

OTC Markets

So joining us today, we have Jim Hesketh, CEO and President of Viva Gold Corp, which trades on the OTCQB under the ticker VAUCF, as well as the TSXV under the ticker of VAU. Welcome, Jim.

Jim Hesketh

Hey, thanks, Matt. Pleasure being here.

OTC Markets

Absolutely. So, we're actually recording today from the SME conference. And I do maybe want to touch on that as well, but to kick things off, can you tell us a bit about yourself and what initially attracted you to Viva Gold Corp and its mission?

Jim Hesketh

Yeah, so my background, I'm a mining engineer and mineral economist. And I hate to say it, but I'm now pushing 50 years in this business. And I've got a strong background in mining finance, project development, mine engineering, operations. So, I've pretty well sat in all the seats at this point. And what attracts me to the Tonopah project, it really checks all the boxes. It's, well, as a result of our drilling programs, so we now have a high-confidence level resource. It's got a good, good portion of it is high-grade material that gives us something to start up on and drives payback on the project. And it's got infrastructure, um which is a key aspect in mining, but it's got paved road access. We can actually get FedEx delivery to the drill rigs. So, it's quite easy to get to the site. We've got power lines within three miles, and we've got a commercial water pipeline that crosses the property. So, we've got access to water supply. So, it checks all of those boxes, and it's in a place, the state of Nevada, where you can actually build a mine. You can get permits and you can build and you're dealing with very knowledgeable and highly experienced regulators, which is a joy in today's world.

OTC Markets

So, Jim, you just touched on the Tonopah project. What should, you know, I think you told us a little bit about where it stands today, but what milestones should investors be watching for?

Jim Hesketh

Yeah, so we're currently in the process of actually editing a 43-101 preliminary economic analysis. It's our second study. So, the project's well advanced. And

what you'll find is that the resources now will be a significant portion of it is now measured and indicated, so it's largely de-risked. And our goal here is to move the project onwards into feasibility.

OTC Markets

All right. And, you know, I know you said you have a very short history of working in the mining industry. You know, you're young guy such as yourself.

Jim Hesketh

Yeah.

OTC Markets

You know, you clearly have history in the capital markets. What's your experience been trading on the OTCQB venture market or Viva Gold experience trading on the OTCQB venture market? And how has it expanded your reach with American investors?

Jim Hesketh

Well, we you know primarily, we're a Canadian listed corporation trading on the Toronto Venture Exchange. But the OTC does give us a good portal into being able to deal with allow US investors to trade easily in our stock. And that's really helping us. You know, we have a growing percentage of American shareholders. It's a US-based project. And we're actually headquartered in the US. So, we're attractive for US investors. And the OTC has given us that open portal, which makes life a lot simpler. And that's really the key.

OTC Markets

That's great to hear. We're happy we're making your life a little simpler. All right. So, like I said, we're at the SME conference today. Is there anything generally that, you know, you could inform about the mining community? Any changes coming up that could be relevant to perhaps specifically Viva Gold?

Jim Hesketh

Yeah, of course one of the big issues that's coming up is that there's a sense of urgency to somewhat rebuild production in the U.S. And, you know, executive orders have gone out to assist in the permitting process. And so, one of our goals as a result of all of this is to accelerate the project into the feasibility study that will allow us to initiate our permitting process. Because you know a favorable

regulatory environment and a favorable market, it's a horrible thing to waste, and we're not planning to waste it.

OTC Markets

And when you say assist in the permit process, I assume that means just kind of expedite the permits.

Jim Hesketh

Yeah, I don't see any reduction in requirements or in rigor. What I see is a reduction in the amount of bureaucracy and the slowdowns that that creates. And so, it's an elimination of bureaucracy more than anything else. You know, we believe that regardless of the environment, our project will meet its hurdles required under the law. And you know, we've done solid work, but it's getting rid of the bureaucratic environment that stood in the way of project permitting in the US. That's where we see the primary change has occurred. That reduction in bureaucracy and the ability to move into permitting and move through it quickly is also favorable from a financing viewpoint. You know one of the prime issues in financing in the junior sector is the time it takes, and anything you can do to accelerate that is very positive for our business.

OTC Markets

And again, I think we have already touched on it a little bit, but looking ahead for Viva Gold, what's next? Anything beyond the Tonopah project? I guess that refers to some of these permits. What should our listeners, what should investors trying to be, trying to stay up to date on when it comes to your progress?

Jim Hesketh

Okay. Really to move a company forward, you've got to de-risk your project, move into that permitting phase. Once you've moved in there, that allows you various M&A options. It also allows you to take a look at the other growth potentials, so really we're moving this forward as part of a growing exercise to add value. And, you know that's what we bring to our shareholders is a position where we're doing the hard work versus the promotional work to truly move a project forward in a real sense, and that's what makes you attractive as an M&A target. It also makes you attractive as a development target. And there is a lot of cash sitting on the sideline that wants to build, particularly if they can do it on a fully permitted US project.

OTC Markets

So, Jim, I know Viva Gold will be presenting at our Metals and Mining Virtual Investor Conference, which you have before as well. Those presentations will be on demand. But that being said, if someone does want to reach out to you to learn more about your projects or financings or invest in Viva Gold, what's the best way for them to reach out?

Jim Hesketh

Yeah, take a look at our website at www.vivagoldcorp.com, and or just contact me directly. My number's on all of our press releases, so that's easy enough to research. But yeah, don't hesitate to contact us, but I'm always willing to talk to people who really want to understand and invest.

OTC Markets

All right, Jim. Well, thank you very much for your time. Again, we spoke with Jim Hesketh, CEO and President of Viva Gold Corp., which trades on the OTCQB under the ticker VAUCF. Thanks, Jim.

Jim Hesketh

All right. Thanks, Matt.

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