

OTC Markets

Joining us today is Robert Eckford, the CEO of Rua Gold that trades on our OTCQB venture market under the ticker NZAUF. Rua Gold specializes in gold exploration and discovery in New Zealand, combining traditional practices with modern technologies. Robert, thanks so much for joining us today.

Robert Eckford

Thanks for having me here, Cecilia.

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Absolutely. So to start, tell us a little bit about your background in the resource sector and your current role with Rua Gold.

Robert Eckford

Sure, yeah, I'm the CEO of Rua Gold. I've worked in mining since I started my career, really, 20 odd years ago. I started in Perth, Australia, which is a big mining hub of the world, big iron ore mines out there. And then, I'm a chartered accountant by background. So I started in the accounting field. I then went to study a master's of science in mineral economics, because I just love mining so much. So that was a big 101 on anything geology, mining, engineering, metallurgy, all that side of the business. And once I completed that master's, I actually moved across to the DRC and lived in the Congo for a couple of years on a working on a copper mine. So that was an amazing life experience, work experience. Really got to know how the mining business runs from the ground floor. And shortly after that, I came over to North America, and I'm based out of Vancouver. I've been in Vancouver for the last 10 years, and it's been a sort of 50-50 role between being in the corporate environment and then going down to mine sites. And primarily in the last 10 years, I've gone between Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, most recently. And my focus has always been on building companies, building profitable mining companies, and doing it both organically and through M & A. I love doing deals in this space and it's really a creative opportunity right now where equities are very undervalued in the mining area. So there's very good opportunities to build business through M&A. And that's what Rua Gold has come out the gates and started with so it's an exciting time. We're at the ground floor and we've got all our foundations in place and we're building this company.

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So yeah, expand on that. Talk about your current projects.

Robert Eckford

So Rua Gold, we are focused down in New Zealand. We have two really prospective gold projects down there. We listed this company in March, had a market cap of about 20 million Canadian dollars. And since then, we've been drilling, we've put out press release on our drill results. Our market cap has somewhat doubled since then. So we've had our first 2X in the first six months of trading. And then this week just gone and I'm sitting here at the 25th of July. This week has been a really formative couple of weeks. We've announced a transaction which essentially triples our land size in New Zealand. And again, we're very much focused on New Zealand. We think there's a lot of opportunity there. So we've got this transaction that creates a scalable project, a world class scalable project. And then at the same time, we've just announced and closed today a financing raising eight million Canadian dollars and maturing our listing from the CSE onto the TSXV. That doesn't mean anything for our OTCQB users. We've been listed there for the last couple of months and we've got full DTC eligibility. So the trading in the US is very friendly, but it does mean a lot for the worldwide scale because the TSXV is a much more accessible listing to have. So that's where I talk. We've got all the foundations corporately. We've got a healthy treasury and we've got some amazing assets down in New Zealand, which we're fully permitted to drill. And we have the runway to drill that now for the next 12 to 18 months.

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So yeah, talk about New Zealand a little bit more and about your commitment to responsible and sustainable exploration in that country.

Robert Eckford

Yeah, and I'm sure your listeners are fully aware, New Zealand is a very environmentally focused country as a whole. And Rua Gold will make sure we uphold those requirements as we move through our exploration campaign. But at the same time, it's a really good place right now. They've got a very progressive and pro-mining government in place. New Zealand's, the prime minister is Chris Luxon, and he's committed to double mining exports in the next 10 years. And the way he wants to do that is he's actually passing some legislation through the parliament as we speak. which takes permitting for a mining project, which was in

the past and in the worldwide realm of things. It's usually around two or three years to get a mine bill permit. They want to make sure we can do it in six months. And so there's news legislation is passing called the fast track bill. And that's aiming to get mining permits done in a six-month timeframe, taking out the holding costs, keeping impatient investors very happy with progress and seeing companies moving forward. So it's a really good jurisdiction to be in. Obviously it's first world, all the infrastructures there. You're not risking any sort of sovereign risk of losing assets, which we see some places where mining companies exist. And so it ticks all the boxes, but even more so because we've got the government behind us and the government wanting mining. It's a really friendly jurisdiction to be operating in.

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Very exciting. So with your home country market exchange in Canada, talk about the importance of cross trading here in the US on the OTCQB venture market.

Robert Eckford

I've done a lot of time down in the US and I was down in New York marketing and we see US as a really important base for us. The investors in the US see the long term prosperity of gold and they see what's been happening in the world right now. Both economic and geopolitical uncertainty we have. And the US get that more than most markets in the world. And so there's a big appetite for gold. It's very important for us to make sure we market to that appetite. And as well as when we're talking about political unrest and uncertainty in this day and age. New Zealand is an important place to be because that's seen as a safe haven. I mean, there's a lot of tech billionaires that are buying up big plots down in New Zealand and seeing that as the zombie apocalypse end zone. Like no one is going down to New Zealand to cause any turmoil or unrest. It's the safest place in the world. And so both from a gold perspective, And from a jurisdiction perspective, it's really appealing to the US investor base. And so we see a lot of interest there. And that's why we really hold the OTCQB listing very important to us.

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Well, Robert, it's been a pleasure to speak with you today. Thank you so much.

Robert Eckford

Pleasure to be here. Thanks, Cecilia.

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Absolutely. Rua Gold trades under the symbol NZAUF on our OTCQB venture market.

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