Apollo, um, we, you know, we started a lot, we put a platform together, brought into some key financial partners who had helped fund other projects and had done well on prime mining and M two cobalt. And the other projects we were involved in, um, and we were able to use our connections to bring in a, a highly perspective, um, asset that is in the L India, uh, L Indio gold belt in, in Chile, one of the preeminent gold districts on the planet. Um, it's, it's controlled by the majors. Barrack owns a big chunk of the, of the acreage up there, um, uh, and anti gasta, um, and you know, a number of majors. So, you know, we were able to acquire through Andy's connections. Um, a really interesting package that had originally been controlled, certainly in part by, by Barrack gold, but

through issues around and, uh, staking and, and reconfirming title.

Simon Clarke

There'd been an opportunity to actually get control of those assets. And, you know, the, the, the company ahead of us that owned the assets, did a really good job at, um, at jumping when the opportunity arose and they grabbed the assets, um, Andy's connections then gave us access to them. And we were able to put together an agreement to, to, uh, get title to that. We have, um, you know, what is, what is, what is deemed an option agreement where over the next three years, we will spend expiration capital and, um, and make various payments, um, which will give us full control of, uh, of, of those assets. So highly perspective, um, major minds in, in the district, PAs Lama, L N D itself, um, and, and a number of new plays that Barrack is, is developing. So we're really excited about that. Um, on the Peruvian side, uh, we've, uh, signed letters of intent on two highly prospective, um, assets, which are both in great gold and precious metal districts in Peru.

Simon Clarke

Um, and, you know, we're in the process of a, of putting together technical reports and, uh, and finalizing due diligence with a view to, uh, refining and closing up those transactions and, and, and driving ahead. So we're really excited about the initial portfolio that we've put together. Um, our relationships provide us with really good access to deal flow, and we continue to be shown really exciting opportunities. And, you know, our goal is to really find something that, um, has, uh, has world class potential or, um, to be, to be a large, you know, ultimately large producing gold, uh, or silver, um, uh, mines in, in, in key areas. So, you know, we're really excited about the initial portfolio we have, and we'll look to continue to build on that.

OTC Markets Group

So how does the regulatory and economic environ and Latin America give you a competitive advantage in your business strategy and development?

Simon Clarke

Yeah, that's a really interesting one. I mean, when, when we looked at putting Apollo together, we looked at projects in North America, um, in, uh, in Africa, um, even in Europe, um, you know, we kept coming back to, to, to Latin America. Obviously Andy had had a lot of success on the gold side in prime mining. So our investors liked the Mexican side of things, but also Latin America, but really the opportunity in Chile presented itself. And, you know, if you look at both Chile and Peru, Chile is actually the number rank number one ranked jurisdiction in south America by the Fraser Institute, from the perspective of combining mineral perspective, um, with, uh, good for fiscal and regulatory regimes. So Chili's ranked number one, um, and Peru is ranked number two. And, and I actually think Peru

Podcast

offers a, an extra added piece to it because the infrastructure in Peru has been so poor for years that you have, um, you have some major minds, but you also have a lot of small community players and lots of areas where there's been no real exploration done, because you just haven't had the road infrastructure or, or the power or the, or, or the infrastructure you need to develop these projects.

Simon Clarke

Um, and Peru has done a really good job at growing its economy over the last 10 years. It fully recognizes, um, it's, uh, you know, how important mining is to the company? I think mining represents 60 to 65% of its, uh, export income. Um, and it's just actually been ranked number two globally in all emerging economies, all emerging economies by the bank of America, in terms of, you know, again, it's GDP growth, it's its ability to, to, to really build its economy after COVID. Um, and they really recognize the importance of mining. So mining is a big focus in Peru. So again with that, we, we really like, um, the, the focus on those two areas as, as key jurisdictions, you know, globally, um, that have major, major gold and silver operations. Um, and, and as I say, you know, Barrick is, is huge in Chile and Peru, um, as our number of other majors

OTC Markets Group

As a junior metals and mining company CEO, what have been some of the key tools for your success?

Simon Clarke

You know, I think, I think for me, when I look at, you know, where, where, where I've had most success, I mean, I've been involved in resources for 20, 30 years. Um, you know, uh, it's, it's a, it, it's, it's a great business to be in, but it can be challenging, you know, very cyclical markets. Um, you know, we're in a, what I believe is a great, uh, mining market at the moment, and I think we'll strengthen. Um, but along the way, it's really key to have strong relationships, um, strong partners who, you know, have backed you through the good times and, and of bad times. But I think really for me, where I've seen the most success is, is when you have good people in country. I mean, you have a lot of juniors around the world that get an asset in a far flung corner.

Simon Clarke

Um, but really there's a few guys sitting in an office in Vancouver or Toronto or wherever it may be. Um, and you have to have deep relationships on the ground. And, you know, in Chi, um, our partner there, our partner there who brought us the asset is a Canadian company, but that has operations in Chile and lots of people on the ground. And through that, we've been able to leverage our, our own representatives in country, um, and good partners. And in Peru, you know, we

Podcast

appointed, uh, a couple of, of key guys, um, as, as advisors to the company, one of whom has, you know, is, is Chi is Peruvian. His, his family lives in Peru. He's based in Vancouver, some of the time and down there other times. And we also brought in GOs that have a lot of expertise in exploring in Peru. So, you know, through all that, again, it's having those relationships that can really help you, um, do what you need to do, uh, locally in terms of community is just massive in areas like Peru and Chile. So you've got to have good community relationships. You've gotta understand the, the regulatory and the fiscal regimes and, you know, really, uh, really know what you're doing. So, you know, I think for, for me, that's as critical almost as having the, the strong asset itself is, is, is the people that you have involved locally.

OTC Markets Group

That's great advice. So what's in your pipeline for your existing programs in 2021, as well as your thoughts for the future growth and the gold industry within the current economic environment.

Simon Clarke

You, yeah, it's a great question. I, I mean, for us, obviously, you know, mining has been deemed by a lot of com companies as, as an essential, um, service. So, you know, even with COVID, it has been possible to move projects forward, to an extent, um, I would say, you know, with the second wave, especially in, you know, Peru and Chile at times, it's, it's been, it, it's made things more difficult. It's definitely delayed what we'd have liked to have done on the ground and not been able to get our people down there. I mean, as again, uh, this goes to my point, we have been able to use local people, but there have been times where local people haven't even been able to travel from district to district, you know, in Peru and Chile. So we have had some delays. Um, I think now as things seem to be opening up down there and hopefully as, uh, vaccines get rolled out, um, you know, obviously we plan to, to do, um, some expiration work in, in, in Chi.

Simon Clarke

Um, we've managed to people on site on the two prospective projects we have in, Peru and do some very preliminary work. Um, but we will look to ramp that up over the coming months, um, refine those projects. Um, and as I say, we continue because of our connections. We continue to get shown, uh, high quality, um, projects. I mean, we're very selective, um, but we see a lot of deal flow and, uh, you know, our goal is to continue to expand the, the portfolio and to develop the projects we have. So, you know, you will see, see a lot of news flow from us, you know, as things, again, start to ramp up and, you know, timing again is a little uncertain with the, with the, uh, COVID side of things. But, um, you know, we have people in position and, uh, we're ready to go as soon as we can, and very much with the goal of generating news flow, um, and, uh, and building the company from the great

OTC Markets Group

Apollo began trading on the OTCQB Venture Market in November, 2020. And it's also traded on the TSX-V. How does cross trading on the OTCQB market enhance your investor strategy in the U.S.?

Simon Clarke

Yeah, I think it's a great, it's a great question. Um, and you know, again, I think, I think, um, if you look at where the world is positioned, I think we're in, you know, as, as the, as economies recover, you know, let, as we move through 2021, I think we're gonna see a, a strong commodity market in general, um, you know, likely lasting, uh, at least a couple of years. Um, I think gold is, is very well positioned within that because of, um, you know, obviously when there's uncertainties in the world, um, you know, when there's, uh, inflation risks, you know, who knows what'll happen with the dollar this year, but, you know, I think gold is very well positioned to strengthen further. And, you know, I really, really like the, um, the look of silver. Uh, I mean, obviously with a lot of the projects we see, we see gold and silver they're often found together, or, or at least in, in, in similar districts.

Simon Clarke

And, um, silver, I think is, has got even more potential to run further because not only is it a safe haven or, or, or, or a metal that's, that's used as a guard against inflation, but you have the precious metal side, but it's also an industrial metal. And especially again with that electric vehicle theme and other themes coming to play, I think silver is really well poised. It's a bit of a longwinded intro to my answer, but, um, there's a lot of in, in, in, in the us, there's lots of very sophisticated retail investors, um, who understand, you know, where we are in the cycle, as you know, as it relates to Gordon silver. Um, and a lot of those in tend to be long term supportive investors. Um, we've seen it. One of the sister companies in this office, um, is American lithium it's Canadian listed, but, uh, based in, in Nevada with great assets and they did a really good job, uh, joining the OTC and they now have 17,000 us retail investors. Um, and again, the nature of those investors tends to be very red, very well read, very sophisticated, understand, you know, where we are in the world, where the so cycles are and the potential. And I think, you know, with where we are on gold, silver, accessing those type of investors is critical. And, uh, there's no doubt the OTCQB as a platform gives us the opportunity to do that. And, you know, we obviously have to build on it and get out there and market and develop news flow. And that's what we're really focused on.



Podcast

Apollo Silver Corp.
Season 5 | Episode 7

OTC Markets Group

Well, it's been a pleasure talking with you, Simon.

Simon Clarke

Likewise, so Cecilia, thank you very much. You know, obviously we will, uh, keep shareholders apprised and, and potential investors. There'll be lots of news flow. And, you know, uh, if you visit our website, www.apollogold.com, um, you'll find all our latest news releases, technical reports on our project and lots of information on the company,

OTC Markets Group

Apollo Gold and Silver trades under the symbol, a PGOF on our OTCQB Venture Market.

OTC Markets Group

Find out more or listen to previous episodes by visiting our podcast page OTCmarkets.com/podcast/otcqb.

**This is an autogenerated transcript and may contain typos.*